

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)

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

“The Beatitudes”

WE CONNECT

Ask everyone to share a time when they felt really supported by a family member during the week. How did the family member support them? Are there ways the family can continue to be of support?

Once each person has had their turn to share, 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.

WE LISTEN

A reading from Matthew (5: 1-12a)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted
the prophets who were before you.”



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WE SHARE

Work together to write your own "Family Beatitudes" and display them in a prominent place in the house.

For example:

Blessed are you when you are grateful for what you have and share your things with others. When you have an attitude for gratitude you appreciate the small gifts God gives you every day.

Blessed are you for comforting your siblings when they are sad, worried, stressed or angry. You know that they will be there for you too in return.

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

"Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love"

- Pope Francis

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Scripture quotations taken from the New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

