Archdiocese of Glasgow

COME BACK TO ME

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Parish Catechesis for Children

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Session 1

Intention:	I know that through the Community of the Church, people can experience God's love and care and I have reflected on how this community celebrates together. I can find out and name groups of people in my parish who care for others eg. by asking questions of our priests and parish workers or, with the support of an adult, explore the parish website or social media pages.

Materials for this Session

- Name badges/stickers for the children & catechists and a box to keep them in
- A table, a candle and a cloth (purple if possible) on which to place the candle
- Matches or a lighter
- The printed paper for each child's name
- Colouring pens/pencils, crayons, paper, colouring sheets
- Bluetooth Speaker, Laptop or CD Player for reflective music
- The words of 'Be Forgiven', 'You have Called Us' or other suitable hymn
- A large ball of wool or string for Tangle Twister activity
- Parish Photograph Album or Powerpoint presentation containing some of the people who belong to the parish. This can be added to each week in order that, eventually, the album will contain photos of the clergy and a number of parishioners and includes some photos of the children in the group. By means of this album, the children gradually become aware of parishioners who have a particular role in the parish ie Passkeepers, Altar Servers, Musicians etc.

- A Camera or Smartphone to take photos during the session (Please be aware of photographic permission and GDPR)
- Certificates or 'tickets' to give out after the visit to the church
- Juice/Snack for end of sessions (consider allergies/dietary requirements)

(For the end of this first session, it might be an idea to share a large cake or cakes decorated with the name of the parish).

WELCOME & SETTLING ACTIVITIES

- As each child enters the room, they are given a special welcome, their name badge/sticker is put on them and they are given the printed piece of paper to decorate and write their name. They are directed to an area with the other children where they can complete this.
- While this is happening and children are arriving, the hymn 'You have Called Us' or other suitable music may be played in the background.
- For those children who finish before the others, have colouring-in sheets, activity sheets available for them.
- When it is time to begin the Prayertime, collect the papers with the names on them from the children.
- Show the children the words of chorus of the hymn 'You have Called Us'. Read them through once. Tell the children that when the hymn is played, they can just listen quietly to the words.

Opening Prayertime

(you may wish to dim the lights to show that this is a quiet time and a time of transition)

Everyone gathers in a circle around the unlit candle.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit, while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle we remember that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is always with us. Sit very still. Look at the candle and listen to this hymn.

The hymn 'You have Called Us' or a suitable hymn is played. The children are asked just to keep their bodies still and listen to the words.

While the second verse is being played, one of the catechists arranges the papers with the children's names around the candle.

After the hymn finishes, one of the catechists says:

Close your eyes and be very still. (PAUSE)

God our Father, we are gathered together today/this evening because we belong to your family in _____ Parish.

Help us to enjoy the time we will spend together. Amen.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Activity – Tangle Twister

Note: The aim of this activity is to help the children to see in a visual and concrete way how each person is connected. Try to take some photos during this activity.

- To introduce the Tangle Twister activity, one of the catechists can say something like the following:

  Each one of you is very welcome here today/this evening. We are here because we all belong to _____ Parish. We belong together. We are all members of God's family here in _____Parish. We have heard the song 'You have Called Us' telling us that 'we belong to you' (meaning God)

  Play the chorus of the hymn or another suitable. You may choose to display the words. Encourage the children to join in the chorus when they have heard it a few times.

- Then begin the Tangle Twister activity

  Ask everyone to stand in the circle. An adult unwinds the ball of wool/string and holds onto the end piece.

  He/she says:

My name is …….....and I belong to ……. Parish.

Then, holding onto the end piece, he/she passes the ball of wool to the person next to her/him. (Alternatively, the ball of wool can be thrown to someone across the circle.) This person unravels a little more wool and says:

My name is ……..… and I belong to …….. Parish.
The activity continues until each person is holding onto a piece of the wool.

- As the activity is proceeding and the Tangle Twister is growing, play a song or hymn. Each time the chorus is sung, stop passing the ball and encourage everyone to join in singing the chorus.

- At the end of the game, while each person is still holding on to their piece of wool, chat briefly with the children about how it feels to be connected in this way. Without labouring the point, you could point out that this Tangle Twister reminds us that what connects each person in the group is that they all belong to ……..Parish.

- Ask everyone to place the Tangle Twister carefully on the floor. If possible, leave it there for the Closing Prayertime.

Visit to the Church

Intention:	I have, through liturgical experiences, reflected on an ability to respond to symbols and take part in rituals in order to worship God.
Core Learning:	I have visited my local Catholic Church and I can recognise the significance of the altar, holy water font, the tabernacle, Paschal candle and the sanctuary lamp

Everyone in the group should go to visit the church together. On this occasion, it is enough for the group to spend not more than five or ten minutes in the church. It would be very helpful if the priest(s) were there to welcome them. The main idea of this visit is to help the children to be aware that the church, God's House, is where the parish family meet to worship God and to celebrate important occasions.

Try to take some photos of the group during this visit and especially at the altar and holy water font. Giving out of the certificates/tickets when the group returns to the hall.

