

FAITH FORMATION

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 5:38–48 Jesus asks us to go beyond treating others in the same way we want to be treated ourselves. He asks us to care for each other as God does—to love other people without expecting love in return and to even love to our enemies. This is an invitation that takes a lifetime to grow into and fulfill. It is a challenge for the family to keep this message alive in a world that puts a premium on competition and on being “better.”

Promise (Grades Pre-School, K and 1): Jesus taught us that we must love and forgive our enemies. Your child explored the call to turn the other cheek and walk the extra mile. Talk with your child about how members of the family need to forgive one another. Support that conversation by being quick to forgive your child when he or she needs to be forgiven. Start teaching your child the Our Father.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Ask your child to share what Jesus said about forgiveness. Give examples of ways your family can show love to your “enemies.” Continue the conversation at home as how we learn to forgive others when we are hurt. Pray the Our Father together as a family

Venture (Grades 4–6): Children are most sensitive to bullying words. Talk to your child about the effect that kind words have on all of us. Talk about what Jesus means when he asks that you love your enemies and to pray for those who do you harm. Discuss how important forgiveness is for the good of your family. Talk, too, about how praying the Our Father can help you learn how to forgive.

