



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

September 14, 2014

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13 (8)

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35



Over and Over Again. Object: A large assortment of pencils with the erasers all worn off.

Just look at all of these pencils! There are short pencils, long pencils, skinny pencils, and fat pencils. There are yellow, red, black, and white pencils. There are many different shapes, sizes, and colors of pencils but there is one thing that all of these pencils have in common. The eraser is worn off of every one of them. Do you know what that tells me? It tells me that I make a lot of mistakes. When I make a mistake, I erase it and start over, and over again, until I get it right! I don't know why I keep these pencils, because as many mistakes as I make, a pencil without an eraser is pretty useless.

These pencils remind me of people. People come in all different sizes, shapes, and colors too, but we all have one thing in common, we all make mistakes! We make a lot of mistakes. That is why God sent Jesus to die on the cross -- to erase our mistakes. When we do something wrong, we can ask God to forgive us and because of Jesus, He will erase our mistakes and we can start over again, and again, and again. Unlike these pencils, God's eraser never wears out!

Just as God forgives us over and over again. Jesus taught us that we should forgive other people over and over again.

One day, Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Should I forgive him seven times?" I imagine that Peter was pretty proud of himself for being willing to forgive someone seven times.

Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven times!"

I think Jesus knew that if he said we should forgive seventy times seven times, we would never be able to keep count and we would forgive over, and over again, just as he forgives us.

It doesn't matter if we are short or tall, skinny or fat, red, white, yellow, or black, we all need God's forgiveness. We also need to remember that Jesus taught that we are to forgive others just as God forgives us.

Dear Jesus, we all make mistakes, thank you for coming to erase those mistakes. Help us to forgive others the same way you forgive us -- over, and over, and over again. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia

Word Search Puzzle

A	P	T	Z	U	H	W	J	E	S	N	N	M	H	H
A	W	U	K	G	T	K	E	S	X	G	X	Q	D	X
H	T	K	G	T	W	U	S	M	A	N	Y	I	D	B
E	K	A	J	I	B	F	U	B	C	G	E	U	K	G
A	F	S	T	I	M	E	S	U	K	O	O	C	U	W
M	W	K	W	N	B	O	T	G	P	E	T	E	R	A
O	P	E	R	G	R	E	L	P	W	W	O	X	H	T
F	A	D	X	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	G	H	X	E
K	O	N	A	F	X	S	D	C	R	Z	L	Q	W	Y
X	E	R	S	V	Q	J	L	E	I	L	O	Z	R	Q
E	Z	B	G	W	Q	D	Q	D	V	O	R	K	P	H
E	N	Z	Y	I	E	J	P	Z	L	M	D	J	I	O
S	W	U	Q	H	V	R	S	E	V	E	N	A	C	W
W	L	B	Q	L	L	E	E	I	I	F	W	C	A	C
H	U	S	I	N	S	K	T	D	C	F	X	M	T	C

PETER	ANSWERED	MANY	JESUS
SINS	FORGIVE	HOW	LORD
ASKED	TIMES	BROTHER	SEVEN

OVER AND OVER AGAIN: Let children line up in a long line or as teams if desired. Each player will take a turn at doing 3 things over and over again until they reach the other side of the playing area, such as "RUN, JUMP 3 TIMES AND SKIP 3 TIMES" and then do it over and over again. Let every player do 3 things over and over again, as the teacher gives them ideas.

BIBLE VERSE ERASING: The teacher can write today's Bible verse on the chalkboard with colored chalk and with different types of handwriting or printing. Let children take turns erasing one word at a time and the class reciting the Bible verse each time a word is erased, until children can recite the verse with ALL the words erased!

BIBLE VERSE FORGIVE HUNT: A large poster board can have the stem and leaves drawn for a flower to be formed by the children. They will hunt around the room or designated area for leaves of the big flower and each petal that they find will have a word or words from today's Bible verse on it. Then children will tape or glue the petals onto the large flower onto the poster board and try to read or memorize today's verse! Each child could be given an artificial flower if they can say the Bible verse or can say some words from the verse about forgiving each other 70 x 7!

“HELP ME TO FORGIVE OTHERS
AS YOU HAVE FORGIVEN ME.”

