

We Celebrate God's Healing Love



15

We Pray

Have mercy on me,
God, in your
goodness.

Psalm 51:3

**Father,
we ask your
mercy through
Jesus Christ, your
Son, our Lord.
Amen.**

*When is a time you
needed someone to
forgive you?*

Sometimes we need
to ask God for
forgiveness. We
celebrate forgiveness
in our families and in
our Church.

*When do we
celebrate God's
forgiveness with
our Church?*

God, Our Forgiving Father

Faith Focus

How do the Sacraments of Healing help us share in God's healing love?

Faith Words

sin

Sin is freely choosing to do or say something that we know is against God's Law.

Sacraments of Healing
Reconciliation and
Anointing of the
Sick are the two
Sacraments of
Healing.

The Forgiving Father

Do you remember hearing the parable of the Forgiving Father? It is also called the parable of the Prodigal Son. In this parable the younger son of a father demands his share of the family goods and money. He leaves home and wastes all his money. Here is what happens next.

The son was very hungry and sorry for what he had done. He decided to return home and ask his father for forgiveness. As he came near his father's home, the father ran down the road to greet his son. The father forgave his son and welcomed him home.

Based on Luke 15:16-24



Reconciliation

Every day we make choices just as the son made choices in the parable of the Forgiving Father. Most of the choices we make are good choices. Sometimes we make choices that are against God's laws. We **sin**. Sin always hurts our friendship with God and with other people. When we sin, we need to ask God for forgiveness.

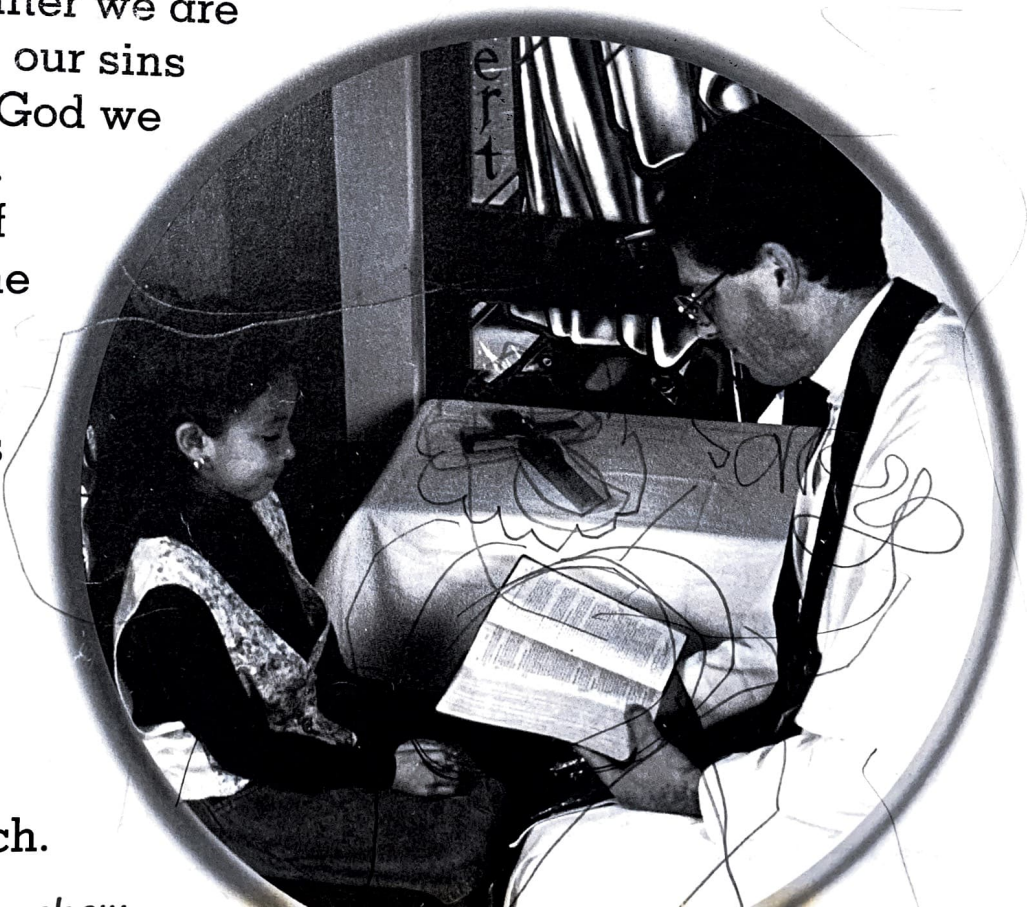
Because we need forgiveness, Jesus gave us the sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is also called the sacrament of Penance. It is one of the two **Sacraments of Healing**.

