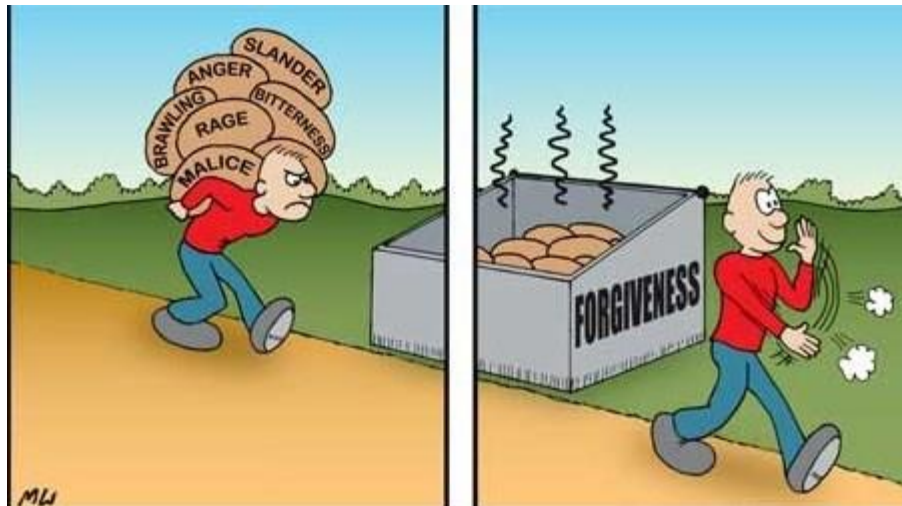


Weekly Theme

W/C 12th September 2016



“Forgiving one another”

Luke 15: 11-32

Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast because he has him home safe and sound.’

"The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, 'Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!'

"His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

One of the most difficult things to say is "I'm sorry", In what Jesus said and did he showed how important it is to say "sorry". He prayed "Father forgive them, as he hung on the cross. If we fail to say, "I'm sorry", situations can spiral out of our control, we only have to look at our world today to see the war and violence that exists in our world to see what can go wrong when we don't say "Sorry".

Every year on the 21st September the United Nations International Peace Day is celebrated around the world. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. To bring about true peace, people first have to recognise how through their actions they have hurt others.

"It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Prayer

Almighty God and Father,
There are times when we need to return to you and ask for forgiveness.
May we in turn offer the same love and forgiveness to those who hurt us.
Amen

Form Tutor

The aim of this week's theme:

We want our students to think about what it means to say "I am Sorry". And just how hard it can be to actually forgive someone who has hurt you.

The United Nations International Peace Day also gives us the opportunity to talk to our students about the violence that can come about when people fail to understand each other and do not take any responsibility for their actions.

You can find further resources for background and information and some good video's on the following links:

www.internationaldayofpeace.org

www.peaceoneday.org

This week in our College Atrium we would like to create a "Peace Wall." Please ask your students to write a prayer for peace or a quotes based on peace and to bring it to the atrium to be displayed on our Peace Wall.

Day One

Tutor:

Read Scripture

Student Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me today to find the strength to forgive somebody who has hurt me.

Amen

St John Plessington
Pray for us

Day 2

Think about: The society in which we live.

Tutor:

Today there is an opportunity for your form to discuss how our society can be affected when people fall out with each other. What can this lead to?

Student prayer

Lord we pray today for all people and organisation that promote reconciliation in our country.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day 3

Think about: The world in which we live.

Tutor:

Today, think about all those countries in our world that suffer from war and violence. You may like to find out where they are on the map and research just why they are suffering. Alternatively, today might be a good day to start writing your peace prayers and quotes to be displayed on the "Peace Wall" in the College Atrium.

Student prayer

Loving Father, today we pray for the leaders of our world that they will work with others to bring about peaceful solution to the conflicts taking place in our world.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day Four

Think about our college community

Tutor

It is so easy to hurt somebody or to fall out with someone by the careless things that we say or do. What opportunities are available in our community to help people resolve their difference? Is there anything more that we could do?

Student prayer

Loving Lord help us today to follow your example, by encouraging others to put their differences behind them and to move on.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day Five

Think about our families

Tutor

Just as in our gospel this week, where the son left home, because he thought he could get on in life better by himself, today we would like you to think about those parents and families who are separated, because they have fallen out. Think about the issues that they may face, and how should they react if and when their child returns home?

Student Prayer

Lord, we pray today that there will be understanding within our families and that we will always try and see that there are two sides to every story
Amen

Amen

St John Plessington
Pray for us

Other prayers you may like to use this week

O Lord,
you have mercy on all,
take away from me my sins,
and mercifully set me ablaze
with the fire of your Holy Spirit.
Take away from me the heart of stone,
and give me a human heart,
a heart to love and adore you,
a heart to delight in you,
to follow and enjoy you.

Amen.

Lord, we come before you as we are.
We ask you to take away from us
all that makes us less than human.
Strengthen us with the power of your Spirit
that our attitude and outlook may develop,
and our "way of looking"
may become more like yours.
Help us to remain positive -
encouraging and appreciating one another,
looking upon people in the same way that you do.

Amen.

God our Father,
extend our horizons,
widen our vision,
and remind us how inter-connected we are
as your sons and daughters.
Breathe your Spirit into us
that we may live more truly
as brothers and sisters
of one another.

Amen.

Lord, we ask you to open our eyes
that we may value and appreciate all people,
recognising what we have in common
rather than focusing
on what our differences might be.
Inspire us to distinguish
between what is important
and what is not,
and open our minds and hearts
that we may always be people of good will
who bring life and joy to others.

Amen.

