

Key Facts

- For Christians the pattern and ideal of family life is found in the Scriptures. God is the loving parent of the human family and Jesus was born and lived in a human family.
- It is in the love of a family that Christians first experience the reality of Church. Everyone begins life in a home and family or community of some kind.
- The Prophet, Isaiah, was inspired by God to urge people to look forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Saviour, who would rescue them from those who threatened them.
- *It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us.* Titus 3: 4-8
- God loves us recklessly, extravagantly even wastefully. Prodigal – means reckless, extravagant. The son is prodigal in pouring away his money; the father is prodigal in pouring out his love - this is unconditional love.
- Forgiveness is an essential part of unconditional love.

Big Question

Do people have to earn love?

Key Vocabulary

I can explain what these key words mean

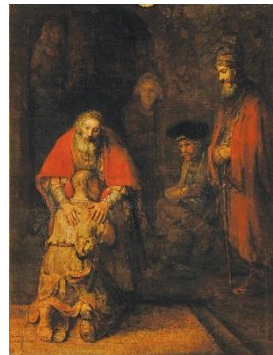
Unconditional	When something has no limits
Forgiveness	Deliberately letting go of any angry feelings
Mercy	Kind treatment shown to another
Prodigal	Being wasteful or extravagant
Parable	A short story told to teach a religious moral or lesson
Litany	A traditional form of prayer composed of short phrases a and response

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40: 1-5,9-11,28-31
 Psalms 23 and 136
 Luke 15: 11-32
 Matthew 5: 1-12, 44-48
 John 15: 9-14
 Ephesians 4:26, 31-32
 Titus 3: 4-8



Frank Wesley's "The Loving Father"



Rembrandt's "The Return of the Prodigal Son."

Act of Sorrow

O my God, I thank you for loving me.
 I am sorry for all my sins:
 for not loving others
 and not loving you.
 Help me to live like Jesus
 and not sin again.
 Amen.



THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
 FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,
 FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.
BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
 FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
 FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.
BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
 FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.
BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART,
 FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.
BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
 FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
 FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE INSULT YOU, PERSECUTE YOU AND
 FALSELY SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU BECAUSE OF ME.
 REJOICE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN,
 FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE
 BEFORE YOU.

MATTHEW 5:3-12