

Getting Ready for Chapter 8

Take Home



We Say We Are Sorry

When we choose to do wrong, we need to say we are sorry, to God and to any person we have hurt. The focus of this chapter is to learn to use prayer to tell God that we are sorry. When we do this, we admit that we have done wrong and recognize that we need to acknowledge it. Children will learn that prayer brings us closer to God and that, with the Holy Spirit's help, we can change.

ACTIVITY

How Many Ways? With your child, think of several ways to say or show that you are sorry. Some examples are "Please forgive me," "I didn't mean to hurt you," giving a hug, and shaking hands. You might want to make a list of all the expressions and actions you have identified.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During the Sunday liturgy, ask God's forgiveness for wrong choices you made last week.

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



Saints Elizabeth and Zachary (first century)

Elizabeth was Mary's cousin. She and Zachary were the parents of John the Baptist. The angel Gabriel told Zachary their son would be filled with the Holy Spirit. John's parents trusted God.

Patron Saints of: pregnant women

Feast Day: November 5



A Prayer for the Week

O Lord, may our family be as close as that of Elizabeth and Zachary. Help us to recognize wrongs we have done to family members. Strengthen us to admit our faults and say we are sorry. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Repentance Early Jews expressed collective, rather than personal, guilt. Group liturgies were common, stressing fasting and the confession of sin. Later, prophets began calling people to individual responsibility to bring about justice, kindness, and humility. Both John the Baptist and Jesus called for repentance connected to the coming of the Kingdom. They called on people to express sorrow and to turn away from sin.

You can read of John's call to repentance in Matthew 3:1–17.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Music

Fiddler on the Roof *Fiddler on the Roof* was a Broadway musical and a movie. It tells the story of a Russian Jewish family before the Russian Revolution. One of the most poignant songs, "Sunrise, Sunset," sung by the mother and father, is about how quickly time passes in a family and how quickly children grow up. This song echoes the sentiment of Catholic parents as well. How do children grow up so fast? This timely song reminds us that we should nurture our relationship with our children, because they won't be with us forever.