

St. Agnes Religious Education and Youth Ministry  
First Reconciliation Retreat  
January 9, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 AM Welcome and Opening Prayer

- Open with introductions and general welcome
- You / Sin / Jesus demo
  - <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/18577417188533676/>
  - You = water Sin = water+iodine Christ = water+bleach (Just w little)
- Prayer: Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus

9:15-9:20 AM General instructions for the flow of the morning

9:25-9:45AM Learning Centers

- Zacchaeus craft
- Rules/Ten Commandments Activity
- Sin/Accident/Mistake Activity

9:50-10:10AM Learning Centers

- Zacchaeus craft
- Rules/Ten Commandments Activity
- Sin/Accident/Mistake Activity

10:15-10:35 AM Break – snacks, drinks, bathroom

10:40-11:00 AM Learning Centers

- Zacchaeus craft
- Rules/Ten Commandments Activity
- Sin/Accident/Mistake Activity

11:00-11:30 AM Fr. Patrick – Specifics on “how to do” confession – use handout  
Closing Prayer – Act of Contrition

## **Directions for Zacchaeus Craft – Learning Center 1**

Trace the child's forearm and hand with their thumb stretched out onto the brown construction paper.

Cut out the child's forearm and hand and glue it to the white piece of poster board.

Have them color Zacchaeus and Jesus and paste them in the picture.

Next let them dip their thumb or fingertip into the green inkpad and press it onto the tree limbs (fingers) for leaves. You can use the wipes to clean fingers.

Glue the quote at the top of the page. Color the rest of the sky blue.

Be sure your child's name is on their paper.

If you have time left over, feel free to work on one of the Reconciliation worksheets sitting on the table with your child.

## **Directions for Rules/10 Commandments – Learning Center 2**

1. The next part will focus on Rules – What a rule is; what it does; what rules you have as a family in your home and what rules you have as a family of God.
  - **Ask:** What are rules? (Rules are guidelines or instructions)
  - **Ask:** Why do we have Rules? (So we can know how to live peacefully and with love as a family in the world, and as a member of God’s family.)
  - **Discuss:** Why do games we play have rules? (safety, fairness) Why do we have rules at school? On the playground? What might happen if there were no rules?(chaos, hurts, anger, unfair treatment)
2. Take a few minutes to come up with rules your family has and write them on the paper entitled “FAMILY RULES.” After they are written discuss which rule or rules you think is the most important and why. Write the answer on the same paper.
3. **Ask:** What is a consequence? (Some type of action or feeling that is a result of our action.) Explain that all our choices have consequences; when we make a good choice the consequence is good; when we make a poor choice the consequence may not be so good.)
4. What happens if family rules are broken? Discuss and write the results on the sheet entitled “FAMILY RULES”
5. **Ask:** What are God’s rules called? (Ten Commandments)
6. Look at the Ten Commandments on the sheet entitled “Ten Commandments for Children.” Are there any similarities between your family rules and God’s rules? List them on the paper entitled “FAMILY RULES”
7. **Ask:** Why do you think God gives us these commandments? (To help us live at peace with ourselves and each other)
8. Pick two Commandments and on the blank sheets of paper illustrate that commandment.

## **Directions for Sin, Accident, Mistake Game – Learning Center 3**

It is important that each person understands the difference between an accident, a mistake and a sin. The difference lies in the intention of the person.

**ACCIDENT:** In an accidental situation, the person does not intend for something to happen and therefore it is not a sin.

**MISTAKE:** Most of the time, mistakes are not sins either. This does not mean a person needs to be less careful with people or things.

**SIN:** In order for something to be a sin, a person intentionally and deliberately harms or neglects another person or thing. A person does something wrong on purpose even though he/she knows it is wrong.

This is an activity to help explain and understand the difference between sins, accidents, and mistakes.

1. First spin the wheel and see if you get an accident, sin or mistake.
2. Then choose a slip of paper from the basket.
3. Make up a story using the words on the slip of paper to illustrate an accident, sin or mistake.
4. Discuss the following questions:
  - Does everyone agree with you?
  - How can you make up for what happened?
  - What can you do better to prevent it from happening next time?
5. Then the next person takes a turn to spin the wheel. Repeat the process until everyone has had a chance to play.