In Reconciliation we share in God's forgiveness and mercy. We are forgiven the sins we commit after we are baptized. We confess our sins to a priest. We show God we are sorry for our sins. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, God forgives us and heals us with his grace. The Holy Spirit helps us not to sin again. We are reconciled, or made friends again, with God and the members of the Church.

Faith-Filled People

Peter the Apostle

Saint Peter the Apostle knew how much Jesus forgave people. Once Peter denied he was a disciple of Jesus. Peter knew Jesus forgave him by the way Jesus looked at him. Jesus gave Peter and the other Apostles the power to forgive sins in his name. The Church celebrates the feast day of Saint Peter the Apostle on June 29.





Anointing of the Sick

Jesus healed the sick during his life on earth. He healed their bodies and their souls. Jesus continues this work in a special way through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament is the second Sacrament of Healing.

When we are seriously ill or weak because of old age or in danger of dying, our Church family takes care of us. We celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. In this sacrament the Church prays for us. The Church shares God's word with us and with those who have gathered to share in the celebration. The priest anoints our hands and forehead with the oil of the sick. He prays that we will trust in God's care.

This sacrament brings us God's grace. This grace strengthens our faith and trust in God. It gives us strength and courage and peace.

Our Church Makes a Difference

The Pope Forgives

On May 13, 1981, in Saint Peter's Square in Rome, Italy, a large crowd was cheering for Pope John Paul II. A man fired two shots. The bullets hit the pope's arm, hand, and stomach. When people around the world wanted the man punished, the pope said, "Pray for the brother who shot me, whom I have sincerely forgiven."

