



March 10, 2019

Matthew 18:15-35

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Then Peter came to him and said, "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*

MEALTIME PRAYER

Be with us at this table, Lord. Grace us with your presence, and humble us as we break bread together. Amen.

SUGGESTED READINGS

Something to consider as you read: What are the people doing in each story? What is God doing in each story?

Matthew 19:13-15

Welcoming Little Children

Matthew 19:16-22

A Rich Young Man

Matthew 19:23-30

All is Possible with God

Matthew 20:1-16

The Laborers in the Vineyard (this is the story for next Sunday, so try reading it on Saturday!)

If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the story assigned in the SUGGESTED BIBLE READINGS. Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!

SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

Any time we work on our relationships to make them better, we do a service to our world, especially if those bettered relationships help us to be God's love in the world. Name one person you need to forgive, and then find time this week to talk with him or her.

Did you know?

There is a weekly podcast for Faith Practice where we read the scripture with a little bit of context for the upcoming Sunday. It's a great way to spend your drive to church, and it is generally only about 5 minutes long. You can find it in the weekly email or check out www.smpchome.org/faith-practice.



PREPARATION

Think about devotions as a continuation of our community's worship. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions. Adapt as necessary!

GATHERING

Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."

Prayer of the Week: *Lord God, you have forgiven our sins and continue to forgive us when we come to you in repentance and in confession. Help us to forgive*

1. SHARE

Highs & Lows: Name one person who you think wronged you today. Did you forgive them? Name one person who might think that you wronged them today. Did you say sorry?

2. READ

Suggested Bible Reading: Read aloud from the Suggested Bible Readings from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

3. TALK

Thinking About This Week's Story: Jesus encouraged the disciples to forgive people over and over again. Did you experience forgiveness today? Was it hard to forgive someone who did something wrong to you today? Why?

Getting Ready for Next Week's Story: People like it when things are fair. Did you see or experience something that was unfair? What did you do?: Name one person who you think wronged you today. Did you forgive them? Name one person who might think that you wronged them today. Did you say sorry?

4. PRAY

Pray Together: *Dear God, confess that we have sinned against you and against one another, both by what we have done and by what we have forgotten to do. These are the ways that we have sinned against each other: (In this time, you can confess to one another ways that you might have been angry with one another or hurt each other, etc.) We are sorry, O God. Heal us with your love. Amen.*

CLOSING

If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

5. BLESS

A Blessing to Share: With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead or hand, and say: *You are a forgiven child of God, called and send into a world in need our your love. Amen.*