**Session 1: Building Blocks of Love**

 ***Objective: Explore the things we need to do to build our relationship with Jesus; Reconciliation as a foundation for relationship.***

I. Reconciliation is part of our being friends with God.

 - Because we are not perfect, we sin. Our sin hurts Jesus’ heart and it hurts our relationship with

 Him.

* We go to Reconciliation to restore (fix) those hurts.
* Imagine a friend at school. Have you ever hurt someone’s feelings? Have they hurt yours? What was it like? How did you become friends again?

II. What does it mean to grow in your relationship with Jesus?

***As you talk about this, students can find, color, and glue the picture of Jesus onto the top of their box.***

* Growing in your relationship with Jesus means to know Him better, to love and obey Him more
* Just as it’s natural for you to grow in a loving relationship with your parent, it is also natural for you to grow in your love relationship with God.

III. How can you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

***As you talk about each of these, parents and children can color in the blocks and glue them to the sides of their box.***

* **Pray** – communication is vital to any relationship. We have to talk to Jesus to get to know Him.

- Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

- Thanking God is also part of praying.

- Pray and ask God to show you who He is and how you can respond to Him

 - **Make Good Choices**- God gave us the 10 Commandments to help us make good choices.

 - Because God loves us, he shows us how to live and grow closer to Him

- It's just like when our parents give us rules to protect us: to look both ways before we cross the street, to not hit our brother or sister... They give us rules because they love us and know what's best for us.

- What are some rules you follow in your house?

- God gave us rules to guide our choices. Those choices will either bring us closer to Him or farther away from Him.

 - **Say “ I’m sorry”-** Reconciling is very important for any friendship.

- Saying you are sorry can be very hard but because we love our family and our friends, we need to learn how to say it.

- we all make mistakes but we have to recognize when our behavior is hurtful to someone else, including God.

- Saying “I’m sorry” let’s someone else know that they matter, that they are important.

- Going to Reconciliation tells God that He is important to us.

- **Listen to Jesus’ teachings and stories/ Learn about Him-** we can’t be friends with someone if we don’t know who they are.

- Every Sunday at Mass, we hear stories about Jesus, who He is, and what He wants us to do to become better people.

- He also tells us about how much He loves us.

- Jesus is *already* trying to build a friendship with you! He talks to us all the time! But in order for us to return that friendship, we have to listen to what he is saying, just like you would listen and learn about a friend at school!

- Where and how can we listen to Jesus? We listen to Jesus at Mass, in the Scriptures(Bible), in prayer, through our parents and others who show us love.

 - **Love Others-** God loves every person so much because he created them!

 - Because He loves them, He wants us to love them, too!

 - When we love other people, we show God that His creation –other people- are

 important and precious.

 -What does “precious” mean? How can we love others?

***After children a finished putting the squares on their blocks, have them read this with their parents, each of the sign, and then place inside the box.***

**Because I know how much Jesus loves me and because I want to love Him more, building my relationship with Jesus is important to me. I promise to do my best to practice praying to God, making good choices, loving others, saying I am sorry, and listening to what Jesus says to me. I ask my parents to help me grow in my relationship with Jesus every day.**

 **Child signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Because I understand how important it is for my child to grow in relationship with God, I promise to support them and teach them about His ways.**

 **Parent signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**