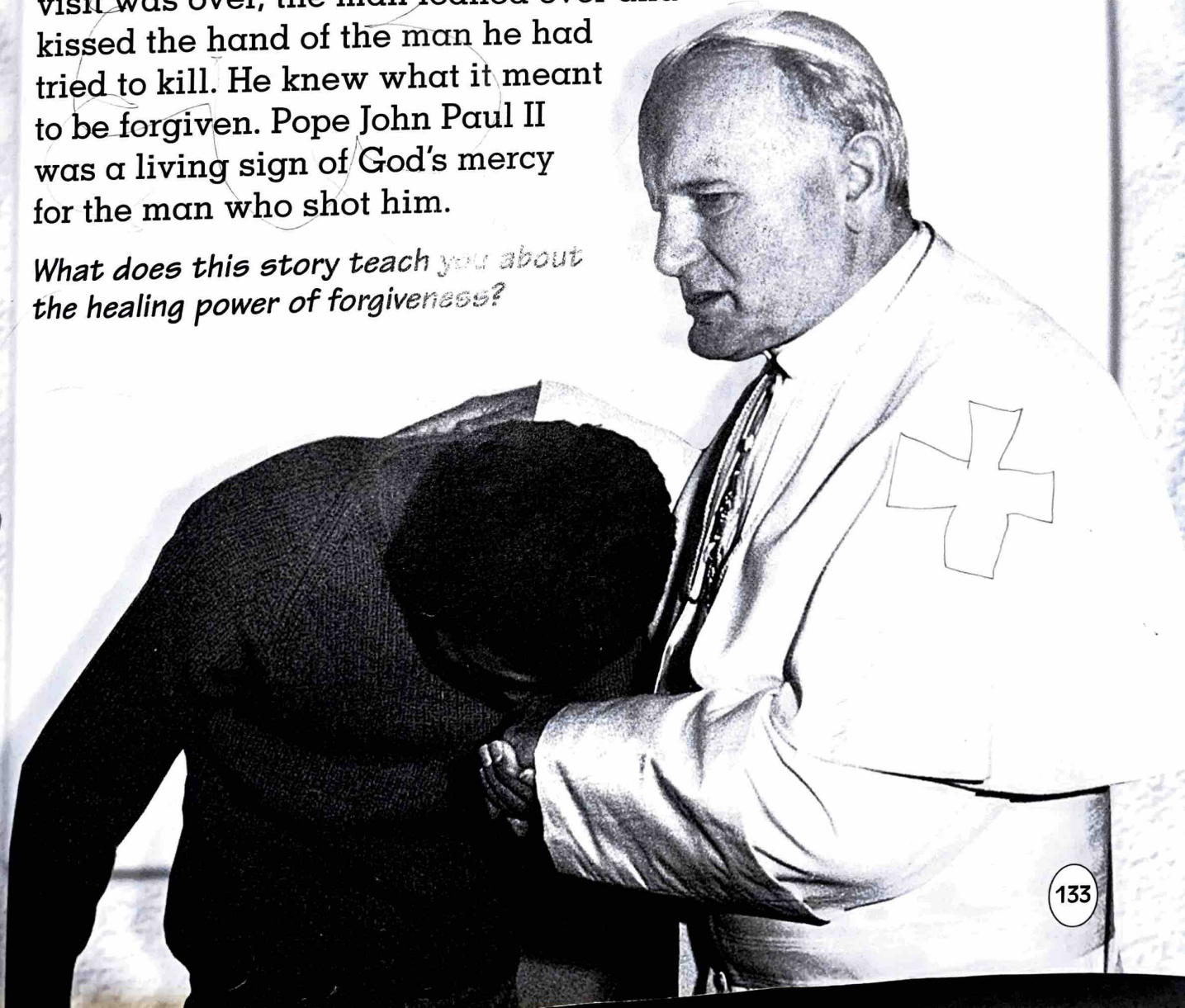
Two years later Pope John Paul II visited the man in prison. They talked privately for twenty minutes. When the visit was over, the man leaned over and kissed the hand of the man he had tried to kill. He knew what it meant to be forgiven. Pope John Paul II was a living sign of God's mercy for the man who shot him.

What does this story teach you about the healing power of forgiveness?

Our Catholic Faith

The Merciful

Mercy brings us healing and forgiveness. In chapter 5 you learned about the Beatitudes. One of the Beatitudes tells us to be merciful to others. In this Beatitude Jesus taught us to share God's healing love with people as he did. When we do, we receive God's mercy.



What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

Asking and receiving forgiveness is an important part of your life. The Holy Spirit helps you bring the healing love of forgiveness to others.

Put a 1 next to the words you could use to ask forgiveness. Put a 2 next to the words you could use to forgive someone else. With a partner prepare a role-play for your class that includes these words.

Forgiveness Words

- _____ "I'm sorry."
- _____ "You are forgiven."
- _____ "That's okay."
- _____ "I'll try not to do that again."
- _____ "We're still friends."
- _____ "Can we be friends again?"
- _____ "I know I was wrong to do that."

My Faith Choice

This week I will bring the healing love of forgiveness to someone. I will

f

We Pray

An Act of Contrition

The word contrition means "sorrow." Learn this or another act of contrition by heart. Pray it daily.

**My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and 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.**

We Remember

*Circle the T next to the true statements.
Circle the F next to the false statements.
Make each false statement true.*

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| 1. Sin hurts our friendship with God. | T | F |
| 2. In the sacrament of Reconciliation we confess our sins to a priest. | T | F |
| 3. We receive the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when we are healthy. | T | F |
| 4. Jesus healed the sick during his life on earth. | T | F |

To Help You Remember

1. In the sacrament of Reconciliation God always forgives us our sins when we are truly sorry.
2. In Reconciliation the Holy Spirit helps us to not sin again.
3. In the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, our faith and trust in God are made stronger.