

**GROW IN
FAITH**



**For
Families of
Second
Class**

**FAMILY ACCOMPANIMENT
RESOURCE BOOK**

Welcome to Grow In Faith

In this booklet you will find easy ways to accompany the families of Second Class children. Children participate in classes in school through the **GROW IN LOVE** programme. This resource complements the **GROW IN LOVE** programme by linking to family experiences where sharing and praying at home can happen. It does not seek to reproduce the lessons in **GROW IN LOVE**, but provides ways for families to grow together in faith. This is why it is called **GROW IN FAITH**.

The resource links to key themes in **GROW IN LOVE**, and provides ways that families can share stories, have chats at home, build up prayer corners and share with the parish what they are doing.

The resource provides pointers for the Family Accompanier – this is a person or team of people who can help families engage on the journey towards sacraments. Each theme is explained and there are indicators of how families can be encouraged to engage.

There is also a Family Activity for each theme. These are designed to coach families into their key role of passing on faith. Families can be encouraged to display the work they are doing in the parish, so that all of the parish can support families in these important years.

GROW IN LOVE LINKS

Here are the GROW IN LOVE links for Reconciliation, with our suggested family activities. These do not reproduce the lesson but link with the theme.

GROW IN LOVE Second Class Book	FAMILY CONNECTION
Jesus told us to love one another p. 15	EVERYDAY LOVE
The Lord is my Shepherd p.25	GOD IS BY OUR SIDE
Jesus teaches us p.29	ONLY TWO THINGS
Zacchaeus and Jesus p.30	FORGIVE AND FORGET
Confiteor p.31	CONFESSING
Preparing for Reconciliation p.33	CHECKING OUT
Do for others as I have done for you p. 35	IMITATING JESUS

Here are the GROW IN LOVE links for HOLY COMMUNION, with our suggested family activities. These do not reproduce the lesson but link with the theme.

GROW IN LOVE Second Class Book	FAMILY CONNECTION
What happens at Mass p.16	GATHERING
At Mass we pray together p.17	GOD'S MERCY
At Mass we listen to stories from the Bible p.27	STORIES FROM GOD
Prayer before Communion p.37	PREPARING WELL
Prayer after Communion p.39	RECEIVING WELL
Mystery of Faith p.43	OUR FAMILY FAITH

FOR FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: EVERYDAY LOVE

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school.

Its connected to Pages 14 and 15 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where Jesus teaching about love is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about how we can show love to one another?
- What helps your family to show love at home?
- How can we practise love of one another in the community?
- Why might it be important that we choose to love others every day?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you have a chat with your child about how we can show love at home?
- Could you help your child to make choices that are good and kind and fair?
- Could you remember these words 'Love one another as I loved you.'
- Could you help your child to say 'I can' love like Jesus by...?
- Can you chat about ways your family can follow the Law of Love?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: GOD IS BY OUR SIDE

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 25 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where how God is always there for us is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about God's constant presence?
- How does it help you to know that God is always by our side taking care of us?
- What times in your life have you felt that God was walking with you and supporting you?
- What helps you to know that God is with you, always supporting you?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms..

Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about how God is with us?
- Could you share how you have felt God's presence in your life?
- Could you remember a time when you felt that God was supporting you?
- Could you share with your child ways to remember God is with us?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child using the God is by my side prayer every night?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: ONLY TWO THINGS

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in friendly manner. Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 29 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where choosing to love God and our neighbour is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about choosing to love God and our neighbours?
- What do you want to explain about how the two are related?
- What helps you to remember and look back on the choices you make?
- How might you speak positively about the choice for love?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about the two ways Jesus invites us to love?
- Could you share how we can choose to do the loving thing?
- Could you help your child look back on their day and give thanks to God for the times they chose to be kind and loving?
- Could you help your child to look at times when they did not choose to love and then say sorry to God?
- Could you set aside time this week to pray with your child about the two things?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: FORGIVE AND FORGET

