

Sacraments Puppet Show [*Read story of Prodigal Son, first*]

Queen	I'm so excited! I'm a child of God!
King	Wow. I wish I was a child of God.
Queen	Have you been baptized?
King	Yes, of course.
Queen	Then you are a child of God! The Sacrament of Baptism makes you a child of the living God, the King of the Universe!
King	Wow! So, what does that mean?
Queen	It means that you share in God's life and power and in the prayers of His holy Church.
King	Huh?
Queen	You're part of the royal heavenly family!!!! (<i>dances</i>)
King	I am?
Queen	Yup.
King	Cool. (<i>they both dance</i>) But wait... I told a lie yesterday. I don't think I'm still royal.
Queen	Yes you are.
King	No I'm not. I told a lie. How can I still be part of God's heavenly family?
Queen	God doesn't stop loving you when you make mistakes. He forgives you if you're sorry.
King	He does? How do I know?
Queen	It says so in the Bible. God tells us all to forgive each other over and over again. Have you ever heard the story of the Prodigal Son?
King	Sure. My teacher told it to us in religion class. That's where the son is sorry and his father welcomes him home again.
Queen	Right! Our heavenly Father does the same thing. He welcomes us home every time we're sorry for our sins. He loves us so much. He wants to celebrate when we come back to His love! Hey, have you ever been to reconciliation?
King	Recon WHO?
Queen	Reconciliation. It's another sacrament. It's when you tell your sins to a priest and he says holy words of forgiveness from God. That's when God wipes away your sins and your soul is clean again.

King	My <i>what</i> is clean?
Queen	Your soul. Your spirit. The part of you that goes on forever!
King	Oh boy. So my soul gets dirty when I sin?
Queen	Yup.
King	And it needs some kind of a bath?
Queen	Yes! Reconciliation is a spiritual bath for your dirty soul. Everyone needs it. Absolutely everyone. We all sin, ever since Adam and Eve ate the apple in the Garden of Eden. The priest gives us a penance to do and that shows that we're sorry.
King	What's a penance?
Queen	It could be saying a prayer or doing something nice for someone. It's a kind of work we do to show that we're sorry for sinning. Doing penance pleases God and helps us grow in holiness. Then we don't sin so much.
King	What is a sin, anyway?
Queen	It's any time you turn away from God's goodness. Like if you lie, steal, treat someone in a mean way... anything God wouldn't like.
King	Can it be a sin if I do this when my mother is telling me to clean my room? Blah, blah, blah.
Queen	Yes. That would be very disrespectful of your mother. That would be a serious sin. One of the Ten Commandments is "Honor thy mother and thy father."
King	Uh oh. Is it a sin if I tell my baby brother there's a monster in my room that has purple eyes and huge teeth and eats little kids so he won't play with my toys?
Queen	Um, yes. Lying and being selfish with your toys are both sinful.
King	Oh brother. I think I sin a lot. I don't like to share my toys and I hardly ever clean up my playroom and I don't like to listen to my mommy when she's telling me what to do.
Queen	Are you sorry for those things?
King	Right now I am. I'm starting to realize that it's getting my soul awfully dirty turning my heart away from God.
Queen	All you have to do is confess your sins to a priest and he'll give you God's forgiveness.
King	But I don't know how.

Queen	What grade are you in?
King	First.
Queen	Oh, I'm in second grade! This year I'll be making my first penance and first communion. You'll be doing those things next year.
King	Oh. Who's going to teach you those things?
Queen	My religion teacher and my parents.
King	So, if I'm only in first grade I can't ask for a bath for my dirty soul?
Queen	You can always ask God's forgiveness and He will always give it.
King	Then why do I need reconciliation?
Queen	Because it's a special sacrament given to us by Jesus that gives you extra power from God to grow in holiness. That extra power is called Sanctifying Grace.
King	Oh, boy. That's a lot to remember. I guess I'll wait until next year for my first penance.
Queen	But don't forget to ask God for forgiveness. He doesn't get mad at you. He knows you're just learning about sin. He'll help you draw closer to Him every day and He'll give you joy as a gift for trying your very best.
King	I'll try to do better. After all, I'm part of a royal family. I've got to start acting like it!
Queen	You've got that right!
King	Hey! I'm royal! I'm a child of the living God, the King of the universe! <i>(they dance)</i>

The End