

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 1

### Law/Gospel

Broken families and failed friendships are the result of sin. **Jesus' forgiveness restores my broken relationship with God and can heal my broken earthly relationships as well.**

### Bible Words

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.  
Ephesians 4:32

### From the Catechism

In the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Luther's Small Catechism, Part 3, The Lord's Prayer

## Esau Forgives Jacob

Genesis 31:3; 32-33

**A**fter twenty years, Jacob came home, bringing his wives, children, servants, and animals.

Jacob sent messengers to Esau, hoping to find favor with his brother. When the messengers returned with word that Esau and four hundred men were coming to meet them, Jacob felt very afraid. He turned to the Lord in prayer, asking Him to remember His covenant with His people and spare Jacob and his family from Esau's fury.

Jacob sent gifts of sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys for Esau ahead of his family, hoping to appease him. How surprised Jacob must have been when Esau ran to meet him, hugged and kissed him, and welcomed him home. Both brothers wept. What a welcome! What a joyful reunion!

Esau refused the gifts Jacob offered, saying he had enough. But Jacob insisted, saying, "If I have found favor in your sight, accept these presents. Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God, and you accepted me." Although the Bible does not record Esau's words of forgiveness, his actions show that he forgave Jacob. What a remarkable outcome for the brothers!

Perhaps you have experienced conflicts with friends or family members and struggle with forgiving others. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to ask God to forgive us. Forgiveness is a gift God gives us in His mercy and because of Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross for sinners. And the Bible says we should forgive others as the Lord forgives us (Colossians 3:13).

If you struggle with forgiving others, ask the Lord to change your attitude, give you gratitude for His forgiveness, and give you the ability to forgive. Jesus promised that God will always give these kinds of good gifts of the Holy Spirit to us (Luke 11:13).

### Prayer

*Jesus, thank You for forgiving our sins by Your grace. Fill us with kindness and the ability to forgive others as You forgive us, freely and with great joy. In Your name we pray. Amen.*

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