

[106] SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C

FIRST READING

Lord, do not be angry if I speak.

A reading from the second book of Genesis

18:20-32

The Lord said to Abraham,

“I have heard that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah
are doing all kinds of evil things.

Now I am going down to see if those people are really that bad.
If they aren't, I want to know about it.”

The men turned and started toward Sodom.

But the Lord stayed with Abraham, who asked,

“Lord, when you destroy the wicked people,
are you also going to destroy the good ones?

Would you spare the city if there are fifty good people in it?

Surely, you wouldn't let the good ones be killed
when you destroy the bad ones.

You are the judge of the earth,
and you do what is right.”

The Lord replied, “If I find fifty good people in Sodom,
I will save the city to keep them from being killed.”

Abraham answered,

“Lord, I am nothing more than the dust of the earth.

Please forgive me for daring to speak to you like this.

But suppose there are only forty-five good people in Sodom.
Would you still wipe out the whole city?”

The Lord replied,

“If I find forty-five good people,
I won't destroy the city.”

Abraham asked the Lord,

“Suppose there are just forty good people?”

The Lord replied, “Just for them, I won't destroy the city.”

Abraham Said, “Lord, please don't be angry,
if I ask you what you would do

if there are only thirty good people in the city.”

The Lord replied, “If I find thirty, I still won't destroy it.”

Then Abraham said, “Lord, I don't have any right to ask.

But what would you do if you find only twenty?”

The Lord replied, “Because of them, I won't destroy the city.”

Finally, Abraham said, "Lord, Please don't become angry,
if I speak just once more.
Suppose you find only ten good people there."

The Lord then replied,
"For the sake of ten good people,
I still won't destroy the city."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

138:1-2a, 2bcdef-3, 7abde-8abc

R. (3a) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

With all my heart
I praise you, Lord.
In the presence of angels
I sing your praises.
I worship at your holy temple.

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I praise you for your love
and your faithfulness.
You were true to your word
and made yourself more famous
than ever before.
When I asked for your help,
you answered my prayer
and gave me courage.

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I am surrounded by trouble,
but you protect me.
With your own powerful arm
you keep me safe.
You, Lord, will always
treat me with kindness.
your love never fails.

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

ALLELUIA

Romans 8:15bc

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children,

and in that Spirit we call God our Father.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Ask and you shall receive.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

11:1-10

When Jesus had finished praying,
one of his disciples said to him,
“Lord, teach us to pray,
just as John taught his followers to pray.”

So Jesus told them, “Pray in this way:
‘Father, help us to honor your name.
Come and set up your kingdom.
Give us each day the food we need.
Forgive our sins,
as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us.
And keep us from being tempted.’”

Then Jesus went on to say:
“Suppose one of you goes to a friend in the middle
of the night and says,
‘Let me borrow three loaves of bread.
A friend of mine has dropped in,
and I don’t have a thing for him to eat.’
And suppose your friend answers, ‘Don’t bother me!
The door is bolted, and my children and I are in bed.
I cannot get up to give you something.’

“He may not get up and give you the bread,
just because you are his friend.
But he will get up and give you as much as you need,
simply because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.

“So I tell you to ask and you will receive,
search and you will find,
knock and the door will be opened for you.
Everyone who asks will receive,
everyone who searches will find,
and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C**

Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
We want to become best friends with you. Please help us to remember to talk to you at all times.
In your name we pray.
Amen

Readings:
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138:1-2a, 2bcdef-3, 7abde-8abc
Luke 11:1-10

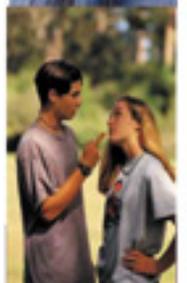
Reflection:
God teaches us about prayer today. Prayer is so important! It is one of the best ways to become a 'bff' (text-speak for 'best friends forever') with God. Think about the different things you talk about with your best friend. Things like your soccer game, or how hard last night's homework was, or how excited you are about your birthday coming up, or how mad your parents made you when they wanted you to do jobs around the house when you had a TV show to watch, or how much you love to play at the pool. Believe it or not, God wants to chat with you about the very same things! Many people think that prayer is only the certain words you say at Church or before meals or before going to bed. Those prayers are very important. They help us to communicate with God with our whole Church community. There are also many other types of praying. Singing or being quiet or thinking about a certain line from the Bible are some of those. Simply talking to God throughout the day is one of the best ways to pray. There is no right or wrong way to do it. Just tell God what you are thinking, feeling and doing. God wants to hear when you've done something good and when you've done something bad and want to say you are sorry. Tell God everything, all the time. Even when you don't know what to say, God will be happy to hear a simple "Hi God!"

Discussion:

1. What do you talk about with your best friend?
2. Can you talk to God about those things? Why or Why Not?
3. Where can you talk to God?
4. What would help you remember to talk to God all day and all night long?

Activity: "Hi God"
Materials needed: Regular paper or card stock, markers/crayons/paint etc.
Optional Materials: The music CD, Hi God, by Carey Landry

The purpose of this activity is to create a picture that will help the children remember to talk to God always.



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Create a paper with the words "Hi God" written in BIG letters across it. Make enough copies for everyone in the class.

Younger children can color the pages. Older children can write things they would like to say to God and sign it "Your BFF" and their name.

Instruct the class to take their papers home and hang them somewhere that will help them and their family members remember to talk to God all the time. For example: on the refrigerator, on the wall next to the TV or computer, on the bathroom mirror, next to the phone, etc.

Play the album/CD, Hi God, by Carey Landry, while the class is working on their project.