

## *We Become Better Persons*

**FOCUS:** In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that through sorrow for sin and penance, we become better friends of Jesus.

When obstacles block our path, the mere act of clearing them away does not bring us any closer to our goal. Removing the obstacles is but the first task; we must take some steps once the way is clear. The Scriptures emphasize that the sincerity of our repentance can be known only by what we do after forgiveness is granted. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, after the priest encourages us to improve, he speaks the words of absolution.

The Holy Spirit, constantly working within us, makes us aware of God's loving intention behind the storms and trials of life. Through the Spirit, we realize how selfish attitudes influence our activities. Then we are able to give the Lord first place in our hearts and lives.

### **Scripture in This Chapter**

Psalm 51:1–14 Prayer for Forgiveness

Luke 19:1–10 Zacchaeus' Change of Heart

Psalm 138:3 You Strengthened Me.

### **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

1459–1460, 1465, 1491

### **In this chapter, help your child to**

- ✦ describe ways to make up for unloving behavior.
- ✦ explain that penance is how we make up for unloving acts.
- ✦ explain the importance of contrition and the significance of absolution.
- ✦ describe the part of the rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation that follows the confession of sins.
- ✦ describe the procedure for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Words Your Child Should Know**

- ✦ absolution
- ✦ contrition

### **Key Terms for Your Information**

- ✦ Act of Contrition—prayer of sorrow for sin
- ✦ praise—to declare how great and wonderful God is
- ✦ sorrow—extreme sadness