

Ordinary Time:

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- The reading from Genesis is a classic example of prayer in the Old Testament.
- It is from the Yahwist tradition of the Pentateuch and was written around the tenth century B.C.
- In the Yahwist tradition God was very close to humans and displayed human traits.

Second Reading

- The reading from the Letter to the Colossians attempts to explain why Christians can pray with such confidence.
- Baptism has united Christians with Christ in his death as well as his Resurrection power.
- Christ has won our friendship with God.

Gospel

- The passage from the Gospel according to Luke is a collection of Jesus' reflections on prayer.
- The first section (verses 1-4) is the Lucan version of the Lord's Prayer.
- The version in Luke is shorter than the one in the Gospel according to Matthew.

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Catechist Reflection Guide for the Solemnity of the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32—Abraham bargains about Sodom and Gomorrah.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6-7a, 7b-8—The Lord answers our call for help.

Second Reading: Colossians 2:12-14—Alive with Christ

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13—Lord teach us to pray.

Invitation to prayer (30 sec.)

Ask the children to quiet themselves and sit comfortably. Begin the session with the Sign of the Cross. Have them take three deep breaths while you prompt them to relax as they breathe in God, our Father who loves us, Jesus Christ, his Son, our brother, and God's Holy Spirit who lovingly guides us.

Listening for a word or phrase to speak to your heart (3-4 min.)

Ages 5-6: Have children repeat the words "**Lord, teach us to pray like you.**" Read Luke 11:1-4 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 7-8: Introduce the reading by explaining that **The disciples wanted to pray like Jesus did. They probably knew how to pray a certain way but they wanted to do what Jesus did.** Read Luke 11:1-4 from the handout.

Ages 9-11: Read Luke 11:1-4. Ask young people to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God's word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they pick out their word or phrase. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their hearts.

Ages 12-14: Read Luke 11:5-13. Ask young people to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God's word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they pick out their word or phrase. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their hearts.

Loving God through his word (3-5 min.)

Ages 5-6: Call children's attention to the illustration on the handout and ask them what the hands tell them. (*Hands are praying.*) Ask children to show other gestures they use when they are praying. (*Hands extended, kneeling, making the Sign of the Cross, bowing.*) Go back over the words Jesus taught his disciples. Ask children, **How many know the Lord's Prayer?** Read aloud the directions for the activity and have children complete their drawing. Close with the prayer.

Ages 7-8: Point out that the Lord's Prayer, which we pray today, is based on Jesus' words in Scripture. Ask, **How many know the Lord's Prayer?** Direct children's attention to the activity. Explain the directions to the children. Give an example, such as, **When I pray "Your kingdom come" I see a world where everyone is kind to one another.** Have them complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

Ages 9-11: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Using the text on the handout, facilitate a discussion with young people about their own prayer life. Point out that **Jesus addressed his prayer to his Father and asked for very simple daily things.** Close with the prayer.

Ages 12-14: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Using the text on the handout facilitate a discussion with young people about God and prayer. Emphasize that **Prayer is a conversation based on a loving relationship between God and the prayer. Sometimes prayers are not answered the way we want because we are asking for something that is not good for us, or not in God's plan for us.** Close with the prayer.

Living the Gospel words through the week (3-5 min.) The handouts describe one or two ways children and young people can live this reflection on the Gospel through the week at home, school, or play. If appropriate, have them add one or two more personal choices to act on this week.