

## WE BELIEVE

### Jesus invites us to celebrate God's forgiveness.


Jesus wanted people to understand God's love and forgiveness. So he told this story.

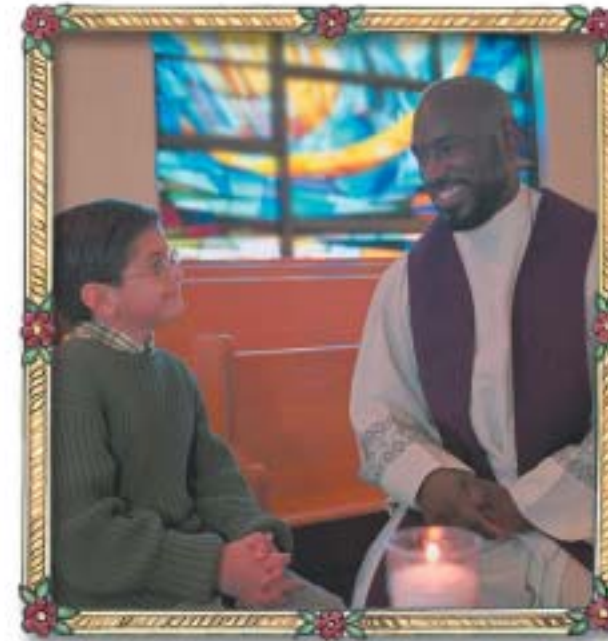
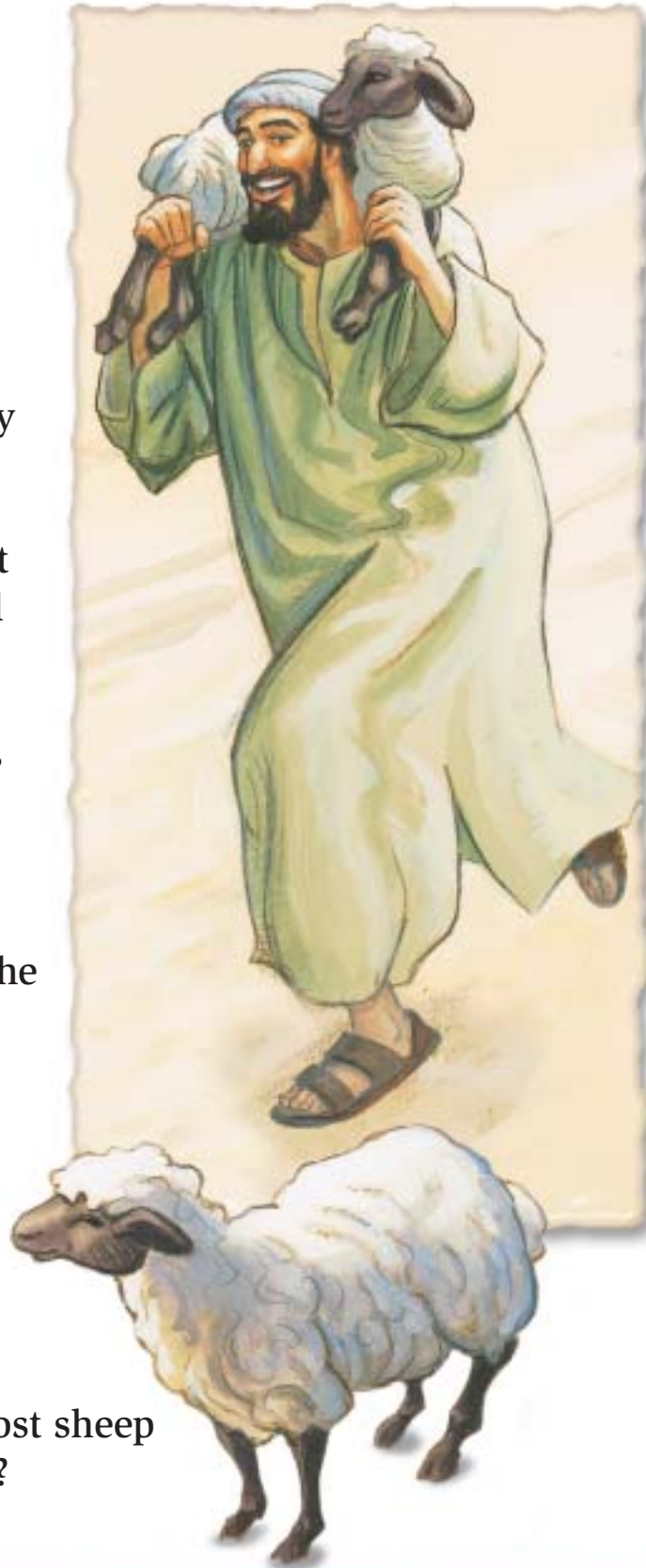
 Luke 15:4-6

There was a shepherd who took care of one hundred sheep. One day one of the sheep wandered away. The shepherd left the other ninety-nine sheep. He searched for the lost one until he found it. The shepherd put the sheep on his shoulders and carried it. When he got home, he called together his friends. He said, "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep." (Luke 15:6)

Sin separates us from God and one another. When we sin, we are like the lost sheep. But Jesus has given us a way to come back together again.

He has given us a way to receive God's forgiveness. The Church celebrates this forgiveness in the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

 What does Jesus' story of the lost sheep help you to know about God's love?



### Key Word


**Penance and Reconciliation** the sacrament in which we receive and celebrate God's forgiveness of our sins

### Jesus shares God's forgiveness and peace in the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

When we sin, we are not at peace with God, ourselves, or others. In the gospels we read some stories about people who were not at peace with God. Jesus forgave their sins. Jesus shared God's mercy and peace with them.

Jesus gives us a way to find peace, too. He shares God's forgiveness with us. In the sacrament of **Penance and Reconciliation** we receive and celebrate God's forgiveness of our sins. We can call this sacrament the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Jesus gave his apostles the power to forgive sin in his name. Today in the sacrament of Reconciliation, bishops and priests forgive sins in Jesus' name. They received this power to forgive sins in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

 Circle every third letter to find the missing word. Write the word in the sentence.

n o **p** c d **e** y z **a** b d **c** f g **e**

The sacrament of Reconciliation brings us God's

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