

Reconciliation At Home Ritual Preparation (1–6)

Reconciliation Chapter One—We Are Called (1)

Prepare

In the middle of your kitchen table, or on a coffee table, or in the middle of the floor where you will gather, place a white cloth (a tablecloth, towel, or pillowcase will work). Place on the white cloth a bowl of water, a candle (light it when everyone is gathered), and a Bible opened to Acts 17:16–34. If you have the *Songs of Celebration* CD, set your stereo so track 1 is ready to play. Either you or a child able to read needs to read the leader parts as well as the reading from Acts. Matches or a lighter are needed to light the candle.

We Gather

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 1.

Invite everyone to make the Sign of the Cross.

We Listen

Someone now reads Acts 17:16–34, ending with “The Word of the Lord.”

Leader:

Our response to the reading is, “Thanks be to God.” *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Invite everyone to sit silently for a few minutes to think about the reading.

Leader:

Let us call to mind the goodness of God, who gives us all good things. God gives us life and breath, and in him we live and move and have our being.

The parent(s) is now invited to dip his or her hand into the bowl of water and make the Sign of the Cross on each person gathered, inviting them to respond to the blessing with “Amen,” saying,

[Name], God calls you by name to live in love with him always. (Amen)

Leader:

At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: “Our Father...”

We Go Forth

Leader:

Loving God, our source of life, bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 1.

Reconciliation Chapter Two—We Are Welcomed (2)

Prepare

In the middle of your kitchen table, or on a coffee table, or in the middle of the floor where you will gather, place a white cloth. Place on the white cloth a bowl of water, a candle (this will be lit during the prayer service), a small plant or tree branch, and a Bible opened to Luke 19:1-10. If you have the *Songs of Celebration* CD, set your stereo so track 2 is ready to play. Either you or a child able to read needs to read the leader parts as well as the reading from Luke. Matches or a lighter are needed to light the candle.

We Gather

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 2.

Invite everyone to make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader:

Jesus is the Light of the World.

Light the candle.

Leader:

Let us renew our baptismal promises now. Your reply to each question is, "I do."

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? (I do.)

Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises? (I do.)

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty; in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; in the Holy Spirit and the holy catholic Church? (I do.)

Take the plant or tree branch, dip it in the water, and sprinkle everyone with it, inviting them to make the Sign of the Cross as they are sprinkled with the water.

We Listen

Leader:

Good and gracious Father, send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the Good News of your Son, Jesus, the Light of the World. We ask this in his name. Amen.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Our response is, "Glory to you, O Lord." Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.

Someone now reads Luke 19:1-10, ending with "The Gospel of the Lord."

Leader:

Our response to the Gospel is, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ." Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.

Invite everyone to sit silently for a few minutes to think about the reading.

We Go Forth

Leader:

Loving Father, thank you for the Light of Christ. Send us the Holy Spirit to help us live as children of the light. Amen.

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 2.

Reconciliation Chapter Three—We Reflect (3)

Prepare

In the middle of your kitchen table, or on a coffee table, or in the middle of the floor where you will gather, place a white cloth. Place on the white cloth a bowl of water, a candle (light it when everyone is gathered), and a Bible opened to Luke 10:25–28. If you have the *Songs of Celebration* CD, set your stereo so track 3 is ready to play. Either you or a child able to read needs to read the leader parts as well as the reading from Luke. Matches or a lighter are needed to light the candle.

We Gather

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 3.

Invite everyone to make the Sign of the Cross.

We Listen

Invite everyone to come forward and reverence the Bible by bowing before it or placing their hand on it. As they place their hand on the Bible, the leader says,

Leader:

[Name], may God's Word always enlighten you. Amen.

Everyone reverences the Bible.

Leader:

God, our loving Father, you call us to holiness and goodness. You want us to be united in you. Send us the Holy Spirit so

that our minds and hearts will be open to your Word and the works of your goodness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Our response is, "Glory to you, O Lord." *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Someone now reads Luke 10:25–28, ending with "The Gospel of the Lord."

Leader:

Our response to the Gospel is, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ." *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Invite everyone to sit silently for a few minutes to think about the reading.

Leader:

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: "Our Father..."

We Go Forth

Leader:

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 3.