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Pages 30 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where the way Jesus forgives us and forgets our sins is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about the story of Zacchaeus?
- When have you really felt forgiven by someone?
- How does it feel after you had both made up?
- If forgiveness is about moving on and forgetting, why might it be important to model this as a parent at home?
- Have you noticed how the sacrament of reconciliation is about celebrating God's forgiveness?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about forgiving and forgetting?
- Could you share how we sometimes hold grudges and don't really forgive?
- Could you share a time when you really forgave someone who hurt you and how you felt about it?
- Could you share why it's so important to say a sincere sorry and then move on?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child praying the Our Father together every night?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: CONFESSING

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 31 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where the Confiteor prayer is memorised.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about confessing?
- What words or phrases in the Confiteor stand out for you?
- Which phrases do you struggle with and which make most sense to you?
- Have you noticed the first part of the prayer is about God and our neighbours?
- Have you noticed the second part of the prayer asks for the help of the saints and angels who always forgive?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about the Confiteor and how we say this together at Mass because we are all loved sinners?
- Could you share how it helps us confess our need of God's forgiveness?
- Could you help your child see how there are two parts in the prayer?
- Could you help your child reflect about thoughts and words that are not kind and good?
- Could you pray the Confiteor each night helping your child to be aware that God is always good and forgiving.?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: CHECKING OUT

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 33 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where a helpful way to prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about preparing for reconciliation in a positive helpful way?
- What can help your child to look back on their day or week and notice the times they have not chosen to love?
- How can you talk about the 5 steps in the sacrament?
- What are the positive benefits of saying sorry about not living like Jesus?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about looking back on our day or week and noticing the choices we made?
- Could you share how it helps you to look back and notice?
- Could you help your child to give thanks for the times they have tried to live like Jesus?
- Could you help your child to think about the times when they chose not to live like Jesus?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child this week saying the prayer of Sorrow together.

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: IMITATING JESUS

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 35 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where how we can help others, just like Jesus, is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about the ways we can live like Jesus?
- How do you try to imitate Jesus in your own life?
- How can you talk about the reasons for copying Jesus' way of living?
- How might this help your child to grow in love and faith?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about how Jesus invites us to copy his way of living?
- Could you share different ways we can do this at home and at school?
- Could you help your child explore how they can be loving, kind, forgiving and inclusive?
- Could you help your child draw a picture about this?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child this week, remembering the times they chose to copy the Jesus way of loving others.

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: GATHERING

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in *Café* style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 16 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book. What happens as we gather for Mass is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about gathering for Mass?
- What actions or activities do we take part in at the beginning of Mass?
- How can you help your child take part in these actions?
- How does your family prepare to go to Mass?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms.

Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about how we prepare as a family to go to Mass?
- Could you share the different actions and prayers we can take part in at the beginning of Mass?
- Could you help your child to make the sign of the cross and bless themselves with holy water?
- Could you help your child to make a list of the things they would like to thank God for at Mass every week?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: GOD'S MERCY

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school.

Its connected to Page 17 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where we pray together and ask for God's mercy at the beginning of Mass.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about God's loving mercy?
- What helps you to tune into the kindness and mercy of God?
- How can you help your child to respond to the Lord have mercy?
- Why might it be important that your child is confident about responding to prayers at Mass?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms.

Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about why we ask for God's mercy at Mass?
- Could you share how we respond to the Lord have mercy?
- Could you practise some of the responding at home?
- Could you have a chat about the people and places in our world who need God's mercy and kindness?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child this week simply using the Lord have mercy for prayer every evening, thinking about our world and ourselves?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: STORIES FROM GOD

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 27 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where the Stories in the Bible that we listen to in Mass are explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- What stories in the Bible speak to you most?
- What is your favourite and why?
- How can you help your child respond to the readings at Mass?
- Why might it be important that your child knows the responses to the readings at Mass?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about the different kinds of stories we listen to in Mass?
- Could you share the responses we use to the readings?
- Could you practise the responses together?
- Could you make a space at home for a Bible table with a candle and read some of the stories together?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: PREPARING WELL

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school.

