Rite and Ritual

Leader: The sacrament of reconciliation celebrates the gifts of God’s love and reminds us that God asks us to be loving and forgiving. There is a story in the Bible about a Father who loves and forgives his son, when he expresses he is sorry. We heard this story today.

Leader: I am going to ask everyone to close their eyes right now. I would like you to close your eyes and think about the loving and unloving choices you have made in the past week and one way you will try to make more loving choices in the future. (pause to let people think)

Leader: Open your eyes. Children, if there is an unloving choice you have made recently that you would like to say sorry for, whisper that into your parents’ ear now, or tell them one way you will try to make loving choices in the future. (wait)

Leader: Children, when the father put a ring on his son’s hand, what did that mean? (wait for responses) Each of your parents has a ring to put on your finger. This is a symbol that they will always love you and forgive you and that God will always love you and forgive you. Parents, put this ring on your child’s finger now, look into their eyes and say, “I will always love you and forgive you.”

Leader: Children, grownups sin too. We can also do things that hurt others. Parents, if there is an unloving choice you have made recently that you would like to ask forgiveness for, whisper it in their ear now. If not, tell them one way you are going to try to make loving choices for your family.

Leader: Children, let your parents know you will always love them and forgive them. Look into their eyes and say this to them now, “I will always love you and forgive you.

Leader: Later we will all got to Mass together. Be sure to wear your ring into Mass where Father will give us a special blessing.