
LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

Thank you for allowing your teen to join us tonight at Life Teen. Below you'll find some information about tonight's topic. Please dialogue with your teen and encourage them to share what they learned.

LIFE NIGHT: TRUST

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Read Matthew 18:21-35

The unforgiving servant did nothing to deserve or earn the King's compassion and mercy. Furthermore, the unforgiving servant did not promise to pay back the loan and the king did not expect him to do so.

Just as the unforgiving servant turned to the king, we must turn to Jesus our King, and ask him to forgive us of our debt.

Jesus our King has compassion on us. He suffers with us, extends mercy, and restores us to wholeness. Just as the unforgiving servant did nothing to deserve the king's compassion, we do nothing to deserve Jesus's compassion. His mercy is a gift.

We Receive God's Mercy

We are forgiven of both mortal and venial sin in Reconciliation and we are forgiven of venial sin during the Penitential Rite at Mass. (CCC 2040, CCC 1847)

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we ask for forgiveness and confess our sins to a priest, who is *Persona Christi*, in the person of Christ. We believe the priest sits in the place of Christ, and it is Christ who forgives us of our sins through the graces of the redemption He won for us on the cross. (CCC 1422 - 1424)

At the beginning of the Mass, during the Penitential Rite, the faithful recall their sins and place their trust in God's mercy. "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy." Here the faithful receive forgiveness of venial sin.

Divine Mercy

The Divine Mercy message has three parts and is easily remembered by "ABC."
C: Completely trust in Jesus - God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive His mercy.

At the bottom of an authentic Divine Mercy image are the words, "Jesus, I trust in You." This is not an optional-extra. Jesus Himself commanded that the image bear this signature (Diary 47). These words are important because they let us know how Jesus wants us to respond to His mercy.

"Come then with trust to draw graces from this fountain. I never reject a contrite heart.... Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul..."(Diary 1485, 1777).

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. When have you, like the unforgiving servant, not fully received God's mercy?
2. How can we be better at trusting in God's mercy?