

# Season of Lent - Week Five

## Pray

O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

—Act of Hope



## Introduction - Answering Common Questions about Confession

In 1 John 4:8 we read that “God is love.” This is the beginning of the answer to every possible question about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Over the course of this online retreat we have looked at God’s love and mercy, how he seeks us out and calls us back to himself when we sin, how to prepare for and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and where we find its basis in Scripture.

It all begins in God’s love for us and his desire to forgive and heal us in this sacrament. Why do we need to go to a priest? Why is the sacrament designed the way that it is? The first part of the answer is: **because God is love.**

## ***Reflection - Answering Common Questions about Confession***

We took a detailed look at the scriptural basis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the last session. In this final session we will touch on many of the ideas already mentioned in the early sessions to make sure that the answers to some of the most common questions about Confession are clear to the participants. These answers begin and end with love—the source and foundation of this sacrament.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation flows directly out of God's nature of steadfast love and mercy, and so any explanation of the sacrament must first start with a firm understanding of who God is and what he wants for us. In addition to understanding that "God is love," it is also important to realize that "God is truth." Jesus came to teach us the truth about God and how we are to live in the kingdom that he was to establish.

In fact, the answer to any question about Confession is much more than a Bible verse or a line from Church teaching. The answer to every single question about the sacrament is part of a story, the narrative of God's love for us and his plan to save us from our sins and bring us back into relationship with him.



## ***Video***

# ***Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession***

## ***Session 5: Answering Common Questions about Confession***

*Watch the video episode on Formed ~*

*Session 5 “Answering Common Questions about Confession.”*

To access the video: log onto [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)

- Click “**sign up**” to register for a **free** account.
- Choose “sign up as a parishioner.”
- Create a new account either enter Canton Catholic Community (1860 Washington St.) or enter 02021.

## ***Meditation - Hiding Place ~ Liam Lawton***

<https://youtu.be/P10BFK5DIqY>

## ***Responding to God’s Grace***

This week spend time with God in prayer.

Use the resource below for a reflection on the Sacrament and a guide to Confession, and visit [formed.org](http://formed.org) for additional content and reflections.

The story of the prodigal son is perhaps one the most familiar of the many parables that Jesus tells. This narrative of sin, repentance, and forgiveness is a wonderful illustration of how we can encounter God in Confession. Read through this passage slowly and prayerfully:

***“There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine.***

***And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to***



***him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry.”***

—Luke 15:11–24

Consider the younger son at the beginning of this parable. When he asks for his share of the inheritance, he is basically telling his father, “I prefer what you have to who you are—I want your stuff, but I don’t want you anymore.”

How do you think this made the father feel?

Content contains excerpts from the [formed.org](https://formed.org) Forgiven Study Guide.  
Please visit [formed.org](https://formed.org) for the complete content and workbook.

*Lord God,  
I hope by your grace for the pardon of all my sins  
And after life here to gain eternal happiness  
Because you have promised it  
Who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful.  
In this hope I intend to live and die.  
Amen.*

*—Act of Hope*