Today I Made My First Reconciliation
by Dianne Ahern

Great Book To Supplement First Reconciliation Prep

Today I Made My First Reconciliation, is both a storybook and a keepsake book written to help children, their friends, and their family to love and practice this Sacrament. Best friends Maria and Riley just seem to get deeper and deeper into trouble after they accidentally break a window then lie to their parents about it. Their guilt makes them shy away from their parents' love and causes lots of discomfort. As they search for relief they learn from parish priests, teachers, and family members about sin, repentance, forgiveness, God's grace, reconciliation, and absolution. A Guide to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation appears in the middle of the book. This helpful guide includes information on reconciliation rooms, the Commandments, examination of conscience, prayers, scriptural references, and instruction on how to confess. Memories of My First Reconciliation provides space to describe this special day and the importance of this sacrament.

My Personal Review:
Im the DRE in my parish, and also happen to be preparing my son for First Reconciliation this year. This book has been wonderful to read and discuss with my son. It gives a very serious, yet gentle and positive approach to the sacrament so many people struggle to understand and appreciate. Through the story of 2 children who have lied to cover up the fact that they accidentally broke a window, the book illuminates the meaning and ill effects of sin. It also talks about temptation, forgiveness, grace, absolution, Gods love and mercy, the benefits of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, etc. It ties in scripture very nicely, and has a wonderful appendix with all kinds of reference material, like the actual procedure for confession, scriptural references, a great guide for examining the conscience, prayers (including 2 versions of the Act of Contrition, etc.

If you were to read the book aloud in class, you would have to split it up over a number of sessions, but it could easily be done. This is a great book for parish or family use. I highly recommend it!

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