

PRAY EVERY DAY November 8, 2020 Resource

Peter Questions the Limits of Forgiveness from Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

“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.”

A Prayer of Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

October 21 – November 10: “Fruit of the Spirit: Mercy”

November 11 – December 1: “Fruit of the Spirit: Bearing Fruit”

November 9: Micah 6:8; 7:18-20

November 13: Psalm 1

November 10: Zechariah 7:9-10

November 14: Jeremiah 12:1-3a

November 11: Genesis 1:11-13

November 15: Jeremiah 17:7-10

November 12: Genesis 1:20-25

Small Group or Personal Study

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

Use the questions below for small group or personal study:

- In the parable the king forgave their servant who owed 10,000 talents. That is a huge amount, think of what your daily wages for working 150,000 years and you are getting close to 10,000 talents. The king had mercy and forgave the servant and this is reflected in God’s forgiveness for sins, forgiving all we cannot, pay, atone, or make up for. What has God forgiven you for? How would you estimate the value of God’s forgiveness? What does it mean to you?

- The servant forgiven a huge sum would not forgive a large sum that was owed to him. In the parable that amount was 100 denarii which amounts to about 100 days of wages. That is a large sum, but it is dwarfed by the forgiveness the servant received from the king. Which sins of others have you forgiven and which have you not? How great was the impact of those sins upon you and others? Why were you able to forgive some sins against you? What has held you back from not forgiving sins against you? How do the sins against you compare to all the sins you have done against God, others, and yourself?

- In the parable, the servant was declared wicked because he did not extend the same mercy that was given to him. When have you done as the wicked servant? When have you responded to others with grace like Jesus has shared with you?

*Spend time in silence
Prayer for others and yourself
The Lord's Prayer*

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races

because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. Amen.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

A Prayer of Forgiveness and Good Reason to Forgive from Jesus in Matthew 6:12, 14-15, NRSV

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors....For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."