Activity – Parish Photograph Album

After returning from the church, the children can be shown the 'Parish Photograph Album' that has been prepared earlier and which contains photos of some of the people who belong to the parish. This can be added to each week, so that in time the 'album' will have photos of the priest(s) and a few parishioners as well as the children themselves.

The children can gradually become aware of parishioners who have different functions in the parish. (The 'album' can consist of photos displayed in whatever way suits the group in terms of size and space.)

The 'album' should also contain photos of parishioners celebrating special parish occasions, going into church, standing around and talking.

Take a photo of the whole group. Have it developed and enlarged if possible or show the image on a Powerpoint, for the next Session. If printed, it can be put into the Parish Photograph Album with the other photos that have been taken during this Session or added to a display in the Church showing the Parish Catechesis sessions.

CLOSING PRAYER

I can describe God as Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Core learning:

I have been given opportunities to pray to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

I know that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are always with me, and I can pray at any time for myself, my family, and the needs of the world.

Everyone gathers in the circle around the unlit candle with the names around it, the wool or string (in the form of the Tangle Twister if it has been possible to leave it there) and the album or a few of the photos.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle, we remember that Jesus calls God, his Father "Abba" which means Dad or Father and through Jesus we can do the same. We are part of God's family, and we are always in his presence.

Sing the Chorus of 'You have Called Us" or "Be Forgiven" or another suitable hymn. *(These can be found on the webpage)*

One of the catechists asks the children to look at the objects in the prayer circle (the album, names, candle) and says something like the following:

All these things remind us that we belong together; that we belong to ……..Parish.

Close your eyes. Put your hands on your lap. Still your body. …….
Breathe gently in and out. We remind ourselves that we are in the presence of God.
With your inside voice, you can listen to God and speak to him. Perhaps you want to thank him for the things you have experienced and learned.

PAUSE

God Our Father, we thank you for this time that we have spent together. We are glad that we are part of your parish family. We are glad that you are always with us.

We make our prayer, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

ALL: Amen.

SESSION 2

I know that a loving God created me and that my uniqueness can develop according to God's plan for me.

It was you who created my inmost self and put me together in my mother's womb: for all these mysteries I thank you; for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works. (Psalm 139)

Whoever becomes like a little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:4).

This Session should be done after Lessons have been covered in school which explore being created in the Image of God where children hear how they were created in love and for love. They should be assured that God's love for them will never end.

MATERIALS FOR THIS SESSION

- Badges or stickers for the children and catechists
- a purple cloth, candle, matches or lighter
- a paper for each child to draw themselves
- pens/felt pens/crayons/paper /colouring sheets etc
- suitable hymns or reflective music
- words of songs written on paper or cardboard or displayed on screen
- Parish Photograph Album
- a mirror inside a decorated box for the 'Something Special' activity
- a Bible and the words of the Bible reading, written on paper and placed inside the Bible

- a small vase of flowers
- juice and snacks for the end of the Session
- Camera or Smartphone to take photographs during the session

WELCOME AND SETTLING ACTIVITIES

As each child enters the room, they are given a special welcome, their badge is put on them. They are directed to an area where they are given a piece of paper and are asked to draw themselves.

While they are doing this, a suitable hymn or reflective music can be played a few times as background music.

For those children who finish before the others, have colouring in sheets, activities available for them.

When it is time to begin the Prayertime, collect the children's drawings of themselves and place them in a circle around the candle. Put a card nearby which says: We are a circle of friends.

OPENING PRAYERTIME

Everyone gathers in the circle around the unlit candle.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit, while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle, we remember that God is always with us.

Sit very still. Close your eyes.

PAUSE

God Our Father, we are gathered today/this evening because we belong to your family in …… Parish.

Thank you, God, for this circle of friends in …… Parish.
Help us to enjoy the time we will spend together.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

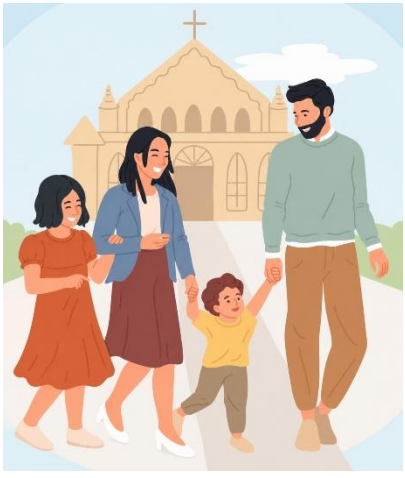
ACTIVITY- The Parish Photograph Album

Let the children see the photos of themselves in the album. Chat with them about the photos and about what was happening when they were taken. Look at the photos of some of the parishioners. Talk about who they are and what they do in the parish if this is appropriate.

- You might play a memory game. You could cover up the names of the people in the album and ask the children to identify the people and say something about them.

- You might arrange for one or two of the parishioners whose photos are in the album to pay a surprise visit to the children for five minutes at this point.

- Remind the children that everyone in the Parish Photograph Album is connected. They all belong to ……. Parish and they try to look after one another and to love God and one another the way God wants them to.