Reconciliation Chapter Four—We Are Sorry (4)

Prepare

In the middle of your kitchen table, or on a coffee table, or in the middle of the floor where you will gather, place a white cloth. Place on the white cloth a bowl of water, a candle (light it when everyone is gathered), and a Bible opened to Luke 7:36–38, 44–48, 50. If you have the *Songs of Celebration* CD, set your stereo so track 4 is ready to play. Either you or a child able to read needs to read the leader parts as well as the reading from Luke. Matches or a lighter are needed to light the candle. Everyone will need a copy of the Act of Contrition, found on page 33 of the *Child's Book*.

We Gather

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 4.

Invite everyone to make the Sign of the Cross.

We Listen

Leader:

Loving Father, send us the Holy Spirit to open our ears and hearts that we may hear your Word and be filled with the courage to live it. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Our response is, “Glory to you, O Lord.” *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Someone now reads Luke 7:36–38, 44–48, 50, ending with “The Gospel of the Lord.”

Leader:

Our response to the Gospel is, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Invite everyone to sit silently for a few minutes to think about the reading.

Leader:

The sinful woman showed sorrow. Let us think about what we are sorry for.

Did I love and honor God?

Did I keep Sunday as a holy day?

Did I obey my parents, teachers, or employers?

Did I share with others?

Am I kind to others?

Did I tell the truth?

Let us pray.

Invite everyone to kneel and pray together the Act of Contrition:

All:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and in failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

We Go Forth

Leader:

Lord, our God, you know all things. We want to be more generous in serving you. Look on us with love and hear our prayer. Amen.

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 4.

Reconciliation Chapter Five—We Are Forgiven (5)

Prepare

In the middle of your kitchen table, or on a coffee table, or in the middle of the floor where you will gather, place a white cloth. Place on the white cloth a bowl of water, a candle (light it when everyone is gathered), and a Bible opened to Luke 15:11–24. If you have the *Songs of Celebration* CD, set your stereo so track 5 is ready to play. Either you or a child able to read needs to read the leader parts as well as the reading from Luke. Matches or a lighter are needed to light the candle.

We Gather

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 5.

Invite everyone to make the Sign of the Cross.

We Listen

Leader:

Good and gracious Father, you, who are always ready to forgive us, send us the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds to know your forgiving love. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Our response is, “Glory to you, O Lord.” *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Someone now reads Luke 15:11–24, ending with “The Gospel of the Lord.”

Leader:

Our response to the Gospel is, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Invite everyone to sit silently for a few minutes to think about the reading.

Leader:

In the Gospel, Jesus told us about a father who loved his son very much. The father watched and waited for him to come home. God, our Father, loves us too. Even when we turn from him, he waits to welcome us home.

Move to each person gathered, one at a time, place your hands on the head of each, and pray:

[Name], God loves you and will always forgive you.

Leader:

Let us ask God, our Father, to forgive us and free us from every evil as we pray together the Lord’s Prayer, “Our Father...”

We Go Forth

Leader:

May the God of peace fill our hearts with every blessing. May he strengthen us with the gift of hope. May he grant us all that is good. Amen.

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 5.

Reconciliation Chapter Six—We Go Forth (6)

Prepare

In the middle of your kitchen table, or on a coffee table, or in the middle of the floor where you will gather, place a white cloth. Place on the white cloth a bowl of water, a candle (this will be lit during the prayer service), a small tree or plant branch, and a Bible opened to John 20:19–23. If you have the *Songs of Celebration* CD, set your stereo so track 6 is ready to play. Either you or a child able to read needs to read the leader parts as well as the reading from John. Matches or a lighter are needed to light the candle.

We Gather

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 6.

Invite everyone to make the Sign of the Cross.

We Listen

Leader:

Loving Father, we come together in your presence to remember that we are your children. You call us to be children of the light. Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit that we will understand your Word. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Our response is, “Glory to you, O Lord.” *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Someone now reads John 20:19–23, ending with “The Gospel of the Lord.”

Leader:

Our response to the Gospel is, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” *Invite everyone to repeat that phrase after you.*

Invite everyone to sit silently for a few minutes to think about the reading.

Leader:

Jesus asks us to forgive others and to bring peace into the world. Through our Baptism and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are freed from sin and evil. Amen.

Dip the branch into the water and sprinkle those gathered with water.

Leader:

You have been baptized in Christ, and you are called to bring his light to the world.

Amen. Alleluia!

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

We Go Forth

Leader:

God, our Father, send us the Holy Spirit, the giver of peace, that we may go forth as a people of peace and forgiveness.

Invite everyone to repeat after you, “Thanks be to God!”

If you have the CD, sing or listen to track 6.