

## Family Liturgy – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday 13 September 2020

### Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (green, for ordinary time). Place a cross, a bible, and a candle on it. Holy water if you have some or a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/unforgiving-servant/>

### Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel stories and songs.  
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet.  
Print out sheet if required

### Gather around the prayer space as a family

**Parent/Caregiver:** Today we hear a story about an unforgiving servant. Jesus tells this story to teach us that we must learn to be forgiving and treat others the way we want to be treated. We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what he is asking of us today.

**Opening prayer:** God of families and togetherness, we give you thanks for sending Jesus to us. Help us to hear Jesus' words to us and to understand and believe in them so we may love you more. Help us now to listen to your Word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (18:21-35)

**All:** Glory to you O, Lord

Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?"

Jesus answered: "Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times! This story will show you what the kingdom of heaven is like:

"One day a king decided to call in his officials and ask them to give an account of what they owed him. As he was doing this, one official was brought in who owed him fifty million silver coins. But he didn't have any money to pay what he owed. The king ordered him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all the he owned. In order to pay the debt.

"The official got down on his knees and began begging, 'Have pity on me, and I will pay you every cent I owe!' The king felt sorry for him and let him go free. He even told the official that he did not have to pay back the money.

"As the official was leaving, he happened to meet another official, who owed him a hundred silver coins. So he grabbed the man by the throat. He started choking him and said, 'Pay me what you owe!' The man got down on his knees and began begging, 'Have pity on me, and I will pay you back.' But the first official refused to have pity. Instead, he went and had the other official put in jail until he could pay what he owed.

"When some other officials found out what had happened, they felt sorry for the man who had been put in jail. "Then they told the king what had happened. The king called the first official back in and said, 'You're an evil man! When you begged for mercy, I said you did not have to pay back a cent. Don't you think you should show pity to someone else, as I did to you?'

"The king was so angry that he ordered the official to be tortured until he could pay back everything he owed. This is how my Father in heaven will treat you, if you don't forgive each of my followers with all your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the clip about Jesus telling the Parable about the Unforgiving Servant.  
<https://youtu.be/ED3fzkS-bhA> The parable of the Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:21-35 (2.52 mins)

#### Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

- I wonder how Peter and the other disciples felt when Jesus told them that they needed to forgive seventy-seven times...
- I wonder how you feel about forgiving someone so many times...
- I wonder how the first official felt when the king forgave him, and he didn't have to pay the money back
- I wonder how the king felt when he forgave the servant...
- I wonder why the servant wasn't forgiving like the king with the man who owed him money...
- I wonder if you have ever chosen to be unforgiving like the unforgiving servant in the story...
- I wonder what part of the story is the most important...
- I wonder where you are in the story or what part is about you?
- I wonder what Jesus is saying to each one of us with this story today...

#### Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Yes Lord I Believe by John Burland <https://youtu.be/7MR2iGDyUtE> (3 mins)

**Intercessions:** Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to help us be more forgiving like Jesus.  
(*We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for our Church, Pope Francis and especially for Archbishop Pat: may our Church, show the forgiveness that Jesus teaches towards everyone. Lord, hear us.

2 We pray for all people in our parishes: May all those who feel disconnected or unwelcomed find someone who shows them forgiveness and helps them come back to God's family. Lord, hear us.

3 We pray for our world especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic: May people everywhere focus on Jesus who teaches true forgiveness and won our salvation through the Holy Cross. Lord, hear us.

4 We pray for all the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments for the first time: may their lives be blessed with families and sponsors who show them forgiveness in their daily lives. Lord, hear us.

5 We pray for our families and friends: May people who have died recently and especially the people we know and love, find eternal life in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, hear us.

**Closing prayer:** God of families and togetherness, we believe in your love – your love created the world. We believe in your love – your love sent Jesus to live with us on earth. We believe in your love – your love sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life through us. Amen.

**Closing song:** [https://youtu.be/kZ\\_wCZ1gPN4](https://youtu.be/kZ_wCZ1gPN4) Forgive one another. Song (2.47 mins)

#### Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer or draw a picture thanking God for teaching us how to forgive one another.
- Add to this prayer journal each day.
- Act out the Gospel story of Jesus talking to Peter and the other disciples
- Make a choice to be forgiving today in the footsteps of Jesus
- Draw a cartoon story of what happened in this story with captions
- Go to the following links to find crosswords & other children activities on the topic:
  - <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/288300813619351906/> (Keep on forgiving – Spiral Activity)
  - <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/421790321340787596/?d=t&mt=login> (Crossword)
  - <http://www.livingwaterbiblegames.com/unmerciful-servant-word-search.html> (Wordsearch)
- **Activity:** Have the children sit in a circle. Explain to the children that forgiveness is a gift that we give to people when they hurt our feelings, but it is something that cannot be seen. Talk about the different ways that we can ask someone to forgive us when we hurt their feelings. Show them a box, you previously prepared (empty and gift wrapped). Tell them that the box is like the gift of forgiveness. Have the child on your right tell you something that a child might need to ask for forgiveness for. Then have them say ask for forgiveness as discussed previously. Have the children continue to pass the box around the circle in this manner until the box has come back to you.