Its connected to Pages 36 and 37 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where preparing to receive holy communion is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Why do you think it's important to prepare to receive holy communion?
- How can you help your child to give thanks for all that God does for us?
- Why might it be important that your child is able to prayerfully prepare in a calm and focused way?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about the moment before receiving holy communion and how we can prepare ourselves?
- Could you share how you felt when you received holy communion for the first time?
- Could you spend time this week helping your child to name all they would like to thank God for?
- Could you spend time in prayer this week using the simple prayers before communion and imagining the moment?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: RECEIVING WELL

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 38 and 39 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where prayerfully receiving holy communion is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Why do you think it's important to give thanks after holy communion?
- How do you give thanks as an adult after holy communion?
- Why might it be important that your child is helped to remain calm, still and focused after holy communion?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about why we say prayers of welcome and thanksgiving after holy communion?
- Could you help your child to practise receiving holy communion and role play at home?
- Could you spend time this week helping your child learn the simple prayers after holy communion?
- Could you spend time in prayer this week with your child simply saying the prayers after holy communion together every night?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: FAITH IS

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 43 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where the response at the Mystery of Faith is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How would you sum up what we believe about Jesus?
- How does the Mystery of Faith help you to remember essentials?
- Why might it be important that your child is aware of the three parts of the Mystery of Faith acclamation?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about how we believe that Jesus died for us, then rose from the dead and will return to share his life with us?
- Could you have a simple chat about how Jesus died?
- Could you spend time this week revisiting the story of how Jesus rose from the dead?
- Could you spend time this week chatting about how Jesus will return to share his new life with us?
- Pray the Mystery of Faith acclamation together each night this week.

Prayers you can learn at home together

Love one another as I have love you.

*Jesus, Son of God,
You showed love to everyone you met.
You told your followers to show love to others,
just as you did.
Help us to do that too.
Help us to live like you.
Amen.*



*When I am sad GOD IS BY MY SIDE
When I am happy GOD IS BY MY SIDE
When I have no friends to play with GOD IS BY MY SIDE
When I am sick GOD IS BY MY SIDE
When I feel bad because I've done something wrong GOD IS BY MY SIDE
At all times GOD IS BY MY SIDE
Forever and ever GOD IS BY MY SIDE*

*You keep me on the right path
You are true to your name.
You walk with me when I'm in the dark
You protect me from harm.
Your goodness and kindness
Always follow me, forever.*

*God our Father,
Jesus taught us to love you
and to love other people.
Sometimes we make bad choices
and we do not live as Jesus asked.
Help us to show our love for others and for you
by making good choices.
Amen.*

*I confess to almighty God
and to you my brothers and sisters
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do.
Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
Therefore, I ask the blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the angels and saints
and you my brother and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God.*



*O my God, I thank you for loving me.
I'm sorry for all my sins.
For not loving others and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, bless all your followers spread throughout the world.
Help us to love one another, just as you asked us to do. Amen.*

*Open our minds that we may hear the Gospel.
Open our lips that we may speak of the Gospel.
Open our hearts that we may live as the Gospel shows us. Amen.*

*Lord Jesus come to me, Lord Jesus give me your love.
Lord Jesus come to me and give me yourself.
Lord Jesus friend of children, come to me.
Lord Jesus you are my Lord and my God. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Lord Jesus I adore you.
You're my special friend.
Welcome, Lord Jesus, O welcome, thank you for coming to me.
Thank you, Lord Jesus, o thank you, for giving yourself to me.
Make me strong to show your love wherever I may be.*

*I'm ready now, Lord Jesus to show how much I care.
I'm ready now to give your peace at home and everywhere. Amen.*