

We Are Sorry

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 22, ages 3-4

Lesson 22 Goal

- Your child will express understanding of when we need to say “I’m sorry” and how to do so.

Key Points

- When we hurt someone or make them sad, we should say, “I’m sorry.”
- One way to show we are sorry is to do something to make things better.



Parent Reflection

In any group situation, people are bound to have hurt feelings or misunderstandings. An attitude of mutual forgiveness and reconciliation is essential for living in communion with one another, so essential in fact that Jesus stated, “When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23–24).

We should approach God after we have made efforts to be reconciled with one another, for God forgives us as we forgive others (Matthew 6:14). When we recognize that we have been hurtful, there are also some important steps we can take toward reconciliation.

First, we should think through the situation carefully, and try to imagine what it must have been like for the other person. How did he or she interpret our actions, and how did that feel? Realize that seeking reconciliation means making yourself vulnerable and admitting you were wrong, even if you feel the other person didn’t handle it well either.

Then, tell the other person what you now understand about how he or she felt, and make a commitment to avoid being hurtful in the future.

Finally, realize that forgiveness is a choice, but trust is not. While the other person may forgive you, it may take some time for trust to be reestablished. Be patient with this process.

Reflection Question

Is there anyone with whom I need to reconcile? How can I begin this process?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- dress-up clothes, shoes, and hats

- Lesson 22 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“God, we are sorry for the things we do wrong. Thank you for loving us always. Amen.”*

Discovering

Father, I Am Sorry. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read Jesus’ parable about a father’s forgiveness.

Ask your child, “How do you think the son felt about what the father said?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Making Things Better. Turn to the drawing

in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Saying “I’m Sorry” (Dramatic Play). Use dress-up clothes to create and participate in role-play. Invite your child to join you to act out a time when someone hurt another child. Suggest ideas: *someone bumps into you; someone knocks down your block building; your sibling breaks your favorite toy.* Explain that it helps to practice saying “I’m sorry.” Saying you are sorry means you did something wrong and you will try very hard not to do it again. This short and simple message should be repeated often!

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint John Vianney. Show your child the picture of Saint John Vianney on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint John to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “What can you do or say to make up for your mistakes?”

Have your child write and draw about Saint John Vianney using the Lesson 22 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear God, thank you for forgiving us when we say we are sorry. Amen.”

Saint John Vianney

The Understanding Priest

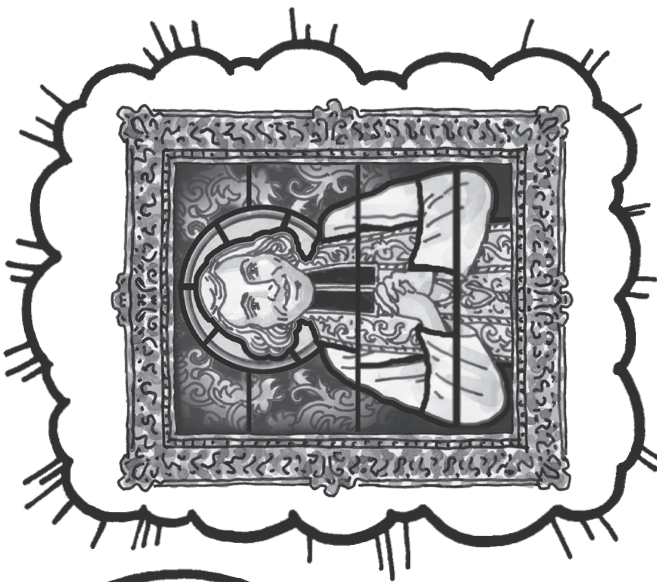
Father John Vianney took a moment to breathe. All day long, people had been coming to see him. They traveled from around the country to visit his parish church in Ars, France. They wanted to hear him preach about God. They wanted to confess their sins to him. That means they wanted to tell him about the things they did wrong. The people hoped that he could help them understand how God wanted them to behave.

When John was a young boy, he had trouble learning in school. But he was very good at teaching other children about God. When he grew up, he visited many people to help them

practice their faith. Finally another priest told John's teachers that he would be a good worker for the Lord. John was allowed to become a priest!

People who spent time with Father John Vianney felt like he understood their feelings. When his visitors went home, they explained to their friends about how special they felt. Their visits made them want to be better people for God. Soon, people had to wait in line for three days to talk with Father John Vianney. This made him so happy! He did not mind working for most of every day if it meant that people would grow closer to God.

DRAW



**Saint
John Vianney,
pray for us!**