



Level: **2**

Title: **JESUS HELPS ME TO CHOOSE**

Strand: **SACRAMENTS:**  
*Effective Signs of Christ's saving presence, Communal celebrations of Christian identity.*

Suggested Duration: **6 weeks**

**Unit Focus** In this unit the students will prepare for the Sacrament of Penance. The students will be guided to a deeper awareness of God's presence in people and the world. Through experiences of healing and forgiveness, the students may come to know God more fully.

**Level Outcome** By the end of Level Two students should be able to:

***Understand that the sacraments are ways by which we are welcomed into the Church community, reconciled and invited to share the special presence of Jesus.***

**Unit Outcomes** By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. ***Understand that Baptism is a special celebration through which we are welcomed into the Christian community***
2. ***Understand that God always forgives them when they say they are sorry***
3. ***Identify the Sacrament of Penance as the Church's celebration of God's peace and forgiveness.***

STRAND	DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS	CATECHISM REFERENCE
Church	3. The Church is a community that celebrates God's love.	752
Sacraments	3. <b>We celebrate God's healing forgiveness through the Sacrament of penance</b> 4. <b>Penance celebrates our reconciliation with God and others and God's forgiveness of sin.</b>	1440, 1446 1462,
Christian Life	1. I am precious, unique and loved by God. 2. God invites me to love and care for myself and for others 3. My choices and actions affect others. 4. Jesus shows us how to live.	27 27, 2822 1970 561
Prayer	3. Prayer involves rituals, symbols, celebrations and silence.	2663

**Key Understandings for Students**

- In Sacraments special words, actions and objects are used.
- Sacramental symbols are made up of ritual, action and narrative.
- Baptism welcomes us into the Christian community and unites us with Christ.
- God is a forgiving God.
- When we hurt someone we need to acknowledge what we have done.
- The sacrament of Penance heals and brings us back to God and one another through forgiveness.

**Curriculum Links - VELS** **Victorian Essential Learning Standards**  
 The unit *Jesus Helps Me to Choose* can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below

gives examples of how Level 2 standards could be assessed.

Strand	Domain	Dimension	Key elements of Standards Students...
Physical, Personal and Social Learning	Interpersonal Development	Building Social Relationships	-“identify the feelings and needs of other people. Students identify and accept that there are consequences for their actions. They take appropriate steps to resolve simple conflicts.”
		Working in Teams	-“work in teams in assigned roles, stay on task and complete structured activities within set timeframes. They share resources fairly. With teacher support, they describe their contribution to the activities of the team.”
Inter disciplinary Learning	Information and Communications Technology	ICT for Visualising Thinking/ ICT for Creating	-“students manipulate text, images and numeric data to create simple information products for specific audiences. They make simple changes to improve the appearance of their information products. With some assistance, students use ICT to locate and retrieve relevant information from a variety of sources.”

Curriculum Framework Context	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	I Care For God’s World	<b>Jesus Helps Me to Choose</b> Sacraments are Special celebrations	Sacraments of Initiation- Eucharist Jesus Models Forgiveness

### Student Context

Students at this level are becoming increasingly aware of the requirements of belonging to a group or community. They like ritual, and are learning to separate fantasy from reality.

The students’ social skills are becoming more sophisticated. They increasingly recognise the significance and nature of rules and boundaries. Their reasoning ability has taken a significant step forward. Students are developing a greater understanding of the concepts of *right* and *wrong*. They respond well to storytelling as it stimulates their imaginations and helps them form religious images.

### Theological Background for Teachers

- As members of the Church we express sorrow in different ways through the sign of peace, the sign of the cross, Lamb of God..., Lord I am not worthy..., Lord have mercy... and the Sacrament of Penance.
- We are called to live with other people in community and to strengthen and enrich the community.
- We have an important role as a Christian Community to be of service to others in our everyday lives.
- Baptism welcomes us into the Christian community. It is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation of the Catholic Church.
- Jesus revealed to us a God who is forgiving and reaches out to heal those who need forgiveness and healing.
- "The Church celebrates the forgiving and healing presence of God through the sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. These celebrations ritualise for us through word, gesture and symbol the reality that Jesus is among us and has saved us. Jesus offers more than forgiveness and healing through these sacraments. He offers all that is needed for a renewed relationship with God and others."

