

## Week 5—GOD WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Week of Nov. 8

*“Come share your master’s joy.”*

The Readings for Sunday (11/15) remind us to care for the blessings that God has given us and that we do not have to fear that God will be angry with us if we sin or make a mistake.

### **Gather:** Count Your Talents and Gifts

Give an example of a couple of talents that you have or talents that you admire in others (“I’m a really good artist.” “I am a good baseball player”) Have the children name one of their talents (or a talent of someone they admire). Keep going around the circle naming as many talents as you can think of!

**Connect:** God loves you and has blessed you with unique gifts. He also pours his love into you through the gifts of the sacraments. Jesus reminds us to use our talents wisely and appreciate the gifts and talents they see in others. He knows that we will not always be perfect and we need the grace from the sacraments to enhance our talents.

### **Explore:**

- **Year 1 (CH 7):** Today we are going to explore our talents and find God’s love in prayer and in the people around us. God made each of us in his image to love others. God is in each one of us. We all have a care for God’s creation, as we learned last week, but our real job is to love and care for one another. A great example can be found in the books [Have You Filled a Bucket Today](#) or [How Full Is Your Bucket](#). We are all trying to go to Heaven! The way we can get there is to love God with our whole heart, whole mind and to love others as you love yourself!
- **Year 2 (Lesson 4):** Today we are going to delve deeper into the sacrament of reconciliation. God wants us to have a close relationship with Him (pp106-107). Discuss the questions on pp108-109. We all mess up from time to time—we make the bad choice (sin) and need forgiveness. Jesus gives us the sacrament of reconciliation in which we receive God’s love and forgiveness. In your small groups, read the story of Max’s bedroom (pp110-113) to illustrate what sin can do to our souls. Explore **what a sacrament is** (pp114-115) and more specifically what is reconciliation (pp116-121; [Episode 4](#)). One of the key messages of this session is that God will always love them...no matter what. He will always look for us when we stray. Illustrate this by sharing the parable of the Good Shepherd (pp122-127). Spend a few minutes exploring the questions in Show What You Know (pp128-129).  
Introduce the [Act of Contrition](#) prayer. Explain to your child that this is a prayer that expresses that we are sorry for the wrong choices we have made and they will pray this prayer at their first Reconciliation and whenever they go to Reconciliation after that. Access [Lesson 4 Videos](#) here.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (CH 6):** Today we are going to explore finding God’s love in the sacraments of healing. Read I Am Sorry (p 81). Discuss the two different types of sin (*venial & mortal*). As a group come up with examples of each. Next, discuss the two Sacraments of Healing (*Sacrament of Reconciliation & Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick*). Remind the children they can receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation often.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade (CH 6):** Today we are going to explore finding God’s love through Baptism and by living as His disciple. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, the Holy Spirit united each of us with Jesus and the church. Read The Sacrament of Baptism (pp80-81). During Baptism, we are anointed—we receive God’s grace to spread Jesus’ message and live as one of His disciples. Pull out pictures from your child’s baptism and share the memories with them.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade (CH 7):** Today we are going to explore finding God’s love through His grace in the sacraments. Read Saul’s Conversion (p90). At Baptism & Confirmation we receive God’s grace & the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides us to use our talents and make the right choices just as Jesus did.

**Reflect:** Matthew 25:14-15, 19-20. Read and/or explain in your own words this Sunday’s Gospel—*The Parable of the Three Servants*. God will always love you. Through Baptism, He has given us the talents to do good and be good.

**Live It:** God has blessed us with talents, gifts & sacraments.

As a family, celebrate the gifts of the sacraments: receive Jesus in the Eucharist, pray for those who have been recently baptized, or come to an outdoor Reconciliation at the Ballantyne campus (Sunday 10 to 10:30am and 11:45am to 12:15pm or Wednesday 9 to 10am).