

Cycle C

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary #66

Reading I: Isaiah 62: 1-5

The imagery used in this passage from the prophet Isaiah reflects a marriage **commitment**. In this case, the nation of Israel has been unfaithful in their **commitment** to God and now God is working to transform their painful past into a glorious future. This is the hope that is true for all of humanity, no matter what has happened in our past. God can and does remake us so that we are transformed. Over and over again, God offers us his love through his **commitment** to us.

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

In this passage from Saint Paul's first letter to the Church at Corinth, we see that the church he established is beginning to fracture. When individuals in a group focus on themselves and not on what they can do for one another, divisions begin to appear. We hear this clearly when Saint Paul reminds the community that they have many gifts and that no gift is greater than another. He pleads with the people to remember the **commitment** they have made with God both individually and as a community.

Gospel: John 2: 1-11

This passage from the Gospel of John has been used to recognize the sanctity and sacramental nature of marriage. Marriage is a unique **commitment** of exclusive love that ideally results in many goods for society, such as in children that will enrich the world and the church. The Church has long celebrated the fact that Jesus performs his first miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana, which celebrates the special **commitment** that is made through marriage.



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



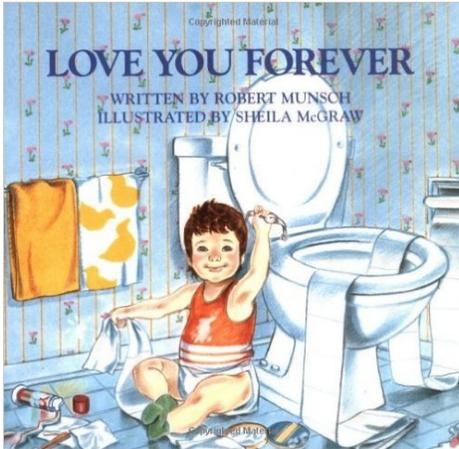
ordinary
time



lectionary
reading



children's story



Love You Forever

Written by Robert Munsch

Illustrated by Sheila McGraw

Publication: Firefly Books (September 1, 1995); original publication 1986.

ISBN-10: 0920668372

ISBN-13: 978-0920668375



character
education
activity

**Commitment is an act, not a
word.**

-Jean Paul Sartre

Love You Forever

A young woman holds her newborn son and looks at him lovingly while she sings:

I'll love you forever

I'll like you for always

As long as I'm living

My baby you'll be.

So begins this story of love and the **commitment** between a parent and a child. When reading this story, keep in mind the ways that parents and children live out their **commitment** to love and respect each other.

Having a Buddy Helps!

Step One: Ask each student to think about one goal that they believe they can accomplish by the end of 30 days. Instruct them to write down their goal and how easy or difficult they think reaching this goal will be.

Step Two: Pair the students up so that each one has a buddy. Tell them that, as buddies, their job is to help each other stay on track and remaining true to their **commitment**. Have the students share their goals with their buddy and have them explain why they want to reach this goal. Help the pairs of students come up with a plan to check in with each other and see how they are progressing towards their goals. Remind the students that they are to be each other's cheerleaders.

Step Three: At the end of the month, have each student share with the class what their goal was and what progress they made. Be sure that they talk about how their goal buddy helped them through the process.

Step Four: Lead the students in a discussion regarding the importance of **commitment**, dedication, and perseverance when tackling personal goals.

Make sure of your commitment to Jesus Christ, and seek to follow him every day. Don't be swayed by false values and goals of this world, but put Christ and His will first in everything you do.
-Billy Graham



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Living within any community, such as a family, requires each person to be faithful to the **commitments** that they make. Naturally, as you get older, you will begin to have more **commitments**, but even now, you are called to contribute to the well-being of your family and community.

If you have certain responsibilities or chores, think about how well you have remained **committed** to fulfilling them. If you are not sure about your responsibilities, ask your parents or an adult in your community if there is something you can do to help. Living out a **commitment** depends on being active and being a contributing member of whatever group you have made a **commitment** to. Think about all the groups or teams you belong to and reflect on if you are doing your part to remain true to your **commitments**.

Look Feel Know Act

When a group functions smoothly, it is usually because each member of the group remains faithful to their **commitment** to one another. The general well-being of these groups is felt deeply by every person in the group because they recognize the **commitment** that the other members have for the group and the respect that they have for each person. When we become aware of this and truly believe that we are stronger standing as a group than as individuals, we feel a strong sense of belonging, and that belonging remains healthy as we renew our **commitments**.

In today's Scripture selections and throughout the Bible, we are reminded of the **commitment** that God has made to humanity. Living out **commitments** has everything to do with maintaining and cherishing relationships. The importance of **commitments** in relationships is further explored in the story *Love You Forever*. Like the mother in this story expresses her **commitment** to love her child forever, so too does God **commit** to always love us.

One of the most traditional covenant prayers is known as the Suscipe Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola:



closing
tool

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To You, Lord, I return it.

Everything is Yours; do with it what You
will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace,
that is enough for me.



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together

www.scu.edu/character