ACTIVITY- Christ Be our Light

- Linking to the last point in the previous activity, one of the catechists could explain very briefly that people in a parish should be like a 'light for the world'

- The song 'Christ be our Light is played several times and the children are encouraged to join in, at least for the chorus, when everyone in the circle could join hands. You might introduce some other gestures or movement into the song.

ACTIVITY - Something Special

- Show the children a beautifully decorated box and tell them that inside the box there is something special. It's so special that there's only one like it in the whole world. (If a few parishioners do visit, one of them could bring in the box with her/him when they arrive and give it very obviously to one of the catechists.) Ask the children if they would like to see what is in the box. Invite them one at a time to look inside, stressing that they must not tell anyone what they see. Inside the box is a mirror.

- When every child has looked in the mirror, talk a little about what has just happened. Ask each child what they think might be special about themselves. If they have been using the Family Workbook for First Reconciliation at home, their parents should have told them about their special qualities during Home Session 1. You could remind them of this.

  (If you are dealing with large numbers, just let the children tell two or three others what is special about them.)

- Remind the children that Jesus thinks that all children are very special. They will have heard that God created them in his image and likeness. They will also have learned that 'A faithful friend is a sure shelter, whoever has found one has found a rare treasure.' Ecclesiasticus 6:14.

- Ask them to listen to the attached passage adapted from Matthew 18:4. Ask the children to imagine that Jesus is saying to them: 'When you are kind, when you are gentle, when you share with others, you are truly the greatest in God's Kingdom.

I know that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that I should treat it with reverence.

Core learning:
I can identify where Sacred Scripture is situated in my local Church and in my classroom.
I understand that the Bible is the most precious for all Christians because it is the Word of God.
I can read aloud from Sacred Scripture in such a way that I am proclaiming the Word of God.

I can see and understand that the Bible is a special and holy book by the way people use it and treat it with great respect and I can do so too.

CLOSING PRAYER - BIBLE PROCESSION

- Form a procession with a catechist carrying the Bible, one child carrying the decorated box, one carrying flowers and another carrying an unlit candle. As many children as you like can be added on to this procession. Play 'Christ be Our Light'' while they are walking – just one or two verses.

- When the procession reaches the place where the reading will take place, the candle is put down and is lit and the 'Something Special' box and flowers are placed nearby. The catechist slowly and solemnly reads the following words from the paper that has been placed inside the Bible.

In the Book of God's Word, this is written.

The followers of Jesus asked him, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Jesus called a little child to him and said, 'You must become like this little child. Then you will be great in the kingdom of heaven.'

The catechist elevates the Bible and says:

The Gospel of the Lord

ALL SAY: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Bible is then placed solemnly on the cloth/table beside the candle.

- If possible, catechists should now say to each child individually, using the child's name,
  (Child's Name) _____ 'When you are kind, when you are gentle, when you share with others, you are truly the greatest in God's Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven.

- Close with an appropriate hymn 'God forgave my sin', 'Here I am Lord' or another that the children might know.

SESSION 3

This session relates to TIOF RERC1-11a P3
It should be done after the Parable of the Loving father and the Lost Son; the parable of the Lost Sheep; and the story of Zacchaeus has been covered in school. This should be after Class Session 5 and Home Session 4 of the Family Workbook.

MATERIALS FOR THIS SESSION

- Badges or stickers for the children and catechists
- a cloth and a candle, and matches or a lighter
- pencils/felt pens/crayons/jigsaws etc.
- words of the hymn 'Come Back to Me' written on paper or shown on screen
- Dice/Counters etc. for the board game
- Copies of The Lost Sheep board game
- Worksheet for the story of the Good Shepherd
- Parish Photograph Album
- juice and a snack for the end of the Session

WELCOME AND SETTLING ACTIVITIES

- As each child enters the room, they are given a special welcome and their badge/sticker is put on them. They are then directed to join a catechist who has the Parish Photograph Album.

- The catechist and the children can look through the album. They can look back over photos that they have seen before and chat about the new ones that have been added since the last session.

- Play 'You have Called Us' and/or 'Christ be Our Light' to reinforce the message that the children belong in the parish.

- Just before Prayertime begins, the album should be placed beside the candle.

OPENING PRAYERTIME

Everyone gathers in the circle around the unlit candle.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit, while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle, we remember that God is always with us.

Sit very still. Close your eyes.

PAUSE

> ***God Our Father, we are gathered today/this evening because we belong to your family in …… Parish. Help us to enjoy the time we will spend together. Amen.***

> ***In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.***

> ***All: Amen***

THE STORY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD /THE LOST SHEEP

- Ask the children to tell you the story of the Lost Sheep, which they'll have heard in class. The children may also have watched a video clip of this parable in class as part of their lessons.

- Have a discussion of the story, but do not overdo it, because the children will have spent a few days on this story already at school. However, it would be worthwhile spending time talking about the *feelings* of the shepherd and the lost sheep. Remember the emphasis is on the care and compassion of the Good Shepherd, who seeks the lost sheep tirelessly, until he brings it safely home.

