

Children's Liturgy of the Word



24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A MATTHEW 18:21-25

PARENTS' BACKGROUND



Today's gospel continues the reflection upon resolving conflicts and living together fairly in a Christian community. Just before Peter's question on how *many* times he must forgive his brother, Jesus had been discussing how correction and reconciliation brings the community together. Peter, like the rabbis of the time, would have thought forgiving seven times was generous enough before being entitled to exclude his brother from the community.

Jesus demonstrates through the parable that the question itself is faulty. The master, representing God, is owed a huge debt that would have been impossible for the servant to have, let alone pay back. (10,000 talents was 10 times Herod's salary; one denarii was

the daily wage for a labourer, and one talent was worth 6,000 denarii.) In a similar way, our debt to God dwarfs any hurt others could inflict upon us.

Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another wholeheartedly. While this may seem impossible, a reflection back to last week will remind us of Jesus' promise of being wherever two or more are gathered in his Name. Full forgiveness is possible if we ask of Jesus' help. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God's abundant mercy is received through the prayer of Absolution.

PREPARATION

Set aside a time when you won't be interrupted, and prepare up a small prayer space for everyone – it could be around a green cloth on the floor or small table, or at the table.

Include:

- a candle to light at the beginning of your time together
- a family bible with the Gospel reading open or bookmarked
- The Lord's Prayer
- You may like to use this youtube video <https://youtu.be/ED3fzks-bhA>

WE LIGHT A CANDLE

(To the tune of Twinkle, twinkle little star)

*Dear Lord Jesus, hear our prayers
as we bring to you our cares
Please forgive us any wrongs,
as we sing our sorry song.
Help us to be kind each day
in all our thoughts and all we say. Amen*



WE SAY SORRY

- Lord Jesus, you came to bring us closer to one another and to the Father,
Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.
- You forgive us when we ask for your forgiveness,
Christ have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.
- You show us how to be merciful
Lord have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

- We Pray
Lord God, help us to know how to forgive others so that we may live in your peace.
Amen.

SETTING THE SCENE

Ask what we can remember of last Sunday's Gospel. (Jesus reminds us that we must be fair in how we make up. When two or three people are gathered in his name, he will be with us and help us. With Jesus, we can solve the most difficult situations.)

This week continues the question of how to forgive, even when we find it hard to. Listen to how many times Jesus says we must accept someone's apology and forgive them.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word. _____



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

GOSPEL

(Gospel: Matthew 18:21-25.)

(You may like to read from your favourite family bible, or a children's bible at home.)

Reader:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

(God be in my mind, God be in my words, God be in my heart.)

<https://youtu.be/ED3fzkS-bhA> Saddlebackkids Youtube video



At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

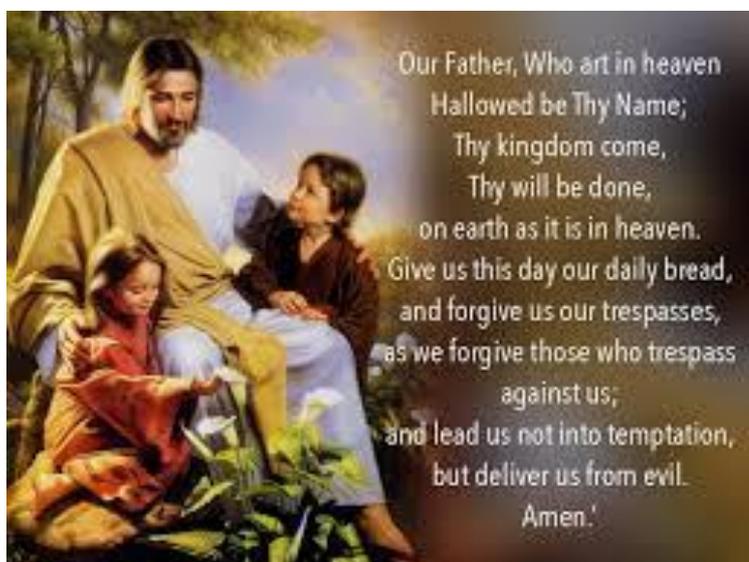
REFLECTION ON THE READING

Ask the children: What did you hear? Let your child(ren) respond in their own words and then build up a discussion from there. Some of these questions below may be helpful.

