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We Remember God's Love and Forgiveness

2





"The LORD is my shepherd."
Psalm 23:1







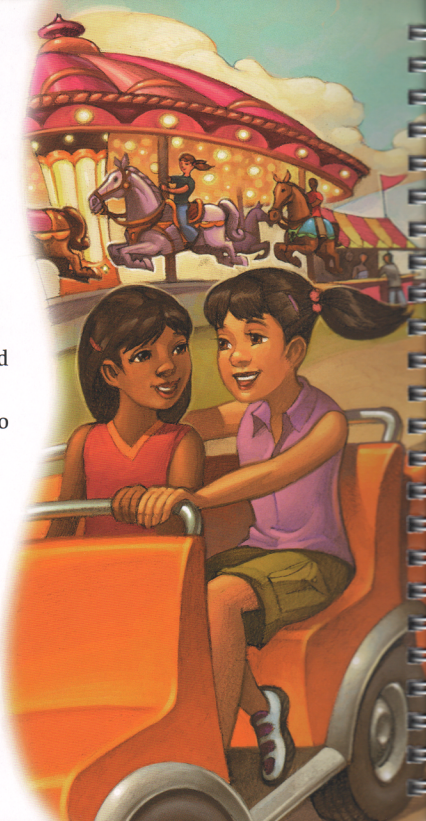
We Gather

Last week Marta Cruz, her dad, and her brother Carlos went to Parktown's Family Festival. On their way there, Mr. Cruz said, "The festival is going to be very crowded. I want you to stay close to me at all times."

First the family stopped at the craft stands. They looked at the beautiful things people had made. Both Mr. Cruz and Carlos wanted to take time to look at everything.

Marta thought, "This is so boring. I want to do something else." Marta saw her friend, Jenny, on the festival shuttle. Marta waved. The shuttle stopped close to where Marta was standing. She hopped on and sat next to Jenny.

When Mr. Cruz noticed that Marta was not beside him, he was worried. He asked Carlos, "Where is Marta?" They looked up and saw Marta on the shuttle. The driver was just pulling away. Mr. Cruz said, "Hurry, Carlos! I think we can catch the shuttle."





Carlos and his dad ran. They reached the shuttle just as it stopped near the amusement rides. Mr. Cruz told Marta to get off the shuttle. He said, "Marta, what were you thinking? Carlos and I were really upset when we thought we lost you. We love you and we don't want to get separated from you again!"

Marta was happy to be with her family again. They celebrated by

_____

_____.

(fill in your answer)

Here is one thing my family likes to do together.







We Share God's Word

Jesus told stories to teach people about God's love. He talked about things his followers knew about. One day Jesus told this story.

Luke 15:4–6

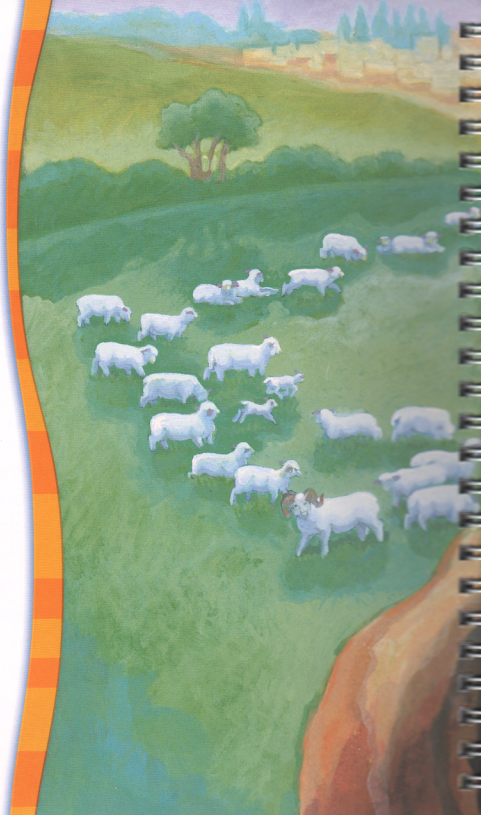
Reader 1: There was a shepherd who took care of a flock of one hundred sheep. One day one of the sheep wandered away from the flock.

Reader 2: When the shepherd found out the sheep was missing, he left the other ninety-nine sheep. He searched and searched until he found the lost sheep.

Reader 3: The shepherd was very happy that he found the lost sheep. He put the sheep on his shoulders and carried it home.

Reader 4: When the shepherd reached home, he called together his friends and neighbors. He said, "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep." (Luke 15:6)

Jesus told this story to help his followers to understand God's love and forgiveness. He wanted us to know that every one of us is special to God.





