

# Living FAITH Family Edition



## Preparing For Family Prayer

### SPACE

To create your family prayer space:

- Gather around the table;
- Clear the space of all distractions;
- Engage in the prayer either before or after sharing a family meal at the table.

### CONNECTING

To encourage connection, establish this space as:

- Phone and other technology free (except to use the #blessed Sway or to read the PDF);
- "Pay out" and judgement free.

### SHARING

When it is time to share:

- Each member of the family feels invited to share freely and uninterrupted;
- Listen actively and openly to each other;
- Affirm each other;
- Provide the option to "pass" if someone would prefer not to share.

### PRAYING

Once you are ready to get started:

- Chose a member of the family to lead the prayer session;
- Chose a member of the family to read the Gospel;
- Chose the discussion question you would like to engage with.

### PRAYERS OF INTENTION

You might like to offer prayers for:

- Immediate needs in your household;
- Relatives who may be sick or in need;
- Broader community (homeless, those in CoVid lockdown, poor, sick etc)
- Global concerns (war, famine, drought etc)

# Living FAITH Family Edition



## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

### “When Someone Sins?”

#### WE CONNECT

Bring some envelopes to the table (one for every person in your family) and some colours, stickers and/or pencils for decorating. Ask everyone to pick a family member to create an envelop for, then spend some time writing the name on the envelop and decorating it, drawing symbols or writing words that reflect them. Cut up some paper and leave it in a neat stack in the middle of the table.

Once each person has finished the envelop going around the table explaining what was written and drawn:

I wrote these words and drew these symbols because...

Once each person has had their turn to explain their envelops pray together:

God of Love;  
We are truly grateful for the gift of each one of us,  
And for the many ways You bless our family.  
**Amen.**

Throughout the week use the cut up pieces of paper to fill the envelopes with words and/or drawings of affirmation. Read these aloud when you gather together for family prayer next week.

#### WE LISTEN

#### ***A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (18:15-20)***

#### **When Someone Sins**

If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you. If that person listens, you have won back a follower. But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others. The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses. If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church. Anyone who refuses to listen to the church must be treated like an unbeliever or a tax collector.

I promise you that God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth, but he will not allow anything you don't allow. I promise that when any two of you on earth agree about something you are praying for, my Father in heaven will do it for you. Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you.

# Living FAITH Family Edition

## WE SHARE

Choose one or both of the discussion questions to engage with:

What are some examples of how we can "sin" against each other? What do you think we can do this week to avoid treating each other this way?

When a family member "sins" against another (lies, yells, hurts someone, calls someone names etc), how do we react? How might we correct each other in a way that is more patient and compassionate?

"When two or more come together in my name, I am there with you". When we gather together for prayer do you feel Jesus' presence? How do you know Jesus is with us? Do you feel closer to Jesus after we pray together?

## WE OFFER

Each member of the family is invited to offer a prayer of intention. (See the guide above).

***We pray for (intention)... Lord, hear us.***

When all intentions have been offered everyone says together:

***Lord hear our prayer.***

## WE GIVE THANKS

Loving God,  
We are so grateful for spending this time together in prayer and love knowing that when we gather for prayer You are there with us.  
Thank you for the gift of each of us,  
And help us to continue to appreciate how precious our family is.  
**Amen.**

*"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving,"*

- St. Francis De Sales

Group holding hands by Tyler Lagalo  
Licensed under Creative Commons Zero (CC0) via Unsplash.com <https://unsplash.com/photos/Sfe-nQMz2h0>  
Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

 We are a faith-filled learning community creating a better future



**Brisbane  
Catholic  
Education**

teaching • challenging • transforming