

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking† faith home

*Love fulfills the law.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Matthew 5:21-26	Be reconciled to your brother/sister
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love fulfills the law
Wednesday	Luke 17:1-4	Repentance and forgiveness
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-15	Forgive as the Lord forgave you
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Forgive each other
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

No one who loves others will harm them. So love is all that the Law demands. **Romans 13:10 (CEV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, help us to forgive others and make peace with them. Amen. (Matthew 18:15-17)

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

As two or more who gather here, we thank you, Christ, for coming near. Please bless this food and our home, too, that we may shine with love for you. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God's forgiving power bless you to love your neighbor as yourself.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Jesus Loves Me!*

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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What does it mean to love someone?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to love? Why?
- How does God's forgiveness change the way we see and treat other people when they sin against us?

## DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 18:15-20.

This text deals with conflict in the church and in our daily life relationships and the need to address it directly and lovingly. When someone has sinned against you, go to that person and seek to resolve it with forgiveness. However, knowing that people often resist forgiveness, Jesus includes other steps to confront the grievance. What makes it so easy to complain about someone behind his or her back? What makes it so difficult to say "I am sorry"? Offer the following prayer:

**"Lord, when I have a complaint against another, help me to pray for that person and to try to resolve the conflict with forgiveness and grace."** Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

## SERVICE

Romans 13:8-14 speaks about love as the fulfillment of the law. In verse 9 it references Leviticus 19:18 that states, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Do at least one act of kindness for another person every day this week (whether at school, work, or at home). Talk about your efforts at mealtime or at the end of the day. How were your acts of kindness received by others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For many congregations, this will be "Rally Sunday" and the beginning of a new program year in the fall. The Sunday texts focus on love, forgiveness, and the health of the church community. One of the great reconciling traditions of the church is to say to one another, "Peace be with you." Make this a regular part of your conversations this week. Bless others each day using "A Blessing to Give" from this *Taking Faith Home*.