We Believe and Celebrate

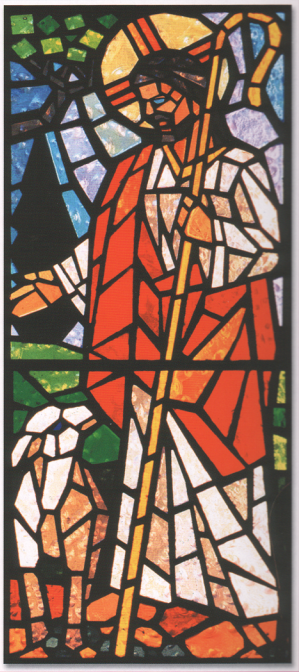
God loves each of us very much. He wants us to stay as close to him as possible. But this is not always easy to do.

The first humans did something they knew was wrong. They sinned and lost their share in God's life. That first sin is called **original sin**. And ever since then, all people are born with original sin. Because of original sin, suffering and death came into the world. Also, people sometimes find it difficult to do what God wants.

Sometimes we do not show our love for God, ourselves, and others. We choose not to obey God's commandments. We sin. **Sin** is any thought, word, or act that we freely choose to commit even though we know that it is wrong.

When we sin we turn away from God and one another. But Jesus leads us by showing us ways to come back together again.

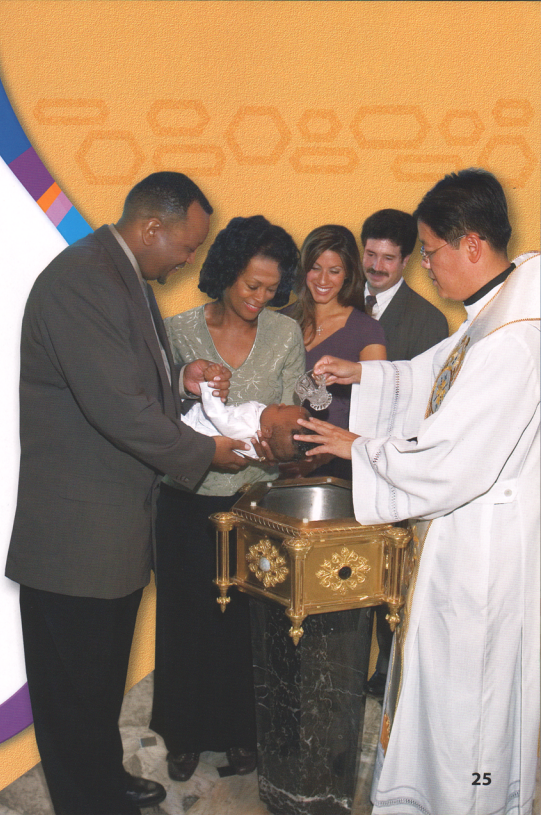
Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." (John 10:14) Jesus, our Good Shepherd, leads us to reconciliation with God and others. The word *reconciliation* comes from a word that means "coming back together again."





Jesus gives us ways to receive God's forgiveness. The first way we receive and celebrate God's forgiveness is in the Sacrament of Baptism. We are either placed in water, or water is poured over us. We receive a share in God's life. God's life in us is **grace**.

In Baptism original sin and all other sins are taken away. Through the waters of Baptism, we become children of God and members of the Church.

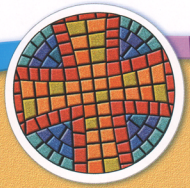


We Believe and Celebrate

After we are baptized, there are many times in our lives when we need to ask God to forgive us. We can do this in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. In this sacrament, which we can call the Sacrament of Penance, we ask God for and receive his forgiveness of our sins.

Some sins are more serious than others. These are called mortal sins. To commit a mortal sin, a person knows it is very seriously wrong and freely chooses to commit it anyway. People who commit mortal sin break their friendship with God. They no longer share in God's grace. People who commit mortal sins must receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.





Venial sin is less serious than mortal sin. People who commit venial sin hurt their friendship with God. But they still share in God's grace.

Yet any sin which we commit hurts our friendship with God and others. So we should ask for God's forgiveness for all of our sins in the Sacrament of Penance.

When We Celebrate

We celebrate the sacrament of forgiveness. It is also called the:

- sacrament of conversion
- Sacrament of Penance
- sacrament of confession
- Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Children who are baptized as infants must celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for the first time before their First Holy Communion.



We Respond



Jesus wants me to share his stories about God's love and forgiveness.

Here is one story that I can share ...





My family can pray to Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Here is my family's prayer ...









We Respond in Prayer

✝ **Leader:** Jesus, through the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance, we share in God's love, and we receive and celebrate God's forgiveness. Thank you for these sacraments.

All: Jesus, we thank you for sharing God's love and forgiveness.

Leader: Jesus, you told us that you are our Good Shepherd. We believe that you never want us to be separated from you.

All: Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd. We are the sheep of your flock.

Leader: Let us now sing to Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

♫ The Good Shepherd

Jesus is the Good Shepherd,
he knows his sheep and he loves them.
Jesus is the Good Shepherd;
he loves us all, he loves us all.

Jesus calls our name:
(Sing your name two times.)
and we come to him
running and running and
running and running
and running and running
because we love him.





