

Getting Ready for Chapter 11

Take Home



Jesus Teaches Us About Forgiveness

In this chapter the children will hear the Bible story about Zacchaeus, a tax collector. They will learn that God's laws help them make good choices. The children will come to understand the importance of saying they are sorry when they have chosen to do wrong. They will learn that God is always ready to forgive them.

ACTIVITY

Read All About It Read *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins) with your child. Discuss the ending of the book as it relates to forgiveness and reconciliation.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Spend a few moments before Mass thinking about how you failed to be loving people. Pray, "Lord, have mercy," with reverence.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Saint John Vianney
(1786–1859)

John Vianney was ordained a priest after the French Revolution, when the Church regained its freedom. He was sent to a poor parish in Ars where people were lax about their faith. Father Vianney prayed and fasted and the people began to return to church. They came from near and far to seek his advice.

Feast Day: August 4



A Prayer for the Week

Loving God, you are always ready to forgive us when we choose to do wrong. Help our family to be loving and forgiving in the days ahead. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Tax Collectors Tax collectors, in the time of Jesus, were hated because they worked for the Romans, who were the occupiers of Palestine. Often, tax collectors overcharged their own people and could call upon Roman authority to punish those unwilling to pay the excessive rates. Jesus is accused of eating with sinners, when he goes to the homes of tax collectors named Matthew and Zacchaeus. Jesus even calls Matthew to be one of his Apostles.

You can read about these two men in Matthew 9:9–13 and Luke 19:1–10.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Bible Times

Sycamore Trees The Gospel story about Zacchaeus tells how he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus over a crowd of people. The view from the sycamore tree enabled Zacchaeus, a short man, to see Jesus clearly.

Jericho, where the story takes place, is agriculturally rich and full of tree groves. The sycamore is a type of fig tree, called the mulberry fig, with edible fruit. This tree is not the same as the American sycamore. Zacchaeus found the Jericho tree convenient for climbing because of its low, spreading branches. Today, many families in Jericho still eat the figs from the sycamore tree.