

SEPTEMBER 14, 2014
14TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

God calls us to show mercy
and not judge 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 18:21-35 | A parable about forgiveness |
| Monday | Genesis 18:20-33 | Abraham pleads for Sodom |
| Tuesday | Genesis 33:1-16 | Jacob meets Esau |
| Wednesday | Genesis 45:1-15 | Joseph forgives his brothers |
| Thursday | 1 Samuel 26:5-25 | David spares Saul's life |
| Friday | Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60 | Stephen prays for his killers |
| Saturday | Psalms 79:8-11 | Help us, O God our Savior |
| Sunday | Matthew 20:1-16 | Parable of the vineyard workers |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“So why do you judge your brothers or sisters in Christ? And why do you think you are better than they are? We will all stand before God to be judged.” Romans 14:10 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, help us not to judge others today. Help us to accept them and be kind to them. Amen. (Romans 14:1)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, as we eat the food you give, make us ready to forgive. We're so glad we have your love; thank you, Father, up above. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord forgive you all your sins, and help you to forgive others. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever felt judged by somebody? How did you feel?
- Why should we be careful about judging others?
- God is like the master in the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35). What can we learn from this parable about judging others?

DEVOTIONS

Act out the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35) or read it together with household members speaking as the different characters in the parable. Then, talk about each character. What are they like? Which of the characters are you most like? Take turns praying for each other, that God may help you to be kind and forgiving towards others.

SERVICE

Joseph was badly treated by his brothers, but God used what happened to bring about good (Genesis 50:20). Through his work as a leader in Egypt, God used Joseph to take care of many people in a time of great famine. Prepare a letter to send to an elected leader of your region or community. Thank them for their work on your behalf and let them know that you are praying for them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus told Peter that he should forgive someone who sinned against him “seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22). By this, he meant that we should never stop forgiving. Find a page or roll of small white stickers and write “70x7” on each. Stick these up around your home to remind you of Jesus’ call to practice forgiveness toward one another.



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