- It is worth remembering that for children at this stage the *message* of this story is as follows. *Just as the Good Shepherd loved the lost sheep, even when it wandered away, God loves us all the time, no matter what we do. God never stops loving us., seeking us, longing for us to be in His presence.*

- A worthwhile activity at this point would be for one of the catechists, or the priest or another adult from the parish, to appear dressed as The Good Shepherd. He/she could ask the children what has happened to the sheep that cannot be found. He/she could say how he/she feels about what has happened. He/she could ask the children how the sheep might be feeling. This would be an interesting way of discussing the story.

ACTIVITY– Come Back to Me (Hosea)

- Show the words of the hymn 'Come back to Me' to the children and read them through once. You will find this on the webpage.

- Play the hymn several times, encouraging the children to join in at the chorus.

ACTIVITY – BOARD GAME (The Lost Sheep)

- Put the children into groups of two or three to play this game. If they finish it very quickly, they could be allowed to play it a second time.

- It would be worthwhile giving each child a copy of this board game to take home if this is possible.

ACTIVITY – WORKSHEET (The Good Shepherd)

CLOSING PRAYERTIME

Everyone gathers in a circle around the unlit candle and a copy of the Bible, which is open

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle, we remember we are always in the presence of God. God never forgets about us. God never stops loving us and he longs for us to be our best selves.

A catechist reminds the children that the Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep's story is a parable Jesus told and tells them that it is in the Bible, the Book of God's Word. He/she points out to the children that the Bible is open at the narrative of the Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep.

One of the catechists says the following

Close your eyes, Place your hands gently upon your lap. Listen to your heartbeat. Feel your breath as it moves gently in and out of your body, bringing life and oxygen to your whole body.

Go inside, into your inside world, where it is safe and quiet and peaceful. ……. Imagine that you are the sheep who got lost. …… You left the other sheep and went away by yourself. Imagine why you might have done that. ……. Imagine how you felt when you realised that you were lost. ……. You could not see the shepherd; you couldn't think where you should go. Imagine how you felt. …… Maybe you felt lonely, maybe you felt afraid, maybe you felt sorry that you had gone away by yourself. …….

Then imagine that you see the shepherd coming to find you. First you see the shepherd in the distance. ……. Imagine what you might do. Maybe you wait for the shepherd or maybe you run to meet the shepherd. ……. Then imagine what it feels like when the shepherd gathers you up and carries you safely back to the others. …….

Remember that God cares for you like the shepherd cares for the sheep. ……. God wants to find you whenever you feel lost. ……. God never stops loving you. With your inside voice you can talk to God and say anything you wish. ……When you are ready open your eyes……

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.

SESSION 4

I have explored the call to forgiveness and reconciliation and have reflected on how this can restore my relationship with God and others. I can put this understanding into practice in my relationship with God and others.

I have explored explore the call to forgiveness and reconciliation.

I can hear, read, and recall the narrative of Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).
I understand that Jesus took the initiative and approached Zacchaeus, offering him acceptance and forgiveness.
I recognise that Jesus invited him to relationship by entering his house and sharing a meal with him.
I recognise that Zacchaeus responded to Jesus' invitation by accepting forgiveness and offering to make up for any wrong he has done.
I know that Jesus calls each of us into a relationship of acceptance and forgiveness, and that we too can have a change of heart and make up for any wrongs we have done.

- MATERIALS FOR THIS SESSION
- Badges and stickers for the children and catechists
- a purple cloth and a candle
- matches or a lighter
- pencils/felt pens/crayons/paper/gathering sheets etc.
- the Parish Photograph Album
- The scripture narrative of Zacchaeus
- paper for the children to draw before, during and after the scene of encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus.
- juice and a snack for the end of the session

WELCOME AND SETTLING ACTIVITIES

- As each child enters the room, they are given a special welcome and their badge is put on them. They are then directed to the area where there are colouring-in sheets, settling in activities, paper etc.

- When most children seem to have arrived, the catechists and children can look through the Parish Photograph Album or slideshow, chatting about the new photos that have been added since the last session.

VISIT TO THE CHURCH

- If possible, take the children to the church for the Opening Prayertime in this session.

- It would be worthwhile if some of the parishioners from the Photo Album were able to be in the church to meet the children and join them for the Prayertime.

- The catechists, or the priest or Deacon, if he is there, could explain where in the church the children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is important to explain where the Sacrament will be celebrated and what the children should expect in terms of movement, procession, and posture.

OPENING PRAYERTIME

Everyone gathers in the circle around the unlit candle, or they gather in the church.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, All: Amen.

A candle is lit, while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle, we remember we are always in the presence of God.

Close your eyes. Be very still.

PAUSE

God Our Father, we are gathered today/this evening because we belong to your family in ……Parish.

We pray for Fr. ……., for ourselves, our families and friends and all who have brought us to this moment. We also pray for all the people in our parish family. Help us all to love God and to love one another. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.

SAYING SORRY

- Bring the children together and let them chat about their drawings. Explore with them the story of Zacchaeus conversion of heart and how he made up for the wrong he had done.

- One or more of the catechists could tell a story about a time when they did something wrong-when they had sinned-and said sorry to someone else and tried to make up for the wrong by their actions.

