

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

## **Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Psalm 103**

**Response: “My God, my God, have mercy on me, for all my hope is in you”**

**Today’s readings are about forgiveness.**

- **Forgive – to stop feeling angry or resentful toward someone for (an offense, flaw, or mistake).**
- **“We experience the forgiveness of God in our act of forgiving.”**
- **As we have been forgiven, we must forgive.**

### **Summary of the Readings:**

**First Reading: Sirach 28:2-7 (*This is a reading from the book of Sirach.*)**

In today’s first reading, we hear God speak about forgiveness. God says, “forgive people when they have hurt you. Then when you pray your sins will be forgiven.” The question God asks is how can you say you will not forgive someone and then ask God to forgive you? We are all sinners. We must have mercy for all.

“Remember the commandments, and don’t hate people.  
Remember the promises of God and forgive others.”

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)**

In the Gospel reading Peter asks Jesus, “How many times do I have to forgive someone who hurts me? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “No, not only seven times, but seventy times seven!”

Then Jesus proceeds to tell his disciples a story (parable):

Once there was a king with many workers. One of his workers owed him a great deal of money and could not pay him. So, the king ordered his wife and children to be sold as slaves. The worker begged him to be patient and he would pay him back. The king felt sorry for him and forgave him. The king even told the man he did not have to pay him back. When this same worker left, he saw a man who owed him more money. The worker grabbed the man and told him to pay him what he owed, or he would throw him in prison. The man asked the worker to be patient. The worker said “No” and had him thrown in prison. When the king heard what had happened, he sent for the worker he had forgiven. The king reminded the worker that he had

shown him mercy when he could not pay. But the worker could not do the same for the man who owed him. The king then sent the worker to prison to be punished.

### **Helping the Children to Reflect:**

Forgiving others is not always an easy thing to do. When someone does something wrong and hurts us, it is natural for us to be upset with them. They may even continue to do the same thing over and over again. Children and adults often ask the same question Peter did, “How many times do I have to forgive someone who hurts me?” Help the children to see that Jesus wants us to forgive them always. Jesus teaches us that we must treat others the way we want them and God to treat us.

### **Reflection Questions for the Children:**

- **What do you think it means when Jesus says, we should forgive someone not only seven times, but seventy times seven?**
- **Have you ever found yourself forgiving someone more than once for something they did?**
- **Do you think it was easy to forgive them?**
- **How did it make them feel to receive your forgiveness?**
- **How did it make you feel to forgive them?**

**“If you want God to forgive you,  
you must forgive other people with all your heart.”**