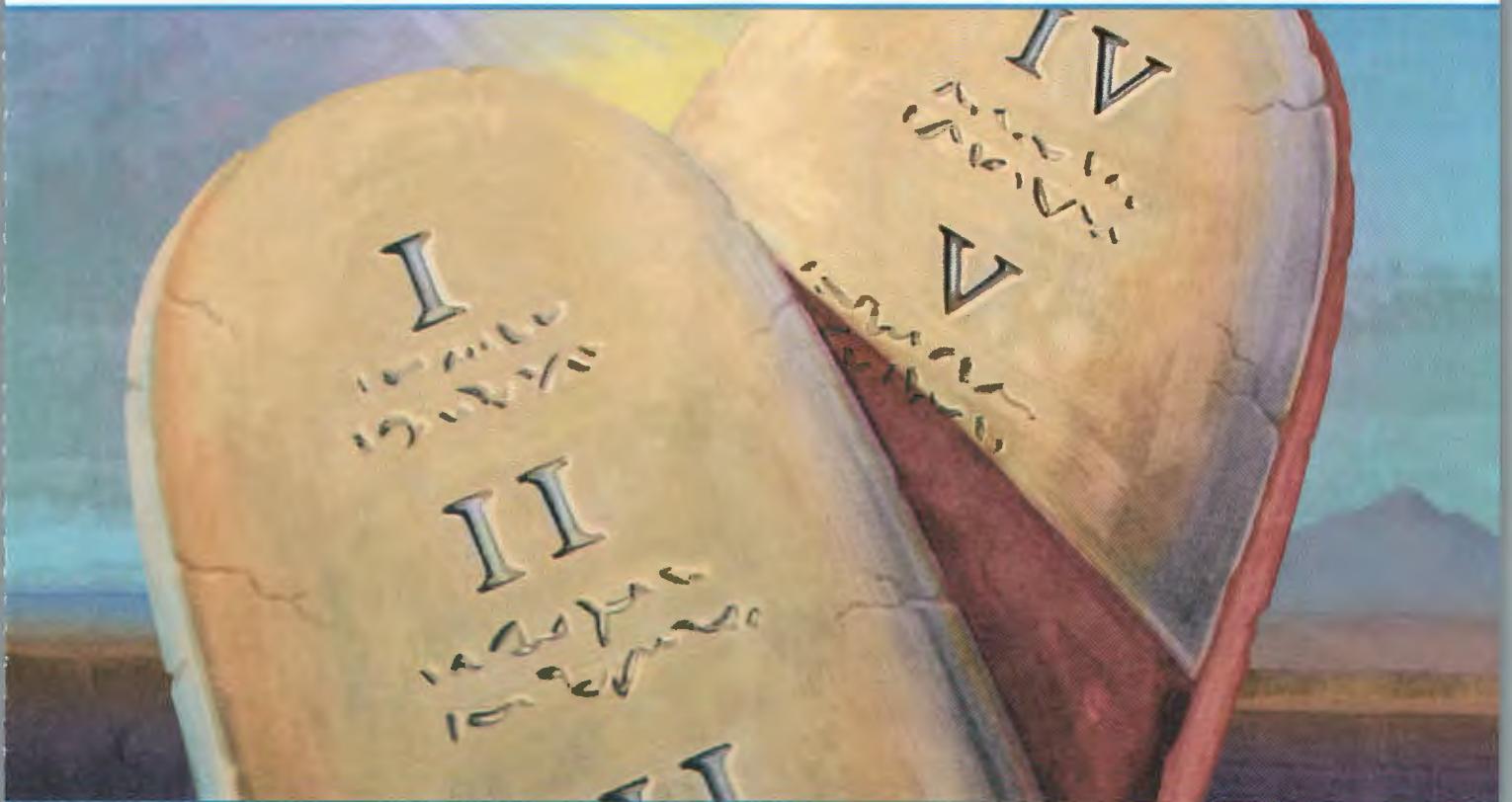


# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)



**Our Sunday Visitor**

# Healing and Reconciliation

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Merciful God, be always with us as we pray.

“Remember your compassion and your mercy,  
O LORD,  
for they are ages old.” **Psalm 25:6**

**All:** Jesus, no matter how many times we sin, you call us back to you. Help us to admit our sin and ask for your forgiveness. Amen.

