



September 17, 2023,

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 18:21-35

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of grace and mercy, you have forgiven us far more and more often than we deserve. Make us equally forgiving to all those in our lives, that we may live together in harmony, in Jesus name. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The disciples asked Jesus how many times they should forgive. Jesus' response was clear. We can continue to forgive over and over again.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

In our litigating society, how does culture view justice? How does it view forgiveness? What might happen if people practiced forgiveness over blame and the need for restitution?

Who stands in need of your forgiveness? What would it take to make you ready to forgive?

For the littles: Have you ever told someone, "I forgive you"? What did it feel like? Jesus is happy when we forgive.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you strength to forgive. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Follow a court case that is spotlighted in the media. Identify places where Jesus' words for forgiveness might break in. How would extravagant forgiveness alter the outcome of the trial?



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 77; Joshua 3:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-29

Tuesday, Psalm 77; Nehemiah 9:9-15; Romans 14:13-15:2

Wednesday, Psalm 77; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Mark 11:20-25

Thursday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 15:22-27; 2 Cor. 13:1-4

Friday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Saturday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:22-30; Matthew 19:23-30