

Family Time 6: The Forgiving Father

The Parable of the Forgiving Father (Luke 15:11-32) was the focus of this session. Jesus told parables, which include ordinary events or objects to teach important truths. In this parable, Jesus teaches us that we are all in need of God's forgiveness when we sin. He also teaches us that God's love is always just and merciful, like the father's love in the parable.

Forgiveness is an important element in family life. Talk with your child about the ways in which your family acknowledges wrongdoing, expresses sorrow for hurtful actions, and shows forgiveness toward one another. Emphasize that there are times when we need to ask for forgiveness and times when we need to forgive others.

One of the most powerful ways we can help children understand that God is always just and merciful is to imitate our heavenly Father's example. When your child expresses sorrow for wrongdoing or is in need of forgiveness, respond with unconditional love. Together, decide on ways that he or she can reconcile this situation. In turn, when you fail to live with love, apologize to family members and ask for their forgiveness.

As a family, tell God that you trust in his merciful love by praying the prayer we pray together at Mass.

Confiteor

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have
failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

(Roman Missal, Penitential Act)