## Scripture

“Blessed is the one whose fault is removed,  
whose sin is forgiven.

Blessed is the man to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit [there] is no deceit.

Because I kept silent, my bones wasted away;  
I groaned all day long.

Then I declared my sin to you;  
my guilt I did not hide.

I said, ‘I confess my transgression to the LORD,  
and you took away the guilt of my sin.’

**Psalm 32:1–3, 5**

### What Do You Wonder?

- Is there a limit to how much God will forgive?
- Why might you feel nervous telling your sins to the priest?



# God's Forgiveness

## Who is forgiven?

Jesus showed God's forgiveness to others through his words and actions. In this story, Jesus meets a wealthy tax collector who decides to **repent** and become his follower.

### Catholic Faith Words

**repent** to turn our lives away from sin and toward God

**Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation** the Sacrament in which God's forgiveness for sin is given through the Church

**confession** an essential element of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, when you tell your sins to the priest; another name for the Sacrament

**temptation** an attraction to sin; wanting to do something we should not or not do something we should

### Scripture

#### The Story of Zacchaeus

One day, Jesus was passing through the town of Jericho. Zacchaeus, a rich tax collector, wanted to see Jesus and learn about him. Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree to see over the crowd.

Jesus noticed Zacchaeus in the tree. He said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." Zacchaeus came down happily.

The crowd complained, saying that Jesus should not stay with Zacchaeus because Zacchaeus was a sinner.

Zacchaeus told Jesus that he would give money to those who were poor. He offered to give anyone he had cheated four times the amount of money that he owed to that person.

"Today salvation has come to this house," said Jesus. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." **Based on Luke 19:1-10**

➔ Who has taught you the most about forgiveness?  
What did the person or persons say or do?





## Conversion

God is always ready and waiting to forgive. He welcomes you back, just as Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus. When you turn away from sin and respond to God's love and forgiveness, you are experiencing conversion. Conversion is about becoming the people God intends us to be.

During his life, Jesus forgave many people in his Father's name. After his Resurrection, Jesus told his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit, who would give them the power to forgive sins. Today, the Church continues to celebrate God's forgiveness in the **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**. Sometimes this Sacrament is called **confession**, for the element of the Sacrament when we tell our sins to the priest. In this Sacrament, you receive God's forgiveness of sins through the Church. The grace of this Sacrament strengthens you to make peace with those whom you may have hurt. It also strengthens you against the attraction to sin called **temptation**.

### Activity

**Reflect** Think of someone who has forgiven you or you have forgiven. Why did you or that person need forgiveness?

**Share** With a classmate, discuss ways to show you are sorry and make peace with others. Then, tell one way that you can be more forgiving of others.

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## The Sacraments of Healing

### How does the Church celebrate forgiveness and healing?

#### Catholic Faith Words

**sacramental seal** a rule that a priest is not to share anything he hears in confession

**penance** the prayer, offering, or good work the priest gives you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**absolution** words spoken by the priest during the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation to grant forgiveness of sins in God's name

Celebrating the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a public sign that you are willing to turn away from sin and toward the love of God and the community.

Begin with an examination of conscience, a prayerful reflection on how you have lived the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and other Church teachings. It helps us know whether what we've done is right or wrong.

When you confess your sins to a priest, you ask for God's forgiveness through the power the Holy Spirit gives to the Church. The priest cannot tell anyone the sins confessed in the Sacrament. This is called the **sacramental seal**, or seal of confession.

Contrition is being sorry for your sins and wanting to live better. God will forgive all sins, even mortal sins, if you are truly sorry and want to change your heart.

God forgives your sins, but the effects of your sins are still in the world. You must do what you can to repair the harm your sin has caused. Part of making up for your sin is to do the prayer, offering, or good work that the priest gives you as a **penance**.

When the priest says the words of **absolution**, he grants you forgiveness of sins in God's name.



Underline what God will do for us when we confess our sins and are truly sorry during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.





## God's Healing Love

Today, the Church anoints the sick or dying through the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**. This Sacrament strengthens those who celebrate it and reminds them of God's healing love. God's love and mercy are available to all who turn to him.

In Jesus' time, people thought that sickness was God's punishment for someone's sin. But Jesus taught that this is not the case.

