

## Youth and Adult Dialogue on Forgiveness

500 years ago, Martin Luther wrote two booklets to encourage followers of Jesus to explore more deeply God's gifts of the 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Sacraments, and Confession. These two booklets are called the Small and Large Catechisms. In the Small Catechism, he was especially concerned that families be sharing conversation about their faith in God.

The next two Sundays we are encouraging adults and youth to engage in dialogue around the dinner table or any moment throughout the day about the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer and Martin Luther's explanation in the Small Catechism. This is a great time to discuss scripture together and hear each other's thoughts. These questions may also be used for individual personal reflection.

We are trying something new as we figure out creative ways to navigate through these difficult times.

Here's how it will work:

**Sunday March 22, 2020:** Read the scripture passage and petition below as a family and have each person respond to the following questions and capture them in written form.

### **SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Colossians 3:13**

*Paul writes, "Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."*

### **THE FIFTH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

From Martin Luther in the Small Catechism:

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor on their account deny our prayer; for we are not worthy of anything we ask, neither have we deserved it. But we pray that He would give us everything by grace, for we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment; and we on our part will heartily forgive and readily do good to those who sin against us.

**Questions for Conversation:**

- What does this mean to you?
- How do you deal with conflict and forgiveness in the home?
- How do you try to practice forgiveness?
- What is a time you've had to ask for forgiveness that was really difficult for you?
- What is a time that you chose to forgive someone when it was really difficult for you?

**March 29, 2020:** Join Brendan Nelson, Director of Children's, Youth and Family Ministry, live on Facebook after the 10 am live worship service to virtually share your responses.

In service,

Brendan A. Nelson