Teaching the Liturgical Year

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
(Middle and Upper Elementary)

September 13, 2020 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus preaches on the importance of forgiveness. There should be no limit to how often we forgive our brother and sister. God is constantly forgiving us, and He calls us to do the same for others. In this lesson, students will reflect on two pieces of sacred art and consider how they should respond to forgiveness.

Directions

A. Have your students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions.
B. Review and discuss the answers when they have completed the focus questions.
C. In groups of three or four, have your students reflect on the paintings of Peter’s Denial by Anton Robert Leinweber and Christ’s Charge to Peter by Raphael using the given reflection questions.
D. When Complete, call on students to share and discuss their answers.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. Peter asks Jesus how many times he must forgive a brother who sins against him.
2. He tells Peter he has to forgive His brother seventy-seven times.
3. He is to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.
4. The servant does the king homage and begs for time to repay the loan in full. The king is then moved with compassion and wipes away the loan.
5. He chokes the servant and demands he pay back the loan. He refuses to listen when the servant begs for mercy and throws his fellow servant into prison until he can pay back the debt.
6. He summons the wicked servant and tells him that he should have had mercy on his fellow servant the way the king had mercy on him. The king then hands the servant over to the torturers until he should pay back his debt.

7. Forgive our brothers from our heart.