### Catholic Faith Words

**Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** the Sacrament that brings Jesus' healing touch to strengthen, comfort, and forgive the sins of those who are seriously ill or close to death



## Scripture

### The Man Born Blind

One day, Jesus saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Why is this man blind? Is it because of his own sin or that of his parents?"

Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made more visible through him."

Jesus rubbed clay on the man's eyes and told him to go to a certain place and wash it off. When the man did, he could see!

Many did not believe that Jesus had done this. When the man came back, Jesus asked the man, "Do you believe in the Son of Man? . . . You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he."

The man answered, "I do believe, Lord." **Based on John 9:1-38**

## Connect Your Faith

**Think About Healing** In the space below, name some things God has provided us for healing. Two examples are provided for you.

doctors, nurses





## Our Catholic Life

### How can you prepare to receive God's forgiveness?

You may feel uncomfortable about telling your sins to a priest. Remember that the priest is not there to scare or punish you. He is acting as a servant of God. He will know your sorrow and grant you God's forgiveness.

Are you wondering how you will know what to say? Here are some suggestions to help you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.



Match the step with its explanation.

Before You Go	
Examine your conscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask for guidance in discovering your weaknesses.</li> <li>Pray the Act of Contrition.</li> </ul>
Pray to the Holy Spirit	<p>This is a way of healing any hurts or harm you may have caused through your sins.</p>
Select a Scripture passage	<p>Try to remember as best you can the sins you have committed. Look at the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the laws of the Church. Ask yourself whether you have followed these laws and guides.</p>
Make up your mind to do penance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose one that inspires you to turn away from sin and make a fresh start.</li> </ul>
Show your sorrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolve that with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, you will resist temptation and do better.</li> </ul>
Decide to avoid sin	



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# People of Faith

## Venerable Matt Talbot, 1856–1925

Matt Talbot was born in Dublin, Ireland. Many people in his family drank too much. Matt started drinking when he was young. After years of heavy drinking, he decided to stop. He realized that he had hurt many people and done many bad things. He asked for forgiveness from each person. He also received the Sacrament of Penance and asked God to forgive all his sins. For the rest of his life, he never drank again. He gave away much of his money and prayed for all those that he had hurt.



**Discuss:** Talk about a time when you hurt someone and had to ask forgiveness.



Learn more about Venerable Matt at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Name** one friend or family member who needs to hear a message of forgiveness from you. Draft your message in the space below.

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**Create** a card with a handwritten message, and deliver it to that person.



 Let Us Pray

## Our Lady, Queen of Peace

**All:** Most holy and immaculate Virgin,  
 Mother of Jesus and our loving Mother,  
 being his Mother, you shared in his universal kingship.  
 The prophets and angels proclaimed him King of peace.  
 With loving fervor in our hearts we salute and honor  
 you as Queen of peace.

We pray that your intercession may protect us and all  
 people from hatred and discord,  
 and direct our hearts into the ways of peace and justice  
 which your Son taught and exemplified.

We ask your maternal care for our Holy Father  
 who works to reconcile the nations in peace.

We seek your guidance for our President and other  
 leaders as they strive for world peace.

Glorious Queen of peace, grant us peace in  
 our hearts, harmony in our families, and  
 concord throughout the world.

Immaculate Mother, as patroness of our  
 beloved country, watch over us and protect us  
 with your motherly love.

Amen.



Sing "Salve Regina (A Litany to Mary)"

*Salve, Regina, Mater misericórdiae:*

*Vita dulcédo et spes nostra, salve.*

Hail, Queen of Heaven, our Mother,  
 kind and merciful:

Pray for your children. Hail, our sweetness  
 and our hope.

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# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explores reconciliation as it relates to the effect of sin in the world, and explains the necessity of confessing sins to a priest and trusting in Jesus' power to forgive and heal.

### Scripture



Read **Psalm 32:1–3, 5** to find out about the blessing of Reconciliation.

### Catholics Believe

- God's forgiveness is offered to all who are truly sorry and seek it.
- The Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick celebrate God's healing love.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1420–1421, 1489–1490 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Venerable Matt Talbot, who is known for turning his life around with prayer and self-sacrifice.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Healing and Reconciliation** For fourth-graders, right and wrong are deeper concepts than they were before. Morality is not just about what other people see us doing. It is also about who we are and what we do when no one seems to be watching. It is important that as children grow in their ability to form their consciences, they have continued opportunity to seek God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

Have you ever yearned for a relationship to be healed?

