

# 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)

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## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

### “Who Is Jesus?”

#### WE CONNECT

Choose a member (or members) of your family to bless. Think of this blessing as a sign of support, comfort, love and connection. You might choose to bless someone who has had a bad week and you want to let them know that you love them. A family member may have been extra helpful, kind or compassionate towards you this week so you might like to bless them as a symbol of gratitude. As part of the blessing (and if you feel comfortable to do so), you might also choose to draw a sign of the cross on the family members forehead using your thumb.

I would like to bless you today because...

Once each person has had their turn to bless someone end with:

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.**

#### WE LISTEN

#### ***A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (16:13-20)***

Who Is Jesus?

When Jesus and his disciples were near the town of Caesarea Philippi, he asked them, “What do people say about the Son of Man?”

The disciples answered, “Some people say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet.”

Then Jesus asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter spoke up, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus told him:

Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! You didn’t discover this on your own. It was shown to you by my Father in heaven. So, I will call you Peter, which means “a rock.” On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth. But he will not allow anything that you don’t allow.

Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



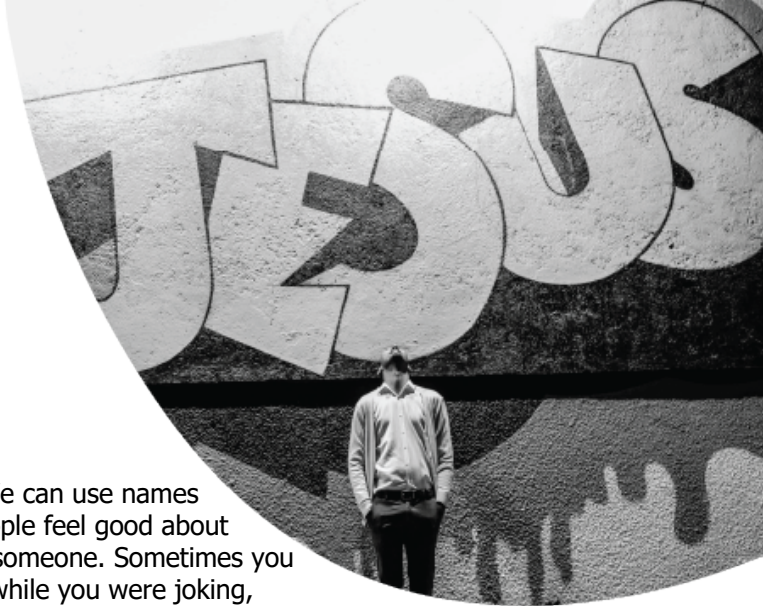
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## WE SHARE

We always have a choice when we call someone a "name". We can use names to show someone how much you love them, and to make people feel good about who they are. On the flipside we can also use names to hurt someone. Sometimes you might call someone a name as a "joke" but the truth is, that while you were joking, they might have felt I like you meant it. This can quite often be the case amongst families when nicknames that started off as a once-off joke suddenly stick.

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

Let's think honestly about the names that we use for each other. What are some names that we use that make members of our family feel good about, and love for, who they are? What are some names that we use in jest that might actually be hurtful?

Who is Jesus to you and what names do you use for Jesus? Who do you think you are to Jesus and what names do you think Jesus uses for you?

## 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 for being challenged to choose names for each other that are loving and kind.  
Thank you for the gift of each of us,  
And help us to continue to appreciate how precious our family is.  
**Amen.**

***"If you want to bring happiness into the world, go home and love your family."***

- St. Teresa of Calcutta