

*We Prepare for*  
**RECONCILIATION**



In following Jesus, you discover  
the ways of God, and you find a special joy:  
the joy of God's love and forgiveness.

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# A Special Invitation

Dear Child,

How would you like to go on a wonderful journey, one that will take you closer to God?

A journey like this can be hard at times, but when you stay on it, you will find the path to God.

God, who gives you life, will also give you love, joy, peace, and forgiveness.

On this wonderful journey, you will prepare for the sacrament of forgiveness, which is also called “reconciliation”.

If you are ready to begin, just sign your name below.

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From the Bible



We are the children of God.

~ adapted from  
1 John 3:1

## Your Journey Begins

All around the world, thousands of boys and girls have begun this **journey**. They are hoping to find new life and to share God's love, joy, peace, and forgiveness. They, like you, are preparing to celebrate the sacrament of **Reconciliation** for the first time.

See how excited and happy they are. **Where are you in this picture?**



Here I am!

You were first invited to walk on the path to God when your parents presented you for baptism. You were probably very young then.



Now that you are older, you can understand better what baptism means. It means you belong to God's family. You are a member of the Church. You are a child of God.

## The Church Teaches...



**The sacrament of baptism is the first step on the journey of faith. Baptism points the way to God.**

- adapted for children from Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #1253

## Words to Remember...

**Journey** ~ a special trip that you need to prepare for with care

**Sacraments** ~ seven great church celebrations in which Jesus touches our lives

**Reconciliation** ~ a sacrament that celebrates God's forgiveness in a special way

**Baptism** ~ the first sacrament, which joins us to the family of God and prepares us to celebrate the other sacraments, especially the Eucharist

# 1. God Gives You Life



Life is wonderful and amazing! To see its beauty, you must open wide your eyes and your heart. Life is a gift from God.

Look around you. See the sky and the sun. You may see flowers, animals, fish, and birds. You may see snowflakes. At nighttime, look at the moon and the stars. All of these are gifts from God.

## Let us Pray

Here is a beautiful way to praise God. The Church has used this prayer for hundreds of years. When you say it, remember that you are praying with other believers all over the world. Say it often and try to remember it.

Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now,  
and will be forever.  
Amen.



Life – how great it is! How beautiful! Through days and nights, through summer, fall, winter, and spring, God helps life to change and grow.

See if you can unscramble the sentence below:

**NKTAH UOY DGO ROF EHT FGIT FO FELI!**

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Did you know? God asks YOU to care for the life that fills our world. What can you do today to care for God's gifts?

Today I can \_\_\_\_\_

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From the Bible



You have made me inside and out, O God. You watched over me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am so wonderfully made.

~ adapted from  
Psalm 139:13-14



# You Are Fully Alive!



It's amazing what you can do because you are alive. You can do things you don't even think about, like breathing, seeing, moving, and jumping.

Here are ways to think about how you are fully alive.

1.

Sit down in a chair and put your hands on your lap. Close your eyes and take deep **breaths** three or four times. Then sit very still and listen to your heartbeat. Do you hear it?

2.

Feel the air entering your body and giving it life. Then say out loud, "My voice, too, is a gift from God."

3.

Smile a big smile and then open your eyes. Slowly stand up, raise your arms, and start moving them all around. Kick your feet up and down.

**See all that you can do!  
Isn't it wonderful to be alive?**



Of all the things you can do because God has made you fully alive, which four things can you do best?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

God made you the way you are. Here is what God says about you in the Bible:

*From the Bible*



**You are beautiful in my eyes.  
I love you. I have called you by  
your name. You are my child!**

~ adapted from  
Isaiah 45:4

# Saint Francis Loved Life

Francis lived a very long time ago in Assisi, a little town in the country of Italy. Just like you, Francis wanted to be happy. His father was rich, so he had plenty of food to eat, nice clothes to wear, lots of toys and games to play with, and he had fun with his friends.



When he became a man, Francis knew that deep down in his heart, he was not really happy. One day he walked to an old church and sat down in the quiet space. He felt something tugging at his heart. He felt God speaking to him.



“Yes,” Francis thought, “God is calling me to do something more with my life.” From then on, he left behind his riches so he could follow Jesus. After that, everything he saw in God’s creation filled him with happiness and joy. He cried out, “Praise to you, Lord, for our brother the sun and our sister the moon!”



