

May 26

Matthew 5:17-26

In these verses, Jesus teaches about the importance of God's law, and about our relationships with others.

Question to Consider:

Jesus says that we should reconcile (settle our differences) with others before coming to the altar. Is there someone you need to reconcile with? Why haven't you reconciled already? Why not do it now?

Prayer:

Gracious God, help me to love like Jesus loved. If there is someone I need to reconcile with, help me to do that with words and actions that will heal. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

May 27

Matthew 5:38-48

In this passage, Jesus teaches about the importance of loving our enemies.

Question to Consider:

Is there someone you consider an enemy? Who? Why? Is there someone who may not be an "enemy," but is someone who you really don't like? Who? Why?

Prayer:

Forgiving God, I pray for my enemies (*name them, if you can*). And, I pray for the people I just don't like (*name them, if you can*). Help me to forgive if forgiveness is needed, and help me to see all people – even the ones I don't like – the way you do. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

May 28

Matthew 6:5-15

Here, Jesus teaches about prayer.

Question to Consider:

Which statement in the Lord's Prayer comes most easily to you? Which one is the most difficult?

Prayer:

Father, the prayer Jesus taught can be a very challenging prayer, if I pray it sincerely. Help me as I pray, so that my relationship with you grows deeper and my life becomes more like you want it to be. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

May 29

Matthew 6:25-34

In these verses, Jesus teaches about worry.

Question to Consider:

What do you worry about most? Has it helped?

Prayer:

Almighty God, this teaching of Jesus is straightforward and easy to understand – I should not worry. But, too often I do. Increase my faith. Help me to worry less and trust you more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

May 30

Matthew 7:1-5

Jesus teaches about the importance of seeing ourselves honestly.

Question to Consider:

We all have planks in our eyes – behaviors that separate us from God and from others, choices that God would not have us make. What plank is in your eye?

Prayer:

Gracious God, you are loving and forgiving and you judge me with grace. Help me to see myself honestly, to change what needs to change, and to be more gracious as I relate to others. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

May 31

Matthew 7:7-12

Jesus teaches about prayer and faith in these verses, and he says the words we know of as the Golden Rule (verse 12).

Question to Consider:

Do you usually treat others as you would want to be treated? When does it come most naturally? When is it the most difficult?

Prayer:

Loving Father, you love me even though I am not always easy to love. Help me to love others in that same way. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.