- Ask the children to share their experiences of saying sorry. You could end the discussion by stressing how important it is to say sorry to people we have hurt and deciding to be kinder and more loving.

- Play a suitable song and encourage the children to join in whenever they can.

- Then say something like the following:

Sometimes we are not as good as God means us to be. We do not show our goodness to others. Sometimes we hurt other people by what we do. When we do this, we need to say sorry. It is important to say sorry to other people but it's also important to say sorry to God and to start again to try to love.

When we go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we tell God we are sorry for the times we did not show our goodness. For the times when we have sinned. God always forgives us when we tell him we are sorry, because he loves us so much.

- If you think there might be extra time before the Closing Prayertime, you could play one of the hymns that we have been learning and talk about the words with the children.

CLOSING PRAYERTIME

Everyone gathers in the circle around the unlit candle.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
All: Amen

The candle is lit while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle, we remember that God is always with us.

A catechist says the following:

Sometimes we are not as good as God wants us to be, but God never stops loving us. When we tell God we are sorry, God always forgives us.

Close your eyes.

Still your body. …….. Breathe gently, in and out. …….

With your inside voice, tell God about a time when you did something wrong: a time when you did not show your goodness to others.

PAUSE

With your inside voice you can tell God you are sorry.

PAUSE

Now let us tell God together that we are sorry by saying the Act of Sorrow.

All: O my God, I thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for all my sins,
for not loving others and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

Now sing one verse of 'Be Forgiven' after which the catechist says:

God Our Father, thank you for loving us so much.

We are happy to be your children in …….Parish.

Thank you for the time we have spent together, preparing for our First Reconciliation.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, All: Amen.

Appendix 1

Psalm 139

You have searched me; LORD and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; If make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts,[a] God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you. If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Appendix 2

Matthew 18:4

Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Appendix 3

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus went on into Jericho and was passing through. There was a chief tax collector named Zacchaeus, who was rich.

He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was a little man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So, he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who was going to pass that way.

When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to Zacchaeus, "Hurry down, Zacchaeus, because I must stay in your house today." Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed him with great joy. All the people who saw it started grumbling, "This man has gone as a guest to the home of the sinner!"

Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Listen, sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much."

Jesus said to him, "Salvation has come to this house today, for this man, also is a descendant of Abraham. The son of Man came to seek and save the lost."

My name is ..... .

