

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

God's Mercy Waits for Us

A shepherd's life was lonely and difficult. The wealth of the family was tied up in a flock that could be easily lost to a drought, a storm, a freezing night, or an attack from a predatory animal. With so much at stake, the idea of a shepherd's leaving the flock unprotected to look for one lost lamb seemed ridiculous. Yet that is the image Jesus used in the Scriptures. Jesus wanted to emphasize the complete commitment that God makes to each of us. When we make wrong choices in life, God calls us back. Jesus especially waits for us to celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

God is always ready to forgive. In your family, is there the same readiness to forgive? Is God's forgiveness regularly sought in the Sacrament of Penance?



Christ the Good Shepherd,
Anonymous

Hints for at Home

Designate one day during the week for members of your family to make lunches for one another. Use a grab bag or some other system to determine who packs a lunch for whom. Each member might include something special in the lunch, such as a note, a Bible passage, or a token of affection.

Our Catholic Heritage

Members of the Society of Jesus, a religious order founded by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, are called Jesuits. The word *Jesuit* is a combination of Jesus' name and the word ending *-ite*, which means "follower." The motto of the Jesuits, the Latin phrase *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, meaning "For the Greater Glory of God," speaks to their mission in the Church. The Jesuits support a variety of ministries, both nationally and internationally, as they strive to meet the changing needs of modern society. To learn more about the Jesuits, their history, and their ministry, visit their Web site at www.jesuit.org/.



Focus on Prayer

Your child prayed the Act of Contrition. Help your child memorize the prayer. You can find the words for this prayer at www.FindingGod.org.



www.findinggod.com