One day, it is said, Francis even tamed a wild wolf. He said, "Brother wolf, please stop scaring the people. Go back to your forest. You will be happier there." The wolf did just as Francis asked. Little birds would sometimes land on his arm and sing God's praises with Francis. All the animals loved him.



## Let us Pray

If you want to thank God as Francis did, you can say this prayer. When you get to the words "Thank you, God!" shout them out with joy.



Write here the names of some of your family members and friends.

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For the sun that fills the sky,  
for the moon and the stars at night,  
**Thank you, God!**

For the wind in the trees,  
for the rain that falls on the earth,  
**Thank you, God!**

For the fish and the birds,  
for the animals in the forest,  
**Thank you, God!**

For my family and friends,  
for my life and happiness,  
**Thank you, God!**

From the Bible



Make others happy with the gifts God has given you.

~ adapted from  
1 Peter 4:10

## God Gives You Talents!

Do you know what it means to be **unique**? It means there is no one like you in the whole world – no one. God made you with your own smile, your own face, your own body. God gave you special gifts called **talents**. Your talents are the things you do very well.



There once was a boy named Henry. Many other children lived in his neighbourhood.

There was Momei, who could play the piano and sing.

There was Luis, who could kick a soccer ball farther than anyone.

There was Samuel, who always got the best marks in school.

There was Julie, who could run and jump higher than Henry could.



At first, Henry was jealous of all these talents. Then one day his mother said, "Henry, you are always so kind to everyone. You are a very good friend."

Henry understood that being a good friend was his special talent.

At bedtime he prayed, "Thank you, Jesus, for my special talent."



## Something to Think About

- What is your special talent?
- What other talents do you have?
- Are you a good friend like Henry?
- Do you thank God every day for your talents?



The Church Teaches...



**Our talents are God's gifts.**  
- adapted from CCC #2009

## Words to Remember...

**Breath** ~ a gift from God that helps you be fully alive

**Praise** ~ a way to tell God and others how wonderful they are

**Unique** ~ one of a kind in all the world

**Talents** ~ the things you do very well

# You Can Talk to God

As you can see, God loves you very much. When you spend time talking to God, you are loving God back. Talking to God is called prayer.

Ask your family to help you set up a space in your room or home where you can go to pray. You can call this your “prayer corner.” Make it special and beautiful.

In this space, put colourful pictures, a Bible, and anything else that reminds you of God.

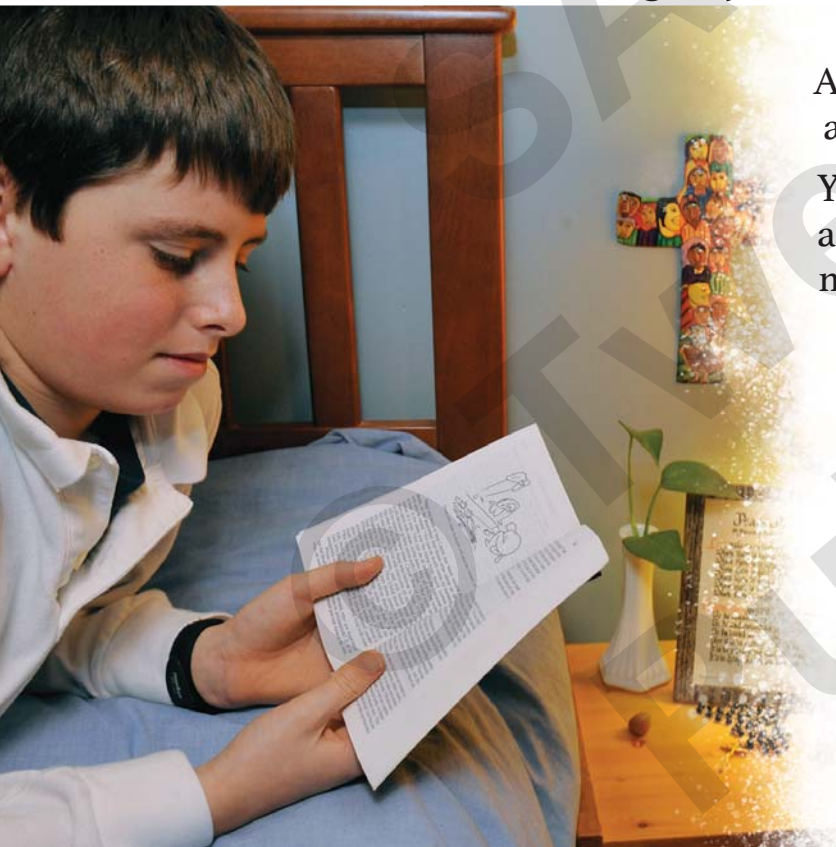
In the morning, say, “Good morning, God.”

