

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

September 17, 2017

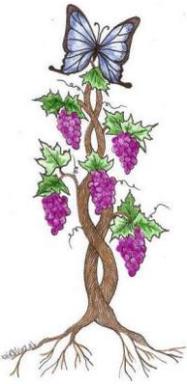
Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35



Over and Over Again. *Objects: 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!"

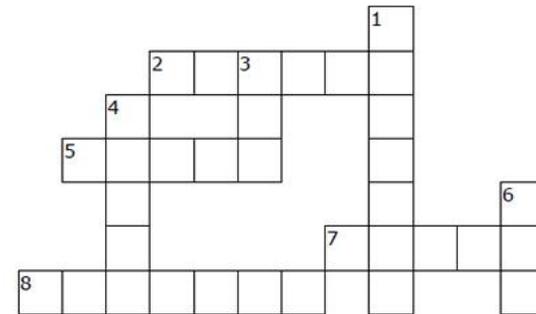
I think Jesus knew that if he said we should forgive seventy times seven times, we would never be able to keep count and we would forgive over, and over again, just as he forgives us.

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.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous, your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia.
(1 John 2:1, 12)

Dear Father, we all sin. Thank you for sending Jesus to forgive us of our sins. Help us to forgive others the same way — over, and over again. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. A statement given in reply to a question
- 5. The number that is equal to six plus one
- 7. The Son of God
- 8. To pardon someone for doing something wrong

DOWN

- 1. A male with the same parents as someone else
- 3. To break God's law
- 4. A fisherman who became one of Jesus' disciples
- 6. To seek an answer to a question

SEVEN	ASK	PETER	JESUS
BROTHER	FORGIVE	ANSWER	SIN

FORGIVE FLOWERS: Give the child paper and markers. Encourage the child to draw large flowers with 7 petals. Supply colorful "buttons" to glue on for the middle of the flower. Have the child write or write for them, the letters F-O-R-G-I-V-E on each of the petals so one letter will fit on each petal! Give the child some chenille wire for the stems.



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

