Friends of Jesus
Preparation Programme
First Reconcilliation

DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE

The Catechetical Centre is delighted to offer preparation to support schools, parishes and families in the preparation of children for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. We are looking forward to being part of this special time in the faith journey of the children.
The sessions will be recorded and the link sent to schools.

In this resource you will find an outline for the sessions and activity templates for the children to use. If you prefer not to print out the templates, children could simply complete the activities in their Religious Education book or on pages.

The catechesis and activities will also link into the diocesan pupil's workbook ***Shalom*** *and* the diocesan family preparation booklet, ***Friends of Jesus.*** We will reference the pages each day.

Each day we will begin with morning prayer. There is a psalm at the end of the booklet which we will use both days.

We would love to see the children's work each day so please share it with us on social media @

https://www.facebook.com/DerryDiocesanCC

Friends of Jesus - God's Story Tellers

Opening Prayer: Mary and Therese

Warm Up -Head to Toe Prayer
Linked to Storytelling and Characters
What makes a good story? What makes a good storyteller?

Activity 1: Who Am I? Baptism
Catechesis 1
Scripture: Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
The Sacrament of Baptism - Our journey to God the Father with Jesus begins
Jesus knew he was loved, that God had confidence in him and was therefore able to carry out the mission entrusted to him by his Father. Through Baptism, each one of us is loved. God has confidence in us and invites to do something amazing with our lives. If we accept the gift of Baptism we become holy people, people of truth and people who are free to discover God's perfect plan for our lives. The sacraments strengthen us to live in friendship with Jesus.
Activity Resource: 1 Who Am I

Activity 2: When I choose not to tell God's Story - Reconciliation

Catechesis 2
The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Scripture: Zacchaeus
We do not always accept God's confidence in us and we do not live in Holy Communion with God and one another. When this happens, we Sin. We sin when we fail to love God, when we fail to love our neighbour and when we fail to love ourselves. When we sin we don't make space for Jesus in our lives. When we sin, God invites us to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. When we respond to this invitation we accept responsibility for our sins and receive the gift of forgiveness. Forgiveness releases us to hear God's confidence in us again. When we are aware of the gift of forgiveness we are healed.
Activity Resource: 2 Zacchaeus God's Storyteller?

Closing Prayer: Examen for Children
Activity 3: Examination of Conscience and the Rite of Reconciliation
Catechesis 3
The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Understanding what happens during the sacrament of Reconciliation is very important. We have to help the children focus on how God helps us to hear, love and follow him and then understand how the sacrament of reconciliation is celebrated. Deep within us is our most sacred place, a place where we hear God's voice calling us to do good, guiding us with love. This place is called our conscience. Examining our conscience regularly is a good way to prepare to receive this sacrament, so we can truly confess our sins. We move from the call of God to belong to God and our response to that call. The response to God's call focuses on Baptism and Eucharist and our responsibilities as members of the Body of Christ. It is very important to show the connection between the sacraments. We celebrate our reconciliation with God at Mass. Following the children celebrating the sacrament we need to encourage them to see their need to give thanks to God for His love and mercy. Again focusing on their responsibilities as members of God's family the children need to see that they have to go and be reconcilers in the world.

Activity Resource 3: Preparing to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and what happens during the sacrament of Reconciliation.

