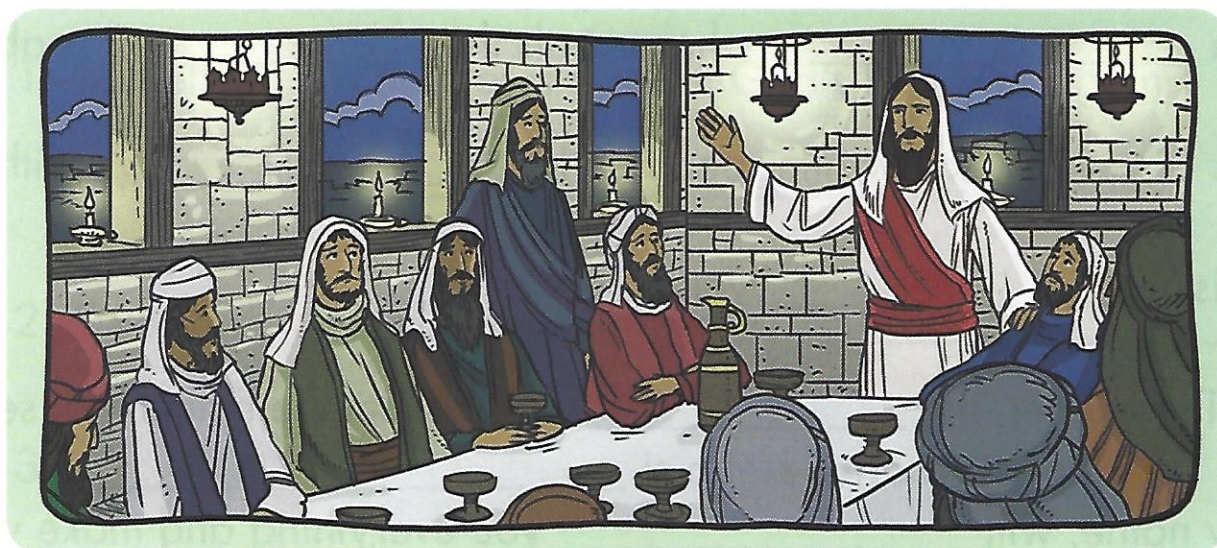



# The Holy Spirit Teaches Us



## Prayer

Jesus, you asked God our Father to send us a Helper, the Holy Spirit. May this Holy Spirit be with us always, to help and to guide us. Amen.



Fill in the missing words. To help you, read the **Featured Story** on page 1690 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 14:16-17,26-27).


"[Jesus said,] 'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another \_\_\_\_\_, who will stay with you \_\_\_\_\_. He is the \_\_\_\_\_, who reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ about God. . . . You know him, because he \_\_\_\_\_ with you and is \_\_\_\_\_ you.

'The Helper, the \_\_\_\_\_, whom the Father will send in my name, will \_\_\_\_\_ you everything and make you \_\_\_\_\_ all that I have \_\_\_\_\_ you.

'Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own \_\_\_\_\_ that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ and upset; do not be \_\_\_\_\_.'"

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Some of the key words that you have learned are written below. Read the sentences. Write the correct key word in the blank and complete the sentence.

mercy

sin

contrition

venial sin

absolution

1. Something we do that is against God's Law and against love is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. True sorrow for our sins is called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a less serious sin that weakens, but does not completely break, our loving relationship with God.
4. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is God's loving-kindness toward all of his children.
5. Other words for \_\_\_\_\_ are *pardon* and *forgiveness* of our sins.

# Family Page

## Background Focus

You may have seen the cartoon featuring Lassie, the dog who so often comes to the aid of her human family members. In one frame, a man is pictured in the midst of high waves, clearly about to drown and calling, "Lassie, get help!" In the next frame, Lassie is seen stretched out on her back on a psychiatrist's couch, recounting her thoughts and feelings, while the psychiatrist diligently takes notes.

We all need help. Jesus knew this, and promised to send the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, our Helper. The Holy Spirit is especially important, and helpful,

while preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Holy Spirit helps us to discern our sin, ask forgiveness, and move forward with confidence in the love of God in order to share that love with others. This is the whole purpose of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In this chapter, the children are introduced to the examination of conscience to help them call on the Holy Spirit for guidance as they prepare to receive this sacrament for the first time.

## Family Strategies

As part of their final lesson in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the children were led through an examination of conscience. An examination of conscience calls on the Holy Spirit to guide our prayerful reflection on both the good things and the wrong things we have done. Often this can be done at the end of the day, and it can even be a family event. Ask these simple questions before your family prepares for bed: What are we grateful for today? Where did we find God's gifts? Did anything happen that upset us today? What was our individual role in that, if any? How can we make tomorrow better? Let us ask the Holy Spirit to prepare us to live life to the full tomorrow with Jesus.

## Family Activities

- Celebrate your child's first reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a simple way. Prepare to mark this occasion by having a few bottles of bubbles on hand, with wands both large and small. Bubbles can remind us of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And because they capture rainbows, they can also remind us of God's love that always triumphs through every storm.
- Decorate your home with the color red, the color of the Holy Spirit.
- Review together the Featured Story on page 1690 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*, "Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit to Help Us" (John 14:15-31). Watch the YouTube video "33 The Holy Spirit Comes" (2:58). Remind your child that he or she received the Holy Spirit in Baptism, and that the Holy Spirit is our helper and guide all through life.

## Pray It!

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Amen.**

