

# God Forgives Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 23*.

❖ In Jesus' story of the father and son, the son told his father that he was tired of living at home. He wanted to travel and see new things. The son was happy spending his money at first, but not for long. The money ran out, and he felt bad for wasting his father's money. The son had to find work because he had nothing to eat. The only job he could get was feeding pigs. He was sad that the pigs ate better than he did. The son knew that he had made a mistake and was very sorry. He went home to ask for his father's forgiveness. The father ran out to greet his son with joy. He forgave his son and celebrated his return.

PAGES 159–160

❖ God loves us, even when we do not do his will. God is like the father in Jesus' story who welcomed his son with joy. God will always welcome us with joy.

PAGE 161

❖ There are many ways to prepare for Reconciliation. We can pray the Act of Contrition, ask the Spirit for help, and examine our conscience.

PAGE 161

❖ We meet Jesus in Reconciliation in our hearts and through the priest who hears our confession. During Reconciliation, you may tell the priest any problems you are facing, and you may ask questions.

PAGE 162

❖ A penance should be done as soon as possible. If it is a prayer, pray it right away. If it is a deed, do it as soon as you can.

PAGE 162

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