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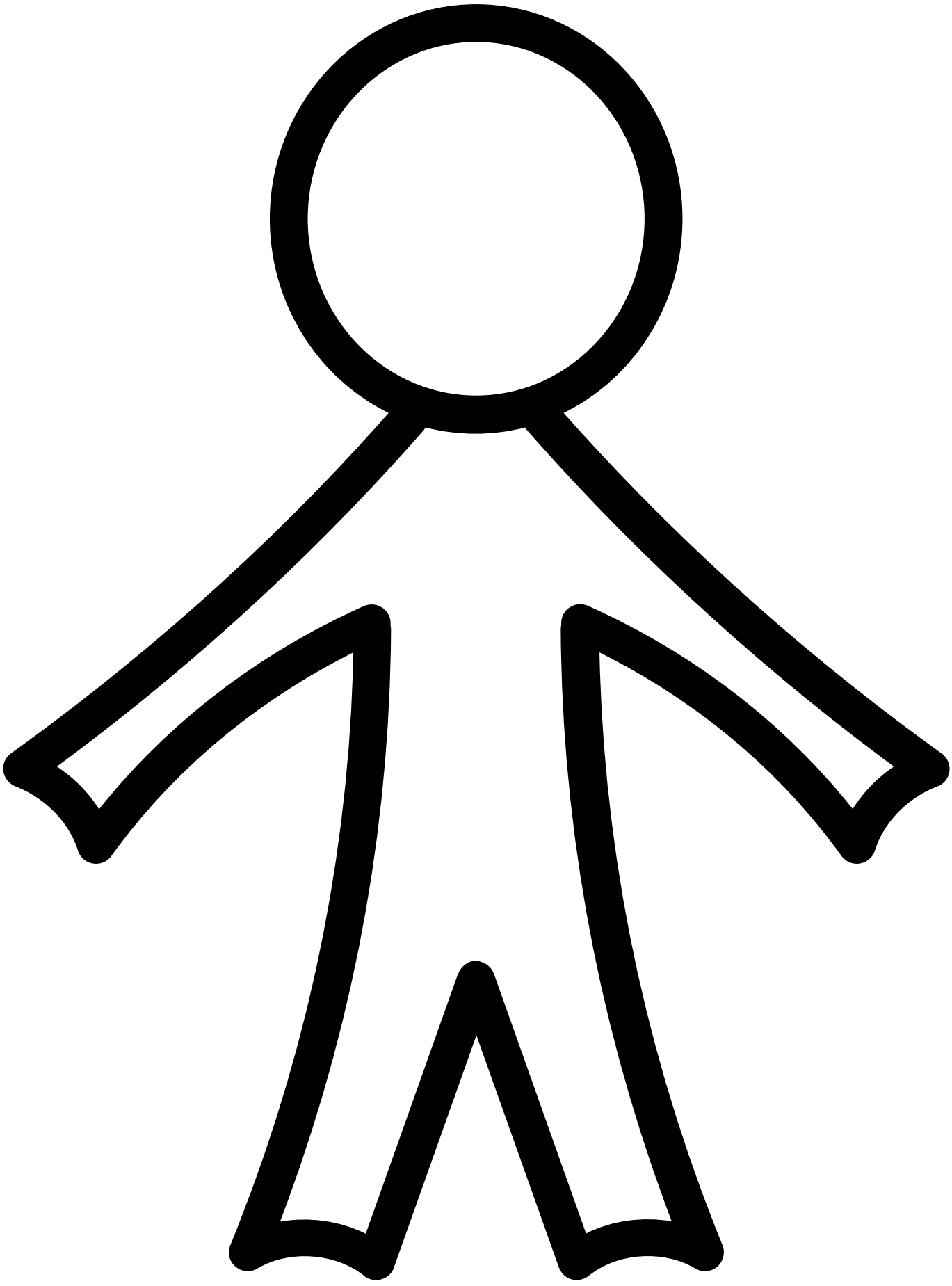
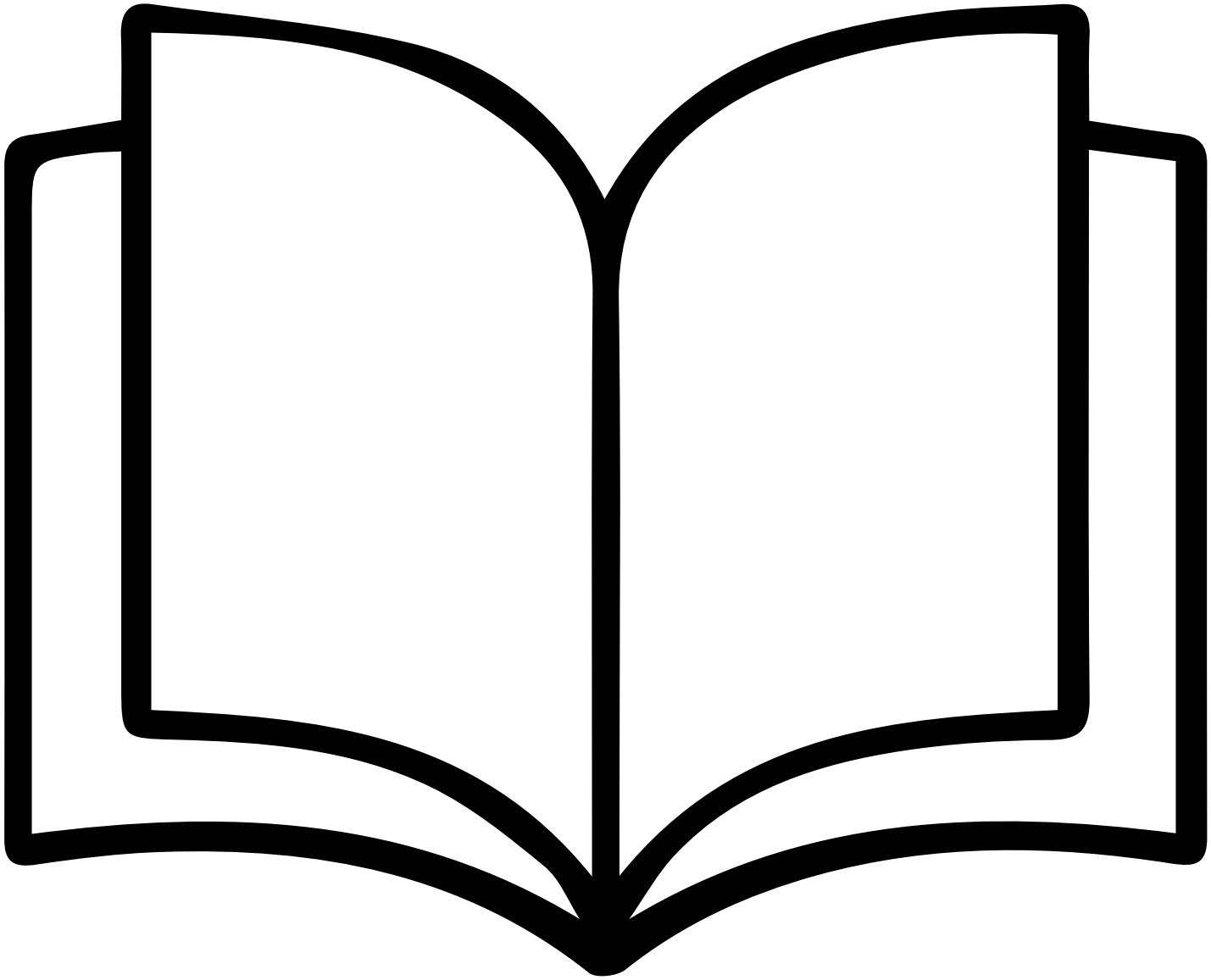
First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions
Resource 1: Who am I?



