



The Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Preparation Booklet 3



# My Soul

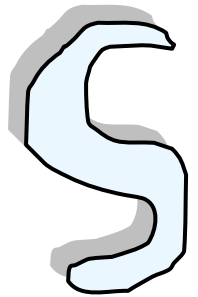
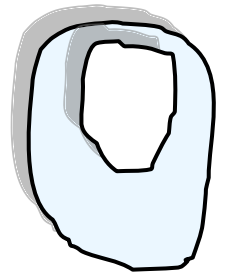
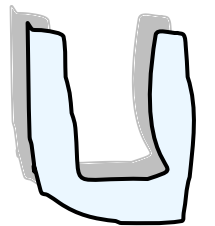
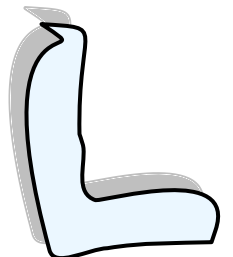
God made us different from all the other living things by giving us a SOUL.

God gave me a soul as soon as I existed - even before I was born.

My soul is a special gift that God gives me. No-one can see their soul. It is invisible, but it is so important because it is the part of me that will live forever and go to Jesus at the end of my life on earth. Even when someone dies, their soul continues to live in heaven with Jesus.

My soul is unique - no-one else has the same soul as me. My soul is given *personally* to me from God.

My soul encourages me to aim towards good things. It pushes me to discover things, search, succeed, thrive, and to do all these things with God guiding me.

A large, light blue, hand-drawn letter 'S' with a dark blue outline and a grey drop shadow.A large, light blue, hand-drawn letter 'O' with a dark blue outline and a grey drop shadow.A large, light blue, hand-drawn letter 'U' with a dark blue outline and a grey drop shadow.A large, light blue, hand-drawn letter 'L' with a dark blue outline and a grey drop shadow.

From the moment we are born, our soul is good and pure and clean. God wants me to look after my soul.

- Going to Mass helps me to look after my soul.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps me to look after my soul.
- Following Jesus' good example helps me to look after my soul.
- Listening to my conscience helps me to look after my soul.

Love the Lord  
your God  
with  
all your  
heart,  
with all  
your  
soul  
and with  
all your  
mind.

Matthew 22:37

Cut out this template to make your own bookmark. Decorate the back and ask for help to laminate it.

## The Parable of The Lost Son

There was once a man who had two sons. One day, the younger son said, "Father, give me my share of your money." He left home and took his share of the money. He went to a country far away. He wasted all his money by spending it on foolish things. After a while, he had no money left. He did not even have enough money to buy food and was starving. To earn some money, he had to get a job looking after pigs. He was so hungry and wished he could even eat the pigs' food!



He realised how foolish he had been. He said to himself, "All my father's servants have plenty to eat, and here I am about to starve! I shall go back home to my Father and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your servants."

He was still a long way from home when his father saw him in the distance. His father's heart was filled with pity and he ran, threw his arms round his son and kissed him. The son told his father how sorry he was. The father called his servants and said, "Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf, kill it and we shall celebrate with a feast."

The other son was angry and would not come and join in the celebrations. He said to his father, "For all these years I have worked for you and I have always done what you want. But my brother has wasted all your money on foolish things and now you are killing the prize calf for him!"

"My son," the father answered, "you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But let's celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found."

## The Parable of the Lost Son



The younger son asked his father for his share of the m\_\_\_\_\_.



He spent the money on f\_\_\_\_\_ things. Soon he had none left.



He found a job looking after p\_\_\_\_\_.



His father was so h\_\_\_\_\_ to see

He decided to go back home and tell his father he was very S\_\_\_\_\_.

his son again. He welcomed him home.



## The Lost Son      Wordsearch

o x b p c f l a c v u e  
n v i y e q p f v y i r  
x g r l l j x t j t t j  
s z n t e x e t u s o c  
n e e n b r e h t o r b  
b m k m r f m a o e m s  
p o x n a r r o h f r o  
s c b l t v e t n s o r  
r l j t i w a s t e d r  
b e u n o f s a j k y y  
g w g i n y q p i f i c  
i z i r a v z e k h z h

brother  
father  
money  
wasted  
starving

pigs  
starving  
welcome  
calf  
celebration

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation Booklet 3

### Lesson Aims

- To introduce the concept of the Soul.
- To encourage the children to reflect on how they can be good.
- To think about times when they are not good.
- To talk about "sin" and what it means.
- To reinforce the unconditional love of God and his willingness to forgive all.

### Method

#### 1 "My Soul " worksheet.

**20 minutes approx.**

Read through the worksheet and stop often to explain key points: the invisibility of the soul, the uniqueness of each person, that the soul is forever, looking after our soul (this goes onto the following page). At this stage, keep explanations simple. The aim is to let the children know that they have a soul. You could think of simple ways to explain it, e.g. it is not a part of us that we can touch like our arm or leg.... If you opened someone up on an operating table, you would see their heart, lungs, etc, but not their soul (!)... children like gory analogies ... It is invisible but it is still there.

The Soul is a tricky topic even for adults, but it is important that we at least start them thinking about it at a young age. You could use the comparison of our soul and a clean white shirt/t-shirt that we try to keep as clean as possible.

Encourage the children to think about all the things that we human beings can do or try to do, and which other living things cannot do, e.g. read, write, love, play musical instruments, pray ... that God has made us different from other living things and that we are really special ... we were made to love and to love him ... he wants us to aim for good things and we can do this by following him.

Encourage the children to think about looking after their soul just as we have to look after our body. If we don't look after our body and keep it healthy, things go wrong. It is the same with our soul - we need to look after it ... by making good decisions, kindness to others, etc. Going to Mass is essential because we are "fed" by the word of God (through the readings and homily) and, when we make our First Holy Communion, by the body of Christ. This is why we believe that Jesus feeds our soul.

## **2 The Parable of the Lost Son.**

**20 minutes approx.**

Read this aloud (don't give the children a copy –it's very long). Read with lots of expression. They can take it away and read it at home with their parents).

After reading the story, ask some key questions.

- 1 How many sons did the father have?
- 2 Which son decided to leave – the younger or the older?
- 3 What did he ask his father for? (Explain that when a father dies, the children share his money).
- 4 What “foolish” things do you think he spent his money on?
- 5 What happened to all his money?
- 6 Where did he find a job? (Tell them that Jews were not even allowed to touch pigs as they were “unclean” animals – this showed that the son had hit rock bottom.
- 7 What did he have to eat?
- 8 What did he decide to do?
- 9 What did his father do when he saw him?
- 10 How did his older brother feel?
- 11 What is a fatted calf?

The point of the story is for the children to realise that the father's love for his son is like Our Lord's love for us – we are his children and he waits patiently and welcomes us back when we go astray. Link this with the Sacrament of Reconciliation where Jesus puts his arms around us and forgives us, just like the father in the story... the son can start afresh. Emphasise that the son was free to make the decision to move away with his inheritance. His father wanted him to stay but did not force him. This is exactly like Jesus. He invites but does not force us to live his way. He gives us free will to make our own choices. Highlight that the son did wrong and made mistakes, but he then reflected and thought deeply about his mistakes and was very sorry. He fixed his mistakes by going back to his father, just like we too can return to God the Father too. His father was waiting for him just as Christ waits for us too. Mention that the older brother was wrong to be jealous, that he was blinded by his jealousy, that we can be too, etc.

## **4 - Fill in the blanks, colouring in sheet and wordsearch. 20 minutes approx.**

If completed, the children could draw a picture of themselves being kind/doing something good/ a picture of them being unkind, etc .