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Chapter 2 We Are Welcomed

We Gather

Procession

As you sing, walk forward slowly. Follow the people carrying the Bible and candle. Gather around the candle.

 Sing together.

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching
in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching
in the light of God.

South African Traditional

Leader: Let us pray.

Make the Sign of the Cross
together.



Ritual Focus: Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Leader: Jesus is the Light of the World.

Light the candle.

Leader: Let us renew our baptismal promises now.

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Leader: 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?

All: I do.

Leader: Sprinkle children with water.

Make the Sign of the Cross as you are sprinkled with holy 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.

All: Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: Read Luke 19:1–10.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sit silently.

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.

All: Amen.



Sing the opening song together.



The Light of Christ

SIGNS OF FAITH



Holy Water

Water blessed by a **priest** or deacon is called **holy water**. It is a sign of cleansing from sin when the water is sprinkled on the assembly. It may be sprinkled on the assembly at Sunday Mass, especially during the Easter season. We use holy water to make the Sign of the Cross and remember our Baptism as we come into church.



Reflect

Renewal of Baptismal Promises Draw and write about one way that you can march in the Light of Christ.

Children of the Light

At Baptism we receive a candle. The priest or deacon prays that we will walk as children of the light. We are children of the light when we love and care about other people.

Sometimes we do not act like children of the light. Even though we love our family, we may do things that are unkind. We may hurt our friends. Sometimes we choose not to care about what others want or need. We choose sin.

We know what it is like to do something wrong. We know what it is like to feel sorry and want to make up. What if we never got a second chance?



Candles

Candles are signs of Christ, the Light of the World. Candles are used at the altar during Mass. The most important candle used in the sacraments is the **Paschal candle**. This candle is blessed at the Easter Vigil and burned during the Masses of the Easter season. It is also burned at Baptisms and funerals throughout the year. Sometimes candles are placed before the altars of Mary and the saints. These candles are a sign of respect and prayer.



Jesus Brings Good News

Faith Focus

What happens when Jesus welcomes us?

Jesus welcomed sinners. He ate and drank with them. He gave them a second chance. He told them stories about God. He healed and forgave them. When people got to know Jesus, they changed.



