

Celebrating Reconciliation

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4, Session 16**.

Ignatius of Loyola founded a religious order called the Society of Jesus, whose members are also known as Jesuits. Their motto is “for the greater glory of God.”

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Ignatius of Loyola was born to a noble family in Spain. As he was recovering from a wound he received when he was a soldier, he decided to become one of Jesus’ disciples.

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When we sin, we choose to use our free will to turn away from God. When we sin, however, God does not stop loving us.

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God gives us the grace to be sorry for our sins. Through this grace we have contrition, and so we ask God to forgive us.

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Before we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we make an examination of conscience. We reflect on the choices we have made and how we have hurt our relationship with God and with one another.

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When we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we confess our sins, and the priest gives us a penance to perform. We pray the Act of Contrition or our own prayer of sorrow to tell God that we are sorry for what we have done.

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Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we heal our relationship with God and with the Church.

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When we sin, Jesus calls us to return to God, because he wants us to experience the fullness of God’s grace.

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Jesus uses the parable of the lost sheep to teach us about his love and care for us.

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