

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 6-A

## **Bible Activity: Stories about Being Lost**

*In a small group, read these three parables. Summarize each parable and then discuss what you think each passage has to say about being lost and being found. Write the group's answers here.*

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

- Summary:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What the parable says about being lost and found:

### **Parable of the Lost Coin (Lk 15:8-10)**

- Summary:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What the parable says about being lost and found:

### **Parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32)**

- Summary:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What the parable says about being lost and found:

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Handout 6-B

## Chapter 6 SAT Practice: Critical Reading

Read Section 1, "Understanding the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation" (pages 184–189). Then indicate the correct answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The word *hesed* means . . .

- A. God's justice.
- B. God's friendship.
- C. God's infinite mercy.
- D. God's goodness.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. What did Jesus teach regarding rules?

- A. Love, generosity, and self-sacrifice are more important than simply obeying laws.
- B. People should obey the commandments in all circumstances.
- C. People should ignore rules and do what they want.
- D. If people follow Jesus, they do not have to obey the Ten Commandments.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following statements regarding the Order of Penitents is TRUE?

- A. Many early Christians enrolled in the Order of Penitents.
- B. Early Christians who committed serious sins after Baptism were admitted into the Order of Penitents.
- C. Early Christians tended to enroll in the Order of Penitents many times during life, whenever they sinned seriously.
- D. While in the Order of Penitents, people could still receive Holy Communion and socialize with other Christians.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which of the following statements about penitentiaries is TRUE?

- A. Penitentiaries meant that all priests had lines of equal length for confession.
- B. Penitentiaries caused some people to look at the sacrament as a matter of mathematics and formulas.
- C. Penitentiaries emphasized love at the expense of God's justice.
- D. Penitentiaries are used in many Roman Catholic dioceses around the world today.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. What does the new Rite of Penance, called for by the Second Vatican Council, emphasize?

- A. Obtaining forgiveness in the Sacrament is a matter of mathematics and formulas
- B. The concept that people have to participate in the Sacrament of Penance before they can go to Holy Communion
- C. God's sense of strict justice and need to punish people for our sins
- D. The call to an ongoing covenant of love and friendship with God and the Church



Handout 6-D

## Small-Group Discussion: What Is Ongoing Conversion?

You are likely familiar with conversion in regards to math or to changing money or to electrical current. Even when using religious language, conversion has several meanings.

- Conversion can mean changing from one religion or Christian denomination to another. For example: She is a convert to Catholicism.
- The word conversion is used in reference to transubstantiation because the action of the Holy Spirit changes the bread and wine into the reality of Jesus. For example: “The Church Fathers affirmed the Church’s faith in the power of the words of Christ and of the action of the Holy Spirit to bring about this conversion” (page 152 of your textbook).
- Conversion as a change of heart, a turning away from sin and a turning towards God. For example: “It is sometimes called the *sacrament of conversion*, because in it Catholics resolve to turn away from sin and return to God’s grace” (page 182 of your textbook).

The third meaning is the meaning of conversion that is used in “ongoing conversion of heart.” This paragraph about Baptism from page 93 of your textbook explains it well.

- “Indeed, Baptism is not only a one-time occurrence, something that only happened in your past. Baptism calls you to ongoing conversion, to a daily commitment to share in the Death and Resurrection of Christ, and to strive to be an imitator of God as his beloved child (see CCC, 1694). Because humans are wounded by Original Sin, it is not always easy to live up to your call to be followers of Christ. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: ‘The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no perfection without spiritual battle’ (CCC, 2015). Yet Christ’s gift of salvation offers you the grace you need to persevere in this battle.”

Why is ongoing conversion necessary? Because people are affected by the results of Original Sin, they are tempted and sin. Conversion is the attempt to get up after falling from sin to ask God’s help in turning to him, to growing more Christ-like, and so on. This is an ongoing process because people are tempted throughout their whole lives, so continually fall and get back up again.

*Consider conversion experiences from your own life and describe them below. How did you need to change? How did the change bring you closer to God and make you happier? Write your responses below and continue on the back of the page if necessary.*

Conversion #1:

Conversion #2:

Conversion #3:

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Handout 6-E

## What Is *Essential to the Sacrament?*

*Read the following excerpt from the Catechism. Then write one paragraph explaining how both the actions of the penitent and the actions of God through the Church are essential to this sacrament.*

Beneath the changes in discipline and celebration that this sacrament has undergone over the centuries, the same fundamental structure is to be discerned. It comprises two equally essential elements: on the one hand, the acts of the man who undergoes conversion through the action of the Holy Spirit: namely, contrition, confession, and satisfaction; on the other, God's action through the intervention of the Church. The Church, who through the bishops and his priests forgives sins in the name of Jesus Christ and determines the manner of satisfaction, also prays for the sinner and does penance with him. Thus, the sinner is healed and re-established in ecclesial communion. (CCC, 1448)

My paragraph:

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Handout 6-F

Journal Reflection:  
**Examining My Conscience**

*Examine your own conscience using the Ten Commandments and these questions. (Refer to the Ten Commandments on page 323 of the Appendix in your textbook, if necessary.)*

1. Which commandment addresses an area of your life that requires conversion? How?

2. Look at the areas of your life (faith, family, school/work, social life, relationships). Which area(s) needs to be reconciled with God? With others? With yourself?

3. Write a prayer asking God for the grace to become more like Christ in one of these areas.

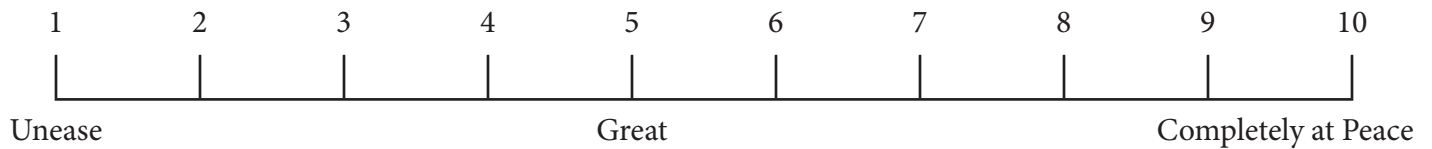
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Handout 6-G

## Journal Reflection: Feeling Peaceful

*Answer these questions thoughtfully.*

1. On this scale of 1 to 10, how peaceful or serene do you feel about yourself right now?



2. What do you think you need to do in order to be more at peace with yourself?

3. Which do you find harder: forgiving someone else or forgiving yourself?  
Why?

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Handout 6-H

## Small-Group Discussion: Penance Practices

*Read and discuss in your group what Jesus has to say about these penance practices in the following Scripture passages. Then, have one member of your group write a passage summary.*

<i>Scripture Passage</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Fasting (Mt 6:16–18)	
Prayer (Mt 6:5–8)	
Almsgiving (Mt 6:1–4)	

How does a Christian's motivation for fasting, praying, and almsgiving differ from someone who simply wishes to lose weight, appear pious, or get a charitable tax deduction?



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Handout 6-1

Journal Reflection:  
“Peace Be with You”

*Answer these questions thoughtfully.*

Think about a time in your life when you went through a process of reconciliation, with God, with the Church, with other people, or with yourself. Write about this experience here.

Consider expressing the feeling of peace you found in a creative way: as a song, prayer, slide show, dance, poem, mobile, painting, etc. Write your notes on your creative idea below. Be prepared to share what you have created during the prayer service at the end of this chapter.