In the evening, say, “Good night, God.”

All day long, you can speak to God about whatever you are doing.

You can say, “Dear God, you are great. Thanks so much for all you do.”

**When you spend time each day talking with God and saying thanks, you will have joy in your heart.**



# 1. What Have You Learned?

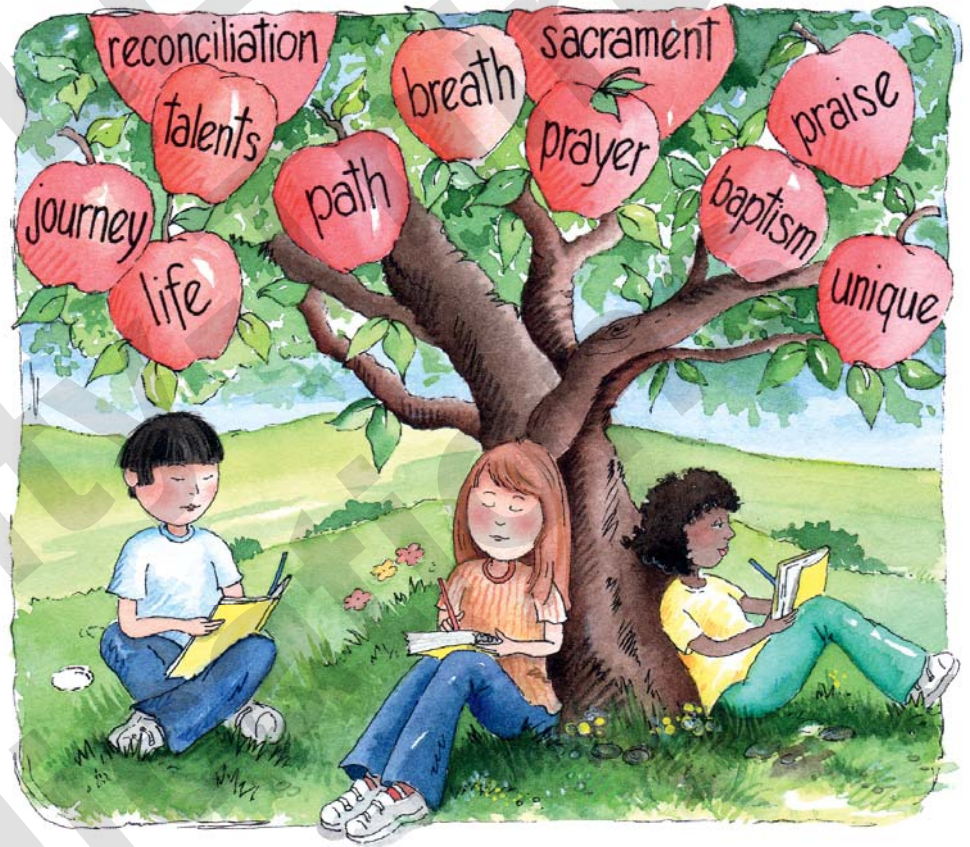
Remember what you have learned so far and answer these questions.

Find the answers on the apple tree.

1. I am on a special \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
2. The first sacrament I received is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ I am preparing for is Reconciliation.
4. Every day God gives me new \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Saint Francis often said words of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ means talking to God.

Things you can do to show your love for God.

- Take good care of the Earth and all that is in it.
- Never harm another creature on purpose.
- Tell God “thanks” when you see something beautiful.
- Take time each day to talk to God about your life.



The Church Teaches...



Prayer means taking time to be alone with God who loves us.

- adapted from CCC #2709