

Name _____

Directions for Creating a Prayer Service on Forgiveness

Your class will work together to create a prayer service on the theme of forgiveness. Your teacher will assign you to a group to work on one of the following parts. Write down the names of your group members and circle the title of your assigned part.

Group Members: _____

Part 1: Opening Song

Choose a song to start the prayer service and be ready to play it. The theme of the song should be the mercy of God. Coordinate with the group that is choosing the closing song so that you do not both pick the same one. The song could be sung, or it could be used as a meditation that the class listens to silently.

Part 2: Opening Prayer

On another sheet of paper, write a three- or four-sentence prayer to begin the prayer service. Your prayer must mention God's forgiveness and mercy. Be prepared to read it, beginning with the Sign of the Cross.

Part 3: Old Testament Reading

Choose a reading from the Old Testament that has God's forgiveness as the theme. You can look for ideas in article 53 of the student book and search online for Old Testament passages on God's forgiveness. Be prepared to read your selected passage during the prayer service.

Part 4: Psalm Response

Choose a psalm to use as a prayer to God. Some psalms that have forgiveness as a theme are Psalms 32, 51, 103. Decide if you will take turns reading the psalm to your class or if you will have the class recite the psalm together. You can also arrange the students into two groups and have them alternate reading the psalm verses or stanzas.

Part 5: Gospel Reading

Choose a passage from one of the four Gospels in which Jesus is talking about forgiveness. You can look for ideas in article 53 of the student book and search online for Gospel passages on forgiveness. Be prepared to read your selected passage during the prayer service.



Part 6: Visual Meditation

Find a short video of a song or story about forgiveness that reflects the themes of chapter 13 of the student book. The video should be less than 4 minutes. Be prepared to introduce and play the video as a visual meditation during the prayer service.

Part 7: Prayers of Petition

On a separate sheet of paper, write four to six prayers asking God's forgiveness for common sins committed in today's society. Some of these should be sins committed by teens. Do not name any one individual or group. Also decide on a response the whole class should say together after each prayer, perhaps something like, "Lord, forgive us." Be prepared to lead these prayers of petition at the appropriate time.

Part 8: Pope Francis Reflection

Decide on a short reading from the Pope Francis Homily on forgiveness on April 24, 2019. Search the internet for the words of this Homily. It is just over a page long. Choose one or two paragraphs from the Homily, and be prepared to read them as a reflection during the prayer service.

Part 9: The Lord's Prayer and Sign of Peace

Be prepared to invite the class to say the Lord's Prayer together and afterward exchange the sign of peace. On a separate sheet of paper, write down the words of your invitation (one or two sentences).

Part 10: Closing Prayer

On a separate sheet of paper, write a three- or four-sentence prayer to end the prayer service. The prayer should ask for God's help in asking for and in giving forgiveness. Be prepared to read your prayer and end with the Sign of the Cross.

Part 11: Closing Song

Choose a song to end the prayer service and be ready to play it. The song's theme should be on seeking forgiveness or on giving forgiveness. Coordinate with the group that is choosing the opening song so that you do not both pick the same one. The song could be sung or it could be used as a meditation that the class listens to silently.