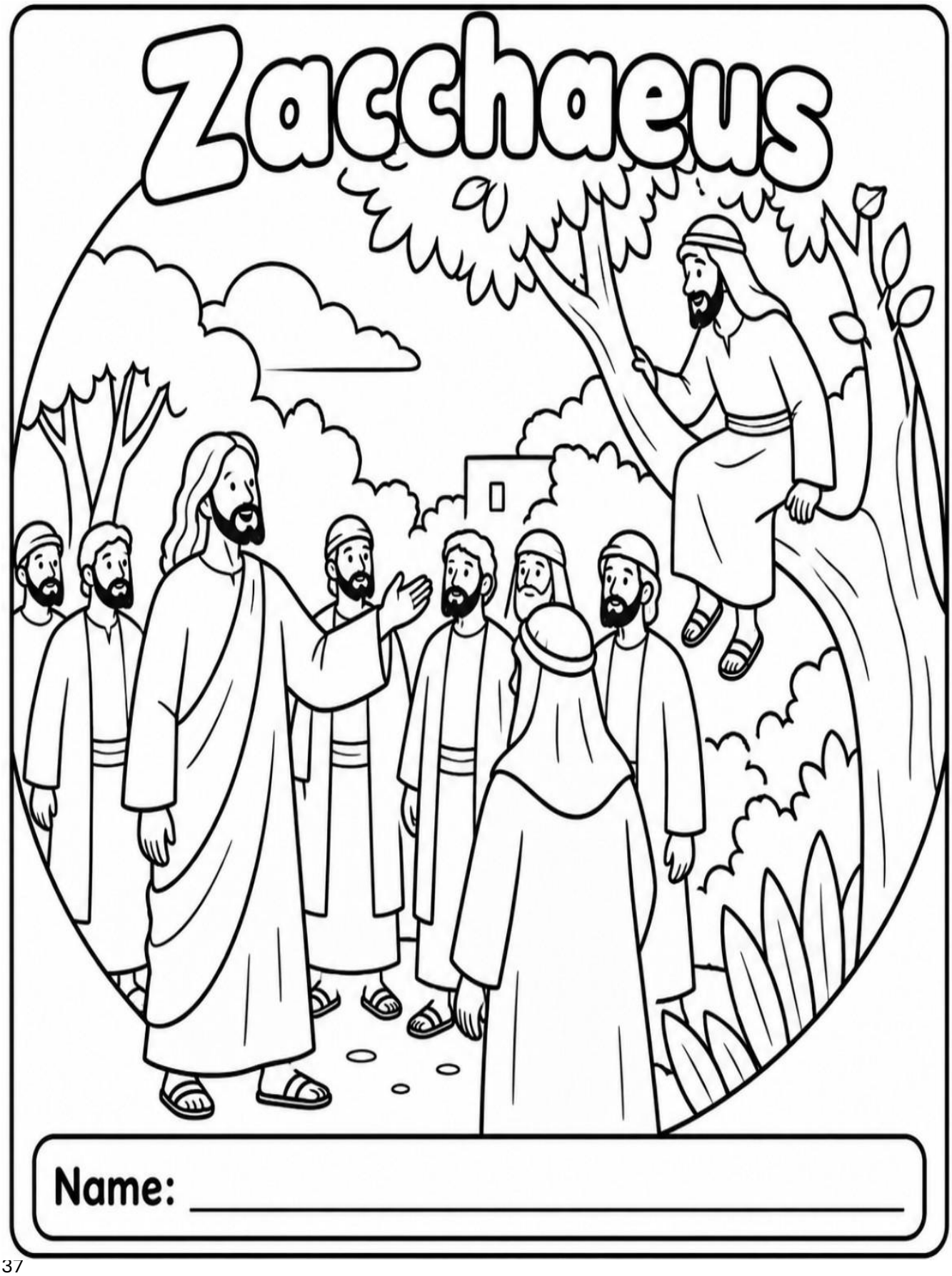
and

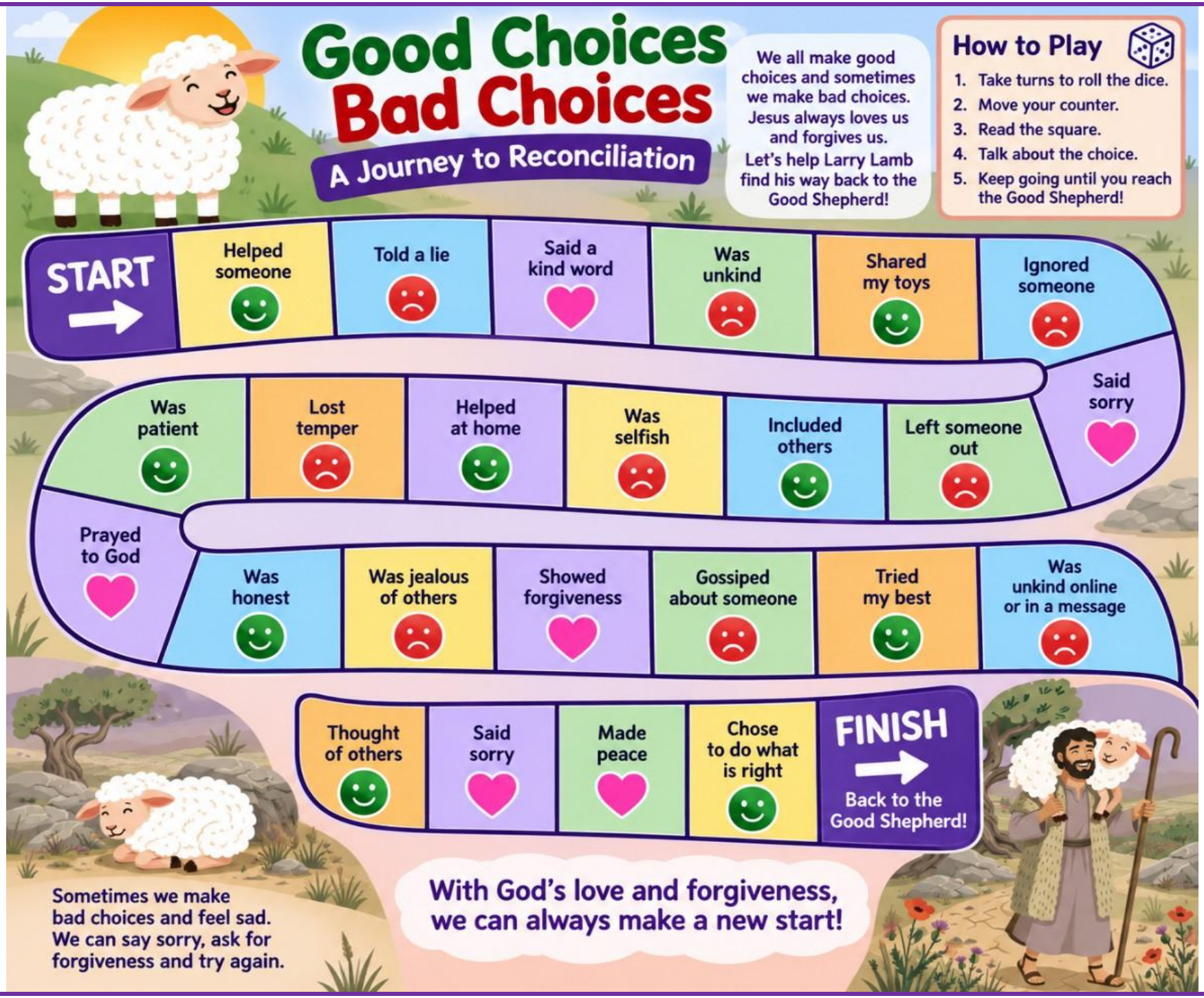
I belong to the Parish of

..... .

