

Lesson 1:

Focus – Why we have the Sacrament of Penance

Discussion:

What are the Sacraments?

- ★ Baptism
- ★ Reconciliation
- ★ Confirmation
- ★ Eucharist
- ★ Marriage
- ★ Holy Orders
- ★ Anointing of the sick

Why do we have the Sacraments? We have sacraments to experience God's special presence and life, which is called Grace – tapu.

Record and Discuss:

Times in their lives when things go right

Times in their lives when things go wrong – what has happened as a result?

When things go wrong our relationships with others are 'damaged' (even if it is only for a short time)

Our relationship with God is also damaged.

Discuss: Ways we can re-build our relationship with people? (saying sorry, doing something nice to make up for it, making a card, giving a present, giving a hug, shaking hands)

How do we re-build our relationship with God?

By 'saying sorry' in a special way ~ which the Church calls the Sacrament of Penance.

What are the different names for the Sacrament of Penance?

- ★ Sacrament of Penance
- ★ Rite of Reconciliation
- ★ Confession
- ★ Hohou Rongo (Maori)

What does reconciliation/reconciled mean? (dictionary)

Discuss: Sometimes when we have another chance we make the same mistakes and cause the same hurt to others. We need to change the way we are inside to be able to do things differently. We need to be able to change how we are thinking and feeling in our minds and hearts to ways which are good and helpful.

This takes time.

The greatest way people have to help them to change and to be healed and to experience forgiveness is through the Sacrament of Penance.

When we don't show love for others and hurt them, we can feel really ashamed/whakama, our mana is weakened – we lose our dignity and respect.

We need forgiveness and healing from God and People.

Why use a priest?

Read: John 20:19-23

Participating in the Sacrament of Penance

(glue in outline and explanations)

★ **The Preparation Prayer**

This can be done individually or as a community. It is a way of asking for God's help with what is to be done.

★ **The Greeting and the Sign of the Cross**

The priest welcomes the person/people and they make the sign of the cross

★ **The Reading of the Word of God**

There is a suitable reading through which God speaks to the people and calls them to be sorry and to change their ways.

★ **Confessing of Sins and Acceptance of Penance**

This is the time when people tell the priest the ways they want to change which shows that they own their sins and take responsibility for them.

★ **Making an Act of Sorrow and the Prayer of Absolution**

After confessing their sins the person says they are sorry through a prayer of sorrow and the priest prays over them the prayer of Absolution.

★ **Thanksgiving for the celebration and the carrying out of the penance**

This can be done individually or as a community and it can be spoken or sung. The penance can be carried out in the church or at home or whenever is appropriate.