

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time September 13

Hello families! I hope you are all doing well! We are still in Ordinary Time for this twenty-fourth Sunday of the year. This weekend we hear the gospel from St. Matthew 18:21-35. You can find this gospel reading in the Catholic Children's Bible on p. 1491 and in the Family Connections Bible on pp. 1343-1344. Our gospel reading today is actually a continuation of last weekend's gospel! If you remember from last week, Jesus spoke to his disciples about dealing with those who sin against you. This week Peter asks Jesus about forgiveness and how many times we should forgive someone who wrongs us. Read the gospel reading and then continue on to today's other activities!

Video:

Here is a video by Saddleback Kids! It does a really good job of illustrating the parable in today's gospel reading.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED3fzkS-bhA>

Summary:

Jesus teaches us a lot about forgiveness! Today in particular, when asked by Peter, Jesus says we should forgive those who wrong us over seventy-seven times! That's a lot of times. Jesus then goes on and uses a parable to better explain forgiveness. Do you remember what a parable is? As a reminder, a parable is a simple story that is not necessarily true but is used to teach a lesson. Jesus tells of a king and his servant. The servant owes the king money but does not have enough money to repay him. The king begins to make plans to get the money using the servant, but the servant falls to his knees and begs the king to give him more time. The king agrees and temporarily forgives his debt. Later that day, the very same servant finds one of his fellow servants who owes him money. When this fellow servant doesn't have the money, the servant sends him to jail. The other servants seeing this, tell the king. The king is very upset and does not understand why the servant couldn't forgive his fellow servant like the king had done for him.

The lesson that Jesus is trying to teach us is that we should all be forgiving of one and other, just like God forgives all of us when we do wrong. Think of yourself as the servant and God as the king. If God forgives us like the king forgave his servant, we should in turn forgive those in our lives as well. We should not be like the servant in the story who refused to forgive his fellow

servant. Every day we are called to follow in Jesus' footsteps and being forgiving of those who hurt us is just one more step on that journey.

Questions:

1. Do you remember a time when someone did something that hurt your feelings? What did you do about it? Did you forgive them?
2. Jesus asks us to forgive someone who wrongs us over seventy-seven times. Is it sometimes hard to give someone even just a second chance? Why?
3. How can we be more forgiving to those who hurt us?

Activity:

This week we have an activity that may also double as a tool for when you're upset with someone!

Here's What You'll Need

- The poem template (See page 3)
- Markers/colored pencils/crayons



Directions

1. If you have not already, print the poem template page
2. Write your name where there is a blank above "forgiving fingers"
3. Speaking of fingers, trace both of your hands in the white space above your name however you'd like
4. Decorate and color your hands any way you would like
5. With help, or on your own, read the poem and give it a try if you ever feel upset.

Remember to look back at this and to take a minute if you ever feel upset. It's hard to forgive someone in the moment when we are angry at them. So if we take a breath and calm down, we can better follow Jesus' message of forgiveness. Have a blessed week everyone!

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FORGIVING FINGERS

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE,
I'M WAITING 'TIL MY ANGER DIES.
SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN,
IF I'M STILL MAD I'LL COUNT AGAIN.