Come back to Me

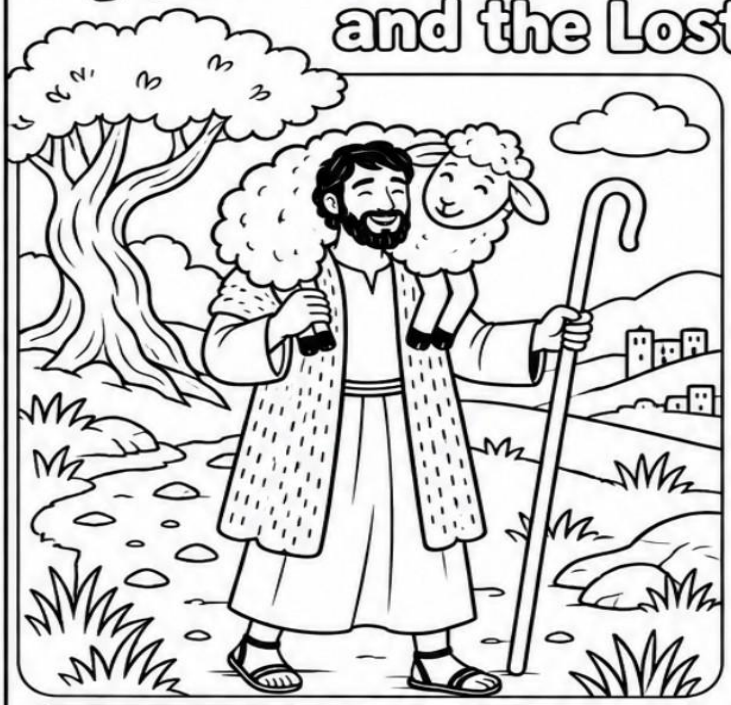
Name: _____


Zacchaeus
Name:


Good Choices Bad Choices
A Journey to Reconciliation
We all make good choices and sometimes we make bad choices. Jesus always loves us and forgives us. Let's help Larry Lamb find his way back to the Good Shepherd!
How to Play
1. Take turns to roll the dice.
2. Move your counter.
3. Read the square.
4. Talk about the choice.
5. Keep going until you reach the Good Shepherd!
START
Helped someone
Told a lie
Said a kind word
Was unkind
Shared my toys
Ignored someone
Said sorry
Left someone out
Included others
Was selfish
Helped at home
Lost temper
Was patient
Prayed to God
Was honest
Was jealous of others
Showed forgiveness
Gossiped about someone
Tried my best
Was unkind online or in a message
Thought of others
Said sorry
Made peace
Chose to do what is right
FINISH
Back to the Good Shepherd!
Sometimes we make bad choices and feel sad. We can say sorry, ask for forgiveness and try again.
With God's love and forgiveness, we can always make a new start!

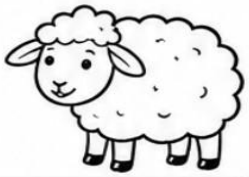
The Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep

Jesus looks for us when we are lost. He never gives up on us!



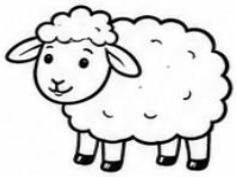
1 How many sheep did the shepherd have altogether?

- ☐ 10
- ☐ 50
- ☐ 99
- ☐ 100



2 How many sheep went missing?

- ☐ None
- ☐ One
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Ten



3 What did the shepherd do when he realised one sheep was missing?

_____

_____

4 Where did the shepherd go to look for the lost sheep?

_____

_____

5 How did the shepherd feel when he found the lost sheep?

- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Sad
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Worried

