

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014
13TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Jesus calls us to make things
right with others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

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| Sunday | Matthew 18:15-20 | Seeking reconciliation |
| Monday | Matthew 5:21-26 | Be reconciled to your brother |
| Tuesday | Luke 6:37-42 | Forgive and you will be forgiven |
| Wednesday | Luke 17:1-4 | If your brother sins |
| Thursday | Colossians 3:12-15 | Forgive as the Lord forgave you |
| Friday | Ephesians 4:25-32 | Forgive each other |
| Saturday | Psalms 32:1-7 | Blessed are the forgiven |
| Sunday | Matthew 18:21-35 | A parable about forgiveness |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"If your brother sins against you, go to him. Tell him what he did wrong. Keep it between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won him back." Matthew 18:15 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, help us to forgive others and make peace with them. Amen. (Matt.18:15-17)

Mealtime Prayer:

As two or more who gather here, we thank you, Christ, for coming near. Please bless this food and our home, too, that we may shine with love for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus be with you. May you be one with him and at peace with others. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to forgive someone? Do you find it difficult or easy to forgive? Why?
- What does God's forgiveness mean to you?
- How does God's forgiveness change the way we see and treat other people when they sin against us?

DEVOTIONS

As part of your household devotional times this week, spend a few minutes admitting your sins to each other and asking for and receiving words of forgiveness. Each person may say: *"I am sorry for (name a particular thing) and ask you to forgive me."* Others may respond: *"God has forgiven me, and I forgive you in his name."* Express your forgiveness with a handshake, hug or kiss.

SERVICE

Romans 13:9 tells us that whatever commandments there are can be summed up in this one rule: *"Love your neighbor as yourself."* Challenge members of your household to each do at least one act of kindness for another person every day this week (whether at school, work or home). Report on your efforts at evening mealtimes. Share about how your acts of kindness were received by others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus promises that wherever two or three people come together in his name, he is with them (Matthew 18:20). This week, light a candle when you meet as a household to symbolize Christ's presence with you, and say together: *"We come together in Jesus' name. And he is right here with us."*



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by
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