

Getting Ready for Chapter 16

Take Home



The Commandments and Praying for Forgiveness

The Bible tells of God's great love for us. The writers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, tell stories about God's creation of the world. One story is about Adam and Eve. God gave them the gift of free will. The Bible says that because Adam and Eve used that gift to reject God's love, Jesus was sent to redeem their descendants from sin and death.

ACTIVITY

A Place of Honor If your family has a copy of the Bible, put it where you and your child can see it each day. The Bible will be read more often if it is readily seen. If you do not own one, plan to purchase a copy. Ask your DRE or catechist at your parish for suggestions.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During the Lord's Prayer, recall the times you have failed to live according to God's will. Ask for forgiveness.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Blessed Mariana of Jesus (1565–1624)

At age 23, Blessed Mariana of Jesus became a discalced (without shoes) Mercedarian nun in Madrid. She is remembered for her life of penance, devotion to the Eucharist, and intense prayer life. She is also known as the "Lily of Madrid."

Feast Day: April 27



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, we are thankful for your unending love. Help us to follow the example of Blessed Mariana by remembering the need to forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Loans In biblical times, it was considered a good deed to lend to people in need. To secure a loan, the borrower had to pledge something such as his land or animals. Sometimes a borrower might even pledge a family member. If the loan was not repaid, the promised relative became a slave to the lender. Every seventh year, all debts were cancelled and these slaves were freed.

In Matthew 18:21–35, Jesus teaches forgiveness through the parable of the king who cancels the debt of his servant.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Social Justice

Dead Man Walking Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of Saint Joseph, lives in Louisiana and works with prisoners awaiting the death penalty. She recounts her efforts to spare a murderer from being executed in the book and film *Dead Man Walking*. Both the book and the movie center on forgiveness from and reconciliation with God.