We are human, and are not perfect. Our egos or hurt feelings can get in the way of healing a relationship. Yet, God loves perfectly and offers forgiveness to all who have not loved as he asked and therefore hurt ourselves, others, and our relationship with him. As Catholics, we know that "sin should never be understood as a private or personal matter, because it harms our relationship with others and may even break our loving communion with the Church. The Sacrament of Penance repairs this break and has a renewing effect of the vitality of the Church itself" (*USCCA, p. 242*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name the parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (contrition, confession, penance, absolution).
- Discuss how your family shares God's healing love with one another.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



O God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. Amen.

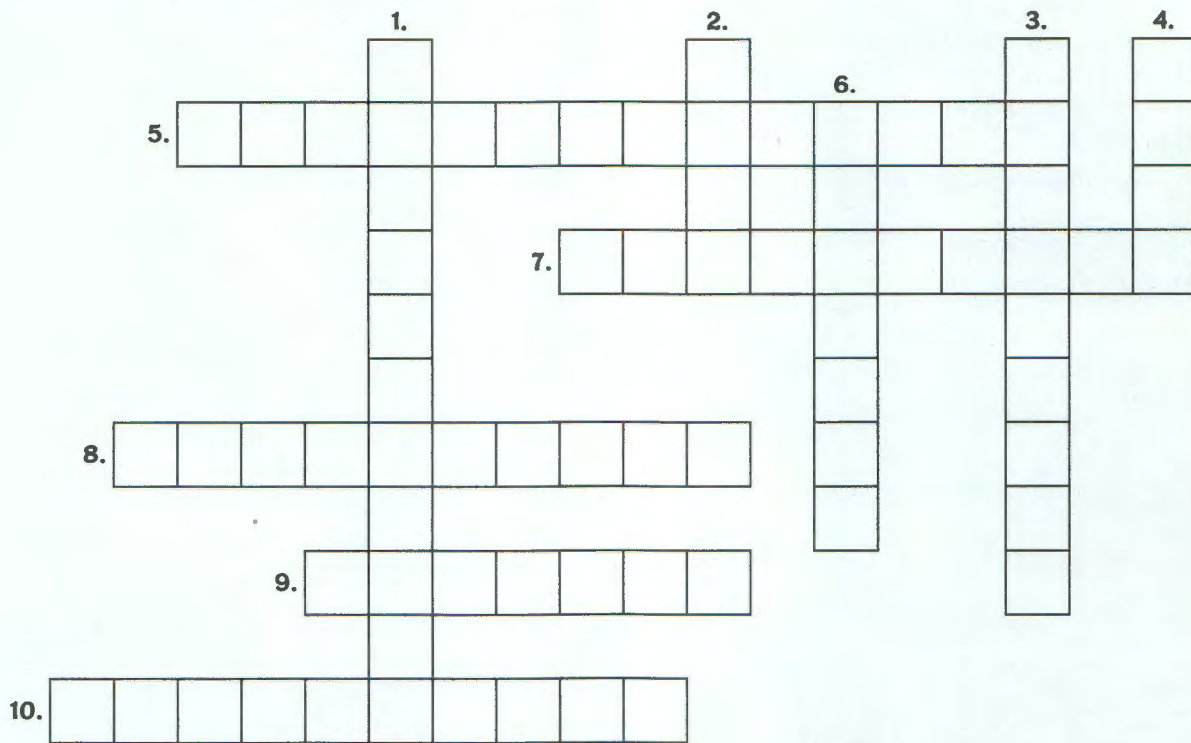


For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).



# Chapter 18 Review

**A Check Understanding** Solve the crossword puzzle.



## Down

1. Welcoming someone back after a wrong has been done
2. These separate you from God and others
3. This is done for those who are very sick or dying
4. God's love is available to all who \_\_\_\_\_ to him.
6. When you tell the priest your sins, you are really \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

## Across

5. The Sacrament that celebrates God's forgiveness of sins is the Sacrament of Penance and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Words spoken by the priest to forgive sin in God's name
8. Deciding to turn away from sin and turn back to God
9. The prayer, offering, or good work the priest gives you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
10. An essential element of Reconciliation when you tell your sins to the priest