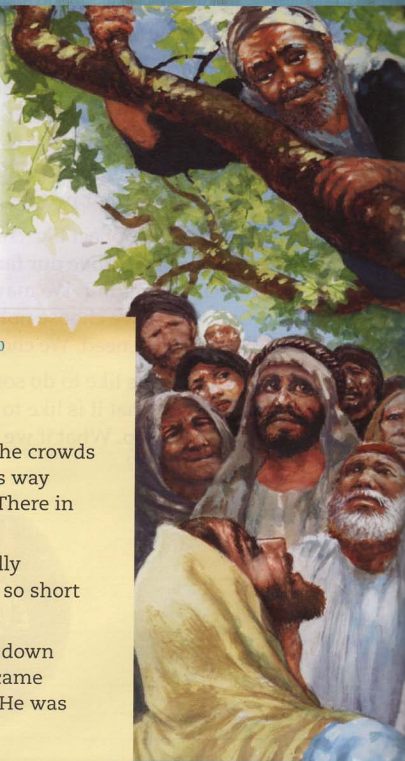
LUKE 19:1-10

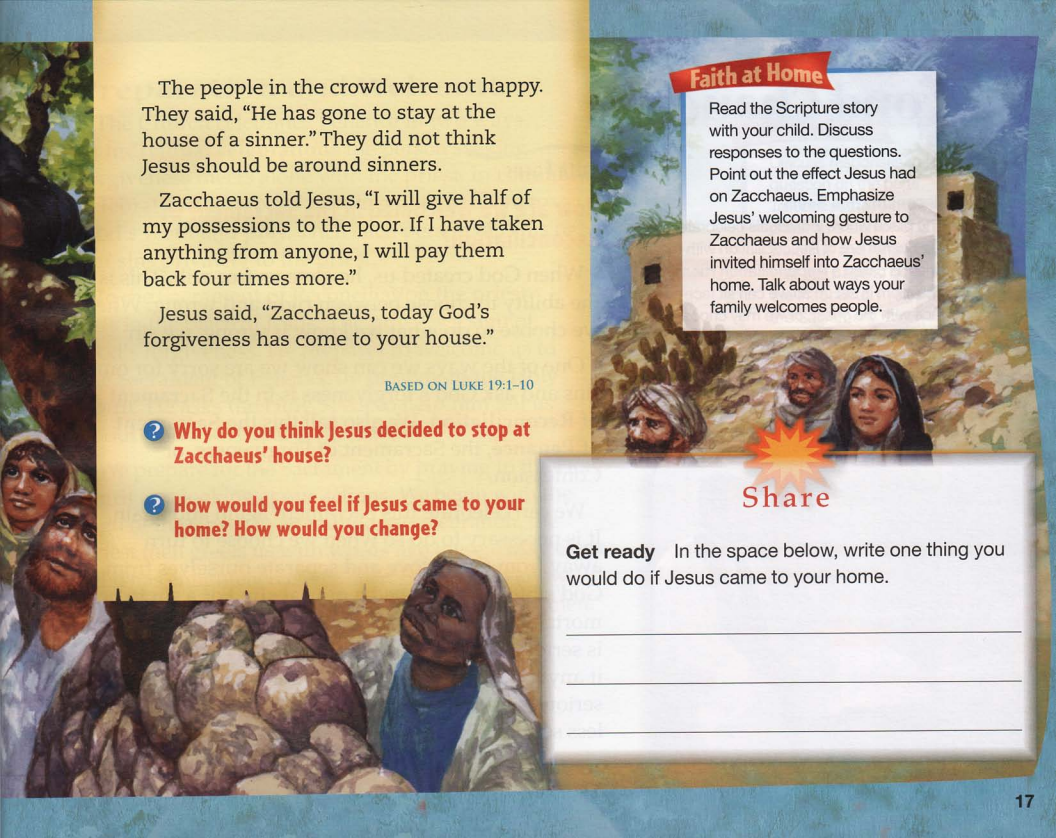
Zacchaeus

One day Jesus was going through the town of Jericho. The crowds gathered to see him. He did not plan to stop there. On his way through the town, Jesus looked up into a sycamore tree. There in the branches was a man! It was Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector and a sinner. He really wanted to see Jesus. He climbed the tree because he was so short that he could not see Jesus.

When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, he said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." Zacchaeus came down quickly and welcomed Jesus to his house with joy. He was very happy.





The people in the crowd were not happy. They said, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." They did not think Jesus should be around sinners.

Zacchaeus told Jesus, "I will give half of my possessions to the poor. If I have taken anything from anyone, I will pay them back four times more."

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, today God's forgiveness has come to your house."

BASED ON LUKE 19:1-10

- ❓ **Why do you think Jesus decided to stop at Zacchaeus' house?**
- ❓ **How would you feel if Jesus came to your home? How would you change?**

Faith at Home

Read the Scripture story with your child. Discuss responses to the questions. Point out the effect Jesus had on Zacchaeus. Emphasize Jesus' welcoming gesture to Zacchaeus and how Jesus invited himself into Zacchaeus' home. Talk about ways your family welcomes people.



Share

Get ready In the space below, write one thing you would do if Jesus came to your home.

Second Chance

SIGN OF FAITH



Reconciliation Room

The place where individuals celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the priest is called a **Reconciliation room**. The room is set up so we can sit face-to-face with the priest, or we may choose to kneel or sit behind a screen while we speak to him. The priest cannot ever tell what we say to him during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Faith Focus

How are we welcomed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

When God created us, he gave us free will. This is the ability to choose between right and wrong. When we choose to do what we know is wrong, we sin.

One of the ways we can show we are sorry for our sins and ask God's forgiveness is in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. We also call this the **Sacrament of Penance**, the Sacrament of Forgiveness, or Confession.

We can celebrate this Sacrament again and again. It is necessary to do so when we choose to turn away from God's love and separate ourselves from God's life. This is called a **mortal sin**. For a sin to be mortal, it must be seriously wrong, we must know it is seriously wrong, and we must freely choose to do it anyway. We can also receive this Sacrament for less serious sins that weaken our friendship with God. A less serious sin is called a **venial sin**.



Preparation and Welcome

The Church celebrates Penance in two ways. In **individual celebrations** the person seeking forgiveness meets alone with the priest. In **communal celebrations** groups of people gather to listen to God's word and pray. Then each person tells his or her sins privately to the priest.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation the priest acts in the place of Jesus. The priest is a sign of God's forgiveness. He prepares to welcome us to the Sacrament of Penance by praying to the Holy Spirit. He asks the Holy Spirit to help him tell us about God's love and forgiveness.

We prepare for the Sacrament by praying to the Holy Spirit and looking at our actions. We begin with the Sign of the Cross. In an individual celebration, the priest then greets us with words like these: "May God who has enlightened every heart help you to know your sins and trust in his mercy." We answer, "Amen."

? How will you ask the Holy Spirit to help you look at your life?

Faith at Home

Discuss responses to the question on the page. Talk about the role of the priest as a sign of God's welcome and forgiveness. Use this page to go over the Introductory Rites of the Sacrament. When you are at church this week, show your child the Reconciliation room.



Preparing to Celebrate



Respond

Write a letter In the space below, write a short letter telling God how you feel about preparing for your first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Closing Blessing

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: God, our Gracious Father, you welcome us as your children. Increase our faith and make us strong.

All: Hear us, we pray.

Leader: God, our Gracious Father, you call us to change and grow. Make our light burn brighter for you.

All: Hear us, we pray.

Leader: God, our Gracious Father, help us to know our sins and trust in your mercy.

All: Hear us, we pray.



Sing together.

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching
in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching
in the light of God.

Faith at Home

Faith Focus

- At Baptism we are called to walk in the light.
- Sin is a choice.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation forgives sins committed after Baptism.

Ritual Focus

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The celebration focused on the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and sprinkling with holy water. The children renewed their baptismal promises and were sprinkled with holy water. During the week, use the text on page 12 to renew your own baptismal promises with your child and the rest of the family.



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Visit our website for weekly Scripture readings and questions, family resources, and more activities.

Act

Share Together Read Luke 19:1–10. Talk about what it must have been like for Zacchaeus to have Jesus come to his house. Point out the changes Zacchaeus made after he met Jesus. Then invite each family member to list people whose example caused some change in his or her own life. Ask each person to read the names on the list. After each name, pray together, “God bless you for being a light in our lives.”

Do Together Together, think about and share the names of some people to whom your family could contribute some light and joy. Emphasize that even small things can brighten someone’s day. Choose one of the people and plan what you will do to brighten his or her life.



Family Prayer

Loving Father, we give you thanks for all the ways you make yourself known to us. Help us to continue to spread the Light of Christ in our world. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.