6 How did the shepherd treat the lost sheep when he found it?

_____

_____

_____

7 What does this story teach us about God?

_____

_____

_____

8 How can we be more like the Good Shepherd and care for others?

_____

_____

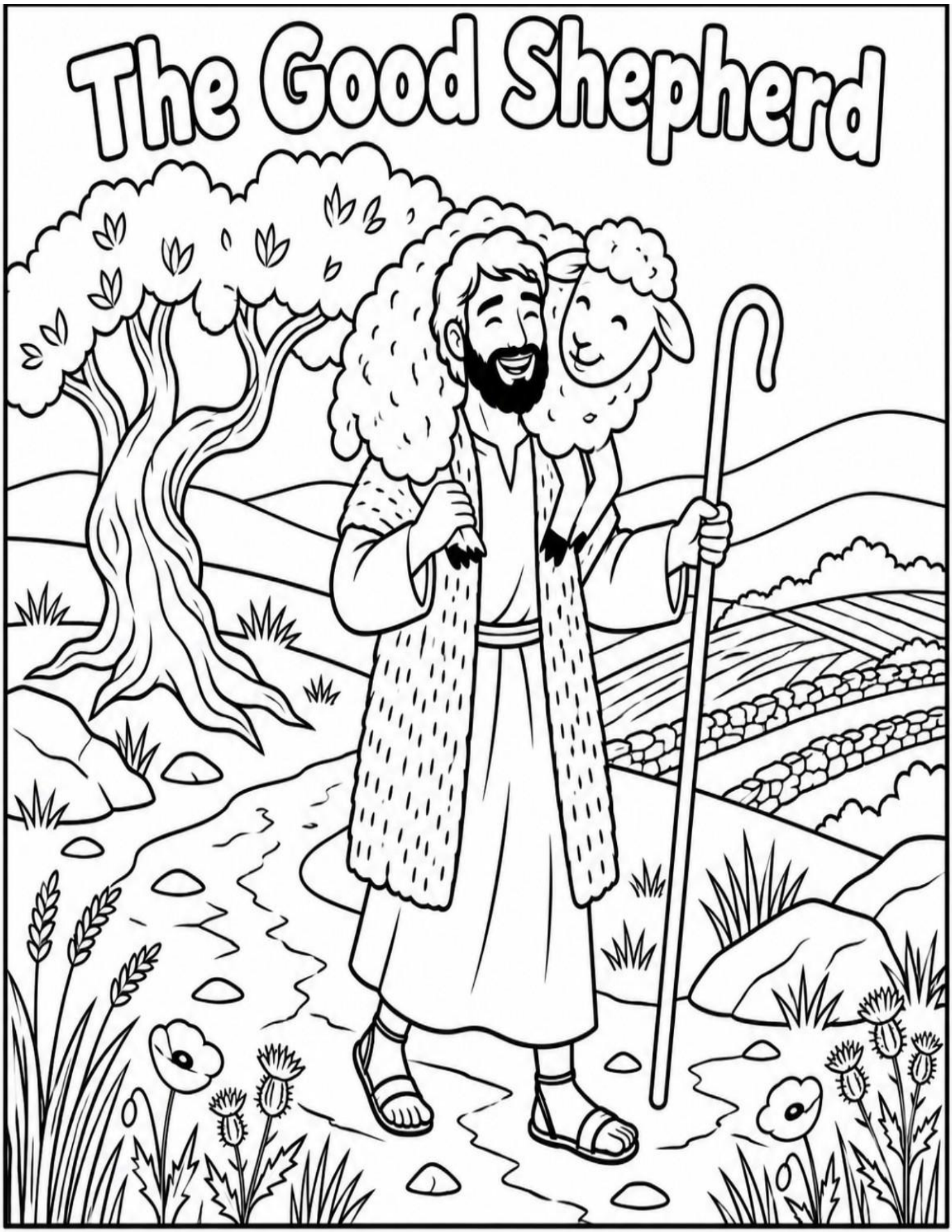
_____

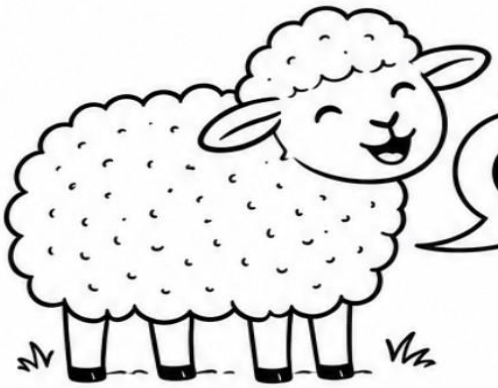
"There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who do not need to repent."

Luke 15:7

My name:

_____


The Good Shepherd



Match the Catholic Church Items

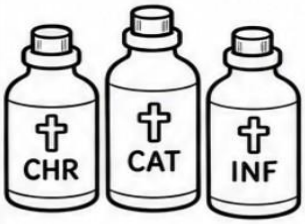
Look at the pictures below.
Choose the correct word from the box
and write it under the matching picture.

Baptismal font	Holy water	Holy oils	Paschal candle
White garment or gown	Bible	Tabernacle	Altar

1

2

3



4

5

6

7

8

Name: _____

Act of Sorrow

O my God,
I thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for all my sins.
For not loving others
and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus
and not sin again.
Amen.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Find the words below in the wordsearch.

l	o	v	e	g	h	p	e	a	c	e	q
c	o	n	f	e	s	s	u	r	x	s	i
p	r	i	e	s	t	b	z	j	k	i	n
p	r	a	y	m	n	o	p	e	a	c	e
f	o	r	g	i	v	e	d	f	g	h	j
c	h	u	r	c	h	k	l	z	x	c	v
s	o	r	r	y	b	n	m	q	w	e	r
p	e	n	a	n	c	e	y	t	u	i	o
a	b	s	o	l	v	e	p	a	s	d	f
h	e	a	l	i	j	k	l	z	x	c	v
j	e	s	u	s	b	n	m	q	w	e	r
z	x	c	v	b	n	m	q	w	e	r	t

Words to find:

- love
- forgive
- sin
- confess
- priest
- Jesus
- pray
- penance
- absolve
- peace
- church
- sorry
- heal

"Come back to me with all your heart."
– Joel 2:12

Be Forgiven

Be forgiven, be forgiven,
Be forgiven of the sin that you hold on.
Be forgiven, be forgiven,
Jesus died and rose
that you might know His love.
Be forgiven.

The Act of Sorrow

O my _____, I thank you for _____ me. I am sorry for all my _____, for not loving others and not loving _____. Help me to live like _____ and not sin again. Amen.

sins	you	God	Jesus	loving