- Have you ever been in big trouble, maybe at school or home?
- In today's story Jesus tells about a man who was in big trouble. He owed a lot of money and was let off.
- What do you think about the man's behaviour?
- What happened to the man at the end?
- Why did Jesus tell this story?
- How many times did Jesus say we should forgive?
- What do you think Jesus meant? (Jesus doesn't mean we have to count, he is saying we must **always** forgive)
- What else does Jesus tell us about forgiving in this story? (How we forgive each other will determine how God forgives us)
- Is it easy to forgive someone? Sometimes it is the hardest thing in the world to do.
- Remember the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Why do we have this sacrament (it helps us to forgive and be forgiven)
- What does this tell you about God?

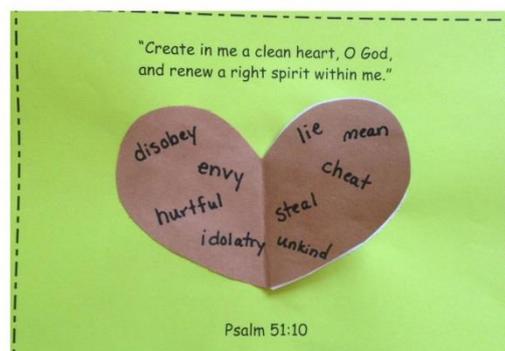
<https://youtu.be/YTWZRDRhIdE>

Some ideas



RESPONSE

- How do we in our families show that we have forgiven each other?
- How do we show that we have made up?
- Remember the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us..." In Reconciliation, with the Absolution Prayer, Jesus forgave us. In gratitude, we can abundantly share Jesus' gift of forgiveness with others.
- Pray carefully the Lord's Prayer together.



ACT OF FAITH

Relating to the Creed, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father, who created us out of love?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who always brings us back to God's love?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us show God's forgiveness to others?



WE PRAY

Again, try to relate the prayers to the reading by saying,

- 'You show mercy to all who ask for it and so we now pray.'

Invite the children to offer prayers of the Faithful. The 5-finger prayer from Pope Francis may help. Help children to include others in their prayers, after each offering, repeat it, and add, "...and for all who..."

Here are some suggestions:

- We pray for the Church, that we may always be a good example of loving forgiveness in the world.
- We pray for people who have been injured or who have died because of the violence of others. We pray also for those who love them.
- We pray for anyone who has hurt us.
- Lord, forgiveness is not an easy challenge to live out. Help us to put forgiveness into practice in our lives.

Respond to each prayer with: We Pray to the Lord.

All. Lord, hear our prayer.

We make all these prayers in the name of our dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

our Father,
Who art
in heaven,
hallowed
be Thy name;



Thy
kingdom
come;
Thy will
be done



on earth
as it is in
heaven.



Give us
this day
our daily
bread;

and
forgive
us
our
trespasses



as we
forgive
those
who
trespass
against
us;



And
lead
us not into
temptation,



But
deliver
us from
evil.



Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

		t	e	m	p	t	a	t	i	o	n	
k	i	n	g	d	o	m			h			
		a							e	v	i	l
		m						e	a	r	t	h
b	r	e	a	d					v			
					f	a	t	h	e	r		
	d	o	n	e			h		n			
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d			t	r	e	s	p	a	s	s	e	s
a	r	t	w									
y			i			a	g	a	i	n	s	t
	d	e	l	i	v	e	r					
h	a	l	l	o	w	e	d					

Father
art
Heaven
hallowed
thy
name

Kingdom
will
done
earth
day
bread

for give
trespasses
against
temptation
deliver
evil