You are very special. God has given you lots of talents and gifts.
Write three things about yourself which helps you to tell God's Story.

First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions
Resource 2: Zacchaeus God's Storyteller?



Chat in Class about Zacchaeus-what story was he telling before he met Jesus?

What story did Zacchaeus tell with his life after he met Jesus?

Illustrators make books come alive! Can you draw Zacchaeus' life before he met Jesus on one side of the book and Zacchaeus' life after he met Jesus on the other side.

What can we all learn about being God's Storytellers from Zacchaeus?

First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions
Resource 3: Preparing to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

When have I not wanted to be close to Jesus?	When have I not shown God's love to others?
When have I not listened to what God is asking me to do?	When have I failed to help those in need as Jesus asks me to?
When have I not believed that Jesus looks at me and loves me?	When have I not believed that I am made in God's image and likeness
When have I been selfish and done my own thing even when I know it's not right?	When have I not treated everything that God has created with respect?

First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions
Resource 3: Preparing to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

We offer an Act of Sorrow and the priest extends his hands over us and says the prayer of absolution.	We tell the priest of the times when we have not lived as Jesus asks us to.
The priest asks us to make an act of sorrow and gives us penance. He suggest some ways we can live more like Jesus.	A final prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God is offered.
Welcome- The priest greets us as we come to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation.	
The priest offers words of encouragement, reminding us of Christ's healing.	We bless ourselves-In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Opening Prayer – (Psalm 139 adapted)

Response: Lord, you search me and you know me
Lord, you search me and you know me, you know when I sit, when I rise, you understand my thoughts from afar.
You watch when I walk or lie down, you know every detail of what I do.
A word is not yet on my tongue before you, Lord, know all about it.
You are behind and in front, you have placed your hand upon me.

Response: Lord, you search me and you know me
Such amazing knowledge is beyond me.
You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb.
For so many marvels I thank you; a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders. You knew me through and through.

Response: Lord, you search me and you know me
How hard for me to understand your thoughts.
How many thoughts, God, there are.
If I count them, they are more than the grains of sand.
God, examine me and know my heart.
Keep me on the right path and guide me on the road to heaven.

Response: Lord, you search me and you know me