**BLEACH ACTIVITY**

Materials:

Small clear vase

Red food color

Bleach—poured into another clear container (BE CAREFUL)

Water

Plastic tablecloth

Plastic gloves (if needed)

Table

1. Begin with a discussion about sin. Ask the children what they believe sin is. Be sure to dis-cuss the difference of “on purpose” and “accident.”
2. After the discussion I place the vase on the table, and I tell the children that the vase is like your soul. It is clean and pure when you are a baby, but sometimes we sin, and it changes what it looks like. I pour about 1/4 cup of water into the vase while the children listen to this story….

I got up last Friday morning and I jumped out of bed—I was SO late! As soon as I jumped up I tripped on a pair of my husband’s shoes. I got very angry and yelled at him. (At this point I put a drop of the red food color into the vase with water). I got to the shower, and there was NO hot water. Oh, I was so mad that I started blaming everyone in the house for using all of it. (another drop of red color into the vase) I hurried up and got ready for school and jumped into the car. Every car that was in front of me was so slow, that I yelled at every car that was in my way. (another drop) I ran into school and I realized that I forgot my lunch, so I stomped my feet and screamed at everyone in the lunchroom. (another drop) Then I STOPPED—I thought about the children that were making their Reconciliation and about what they were learning. I thought about what my soul must look like—stained! (just like the vase)

I decided I must go to Reconciliation and tell the priest how sorry I was for my sins. I went on Saturday and I went into the Confessional Room. I knelt down and said, “ Bless me Father, for I have sinned.” ( I then pour a small amount of bleach into the vase—at least 1/4 cup) “This is my confession….” (more bleach poured—same amount) “I have yelled at my family.” (more bleach) “I have used bad words.” (more bleach) “I have thought bad things about

others.” (more bleach) At this point the red is turning lighter and lighter.

I finished my confession by saying I was sorry for my sins. The priest forgave me, and gave me a penance so I could be friends again with God. (Now the bleach vase is very light pink)

I then tell them I felt so much better—like my soul was clean...and we look at the vase and discuss how the vase is like my soul. (I don’t share the secrets about what I pour in the vase)