- “The practice of penance has varied considerably down the centuries. In very early days satisfaction, usually in the form of public penance, was very much to the fore. Re-acceptance into the Church community normally took place only after completion of the penance imposed. More and more, however, penance has withdrawn from the public domain and today only the private administration of the sacrament is still in use.” ([www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org))
- In Catholic theology, sacramental confession and absolution is the normative means by which a person receives God’s forgiveness of serious (grave) sin and reconciliation with the Church

## Scripture

### Teacher reference (NRSV)

#### **Mt 6: 26**

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

#### **Eph 2:19-22**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into the holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

### Student Reference (CEV)

#### **Lk 15:4-7 Parable of the Lost Sheep**

If any of you has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, what will you do? Won't you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it? And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home. Then you will call in your friends and neighbours and say, "Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep."

Jesus said, "In the same way there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to."

#### **Lk 19:1-10 Zacchaeus**

Jesus was going through Jericho, where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich. Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree. When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today." Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated." Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."

#### **Lk 17: 11-19 The Parable of the Ten Lepers**

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men with leprosy came toward him. They stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Jesus looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." On their way they were healed. When one of them discovered that he was healed, he came back, shouting praises to God. He bowed down at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was from the country of Samaria.

Jesus asked, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Why was this foreigner the only one who came back to thank God?" Then Jesus told the man, "You may get up and go. Your faith has made you well."

## Suggested Assessment Tasks

### Assessment tasks for this unit may include

#### **Outcome 1 Understand that Baptism is a special celebration through which we are welcomed into the Christian community**

- Students write / illustrate what they understand about the meaning of Baptism.
- Students illustrate symbols of Baptism - water, candle, white garment, oil

#### **Outcome 2 Understand that God always forgives us when we say we are sorry**

- Students write about a time when they have been forgiven and how it felt.

#### **Outcome 3 Identify the Sacrament of Penance as the Church's celebration of God's peace and forgiveness.**

- Students illustrate the steps in the Sacrament of Penance. (Ryan, Maurice. *Expressions: Book 2* p.79)

N.B All of the above Outcomes lend themselves to reporting in the dimension of Knowledge and Understanding.

## Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

### Focusing Activity

Students listen to the story "I'm Sorry" (McBratney, Sam) (or similar story) (Resource List). Discuss the story.

- Make a chart describing yourself (looks like, like to do, birthday, special things about yourself).
- Take the students to the Church and look at the baptismal font. Parish Priest may speak to the students at this time about Baptism.
- Create a class prayer focus using memorabilia/photos/symbols of students own experiences of Baptism.
- Students role play a situation of making a right/wrong choice, talk about it and share it with the whole group.
- Students select one of the role plays (above) and complete a Y chart. (*refer to icon in Planning Tool*)
- Students list different ways to make up with people who have been hurt using Hot Potato strategy (*refer to icon in Planning Tool*)
- Read "The Very Best Of Friend" (Wild, Margaret), and discuss the different relationships between the characters
- Whole group discussion - feelings about how they felt before and after we hurt someone and felt forgiveness.
- The Lost Sheep (Lk 15:11-31). Use Composite model. Children make a story map or a poster of this story. Display key words on this poster. What does this parable tell us about Jesus?
- Read the start of Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-10). One child acts as Zacchaeus and children from the class interview.
- Students complete a film strip of the Lost Sheep Luke 15:4-7.
- Learn and sing "Choices" by John Burland from the [CD] *Let's Celebrate*.
- Have the students reflect on the following questions in their journals: What can we do when we make a mistake or have a fight? Who can help us? What is the difference between getting even and making up? How does it feel when we have been hurt? How does it feel when we are not forgiven? How does it feel when we are forgiven?
- Brainstorm feelings before/after reconciliation. Use drama (frozen statues) to express these for the class.

- Prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Penance through a second rite of Reconciliation or a simple Forgiveness Prayer Service. All students should be given the opportunity to take part in the celebration of the Sacrament or simple Prayer Service, but also by reading, music, writing prayers, singing and movement.
- Using Godly play materials tell the stories: The parable of the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus and the parable of the Ten Lepers
- Lk 19:1-10 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word – Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, he was in charge of the men who collected taxes from the Jews to pay to the Romans. Jesus called Zacchaeus, son of Abraham therefore we know he was a Jew. The name Zacchaeus means pure one
- Lk 19:1-10 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, students use Godly Play materials to tell the story
- Lk 19:1-10 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, students role play the story
- Lk 19:1-10 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, students Echo mime, “Just Imagine” p.57 (Wintour, Rina)
- Lk 19:1-10 To RESPOND to the Word – imagine you live in Jericho, retell what you saw when Jesus met Zacchaeus
- Lk 19:1-10 To RESPOND to the Word – brainstorm words of forgiveness

### Resources

For resources to support this unit, refer to the online planning tool. For additional resources, refer to the Resource Centre Catalogue: <http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au> and follow links to Resource Centre.