

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

We are to forgive countless times.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 18:20-33	Abraham pleads for Sodom
Tuesday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Wednesday	Romans 14:1-12	Don't judge others
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 103	The Lord's wonderful love
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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

Jesus answered: "Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!"

Matthew 18:21-22 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for your never-failing love and forgiveness. Help us to show our gratitude with mercy to others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for providing for our needs and giving us the strength of a young eagle. Amen.
(Psalm 103:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who crowns you with steadfast love forgive you all your sins and give you a merciful heart. (Psalm 104:4)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Forgive Our Sins
As We Forgive*

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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Have you ever been hurt by someone again and again? What did you do?
- What makes it difficult to forgive someone repeatedly?
- How is the kingdom of heaven shown in the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:23-35)?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 18:21-35.

Act out the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant or read it together with others 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



Think about someone you have not been willing to forgive. Consider ways to free both you and that other person by forgiving them in your heart (including a prayer) and by finding some way to communicate a more gracious relationship with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalms 103 is one of the great psalms expressing God's love and our response through praise. During this next week, read the psalm daily and pause to reflect on a word or thought that can bless you throughout the day.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org