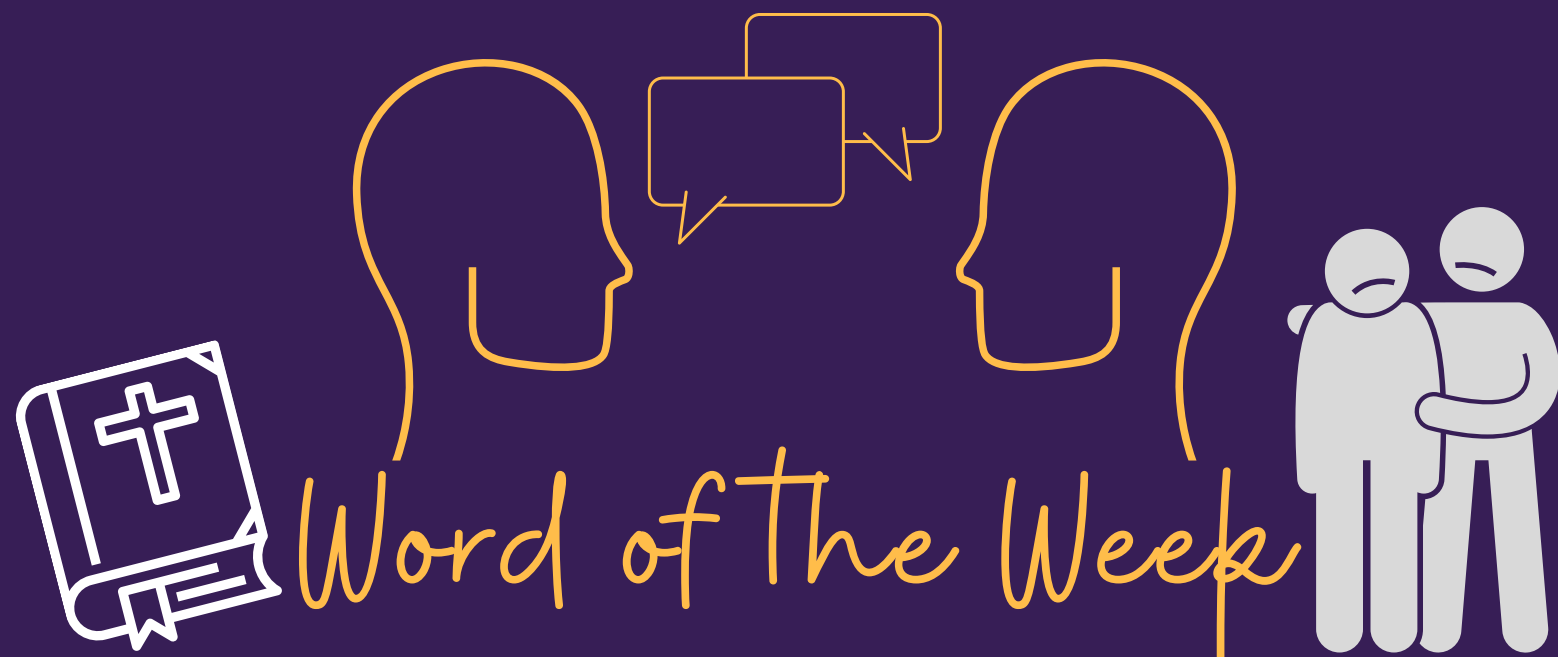


UNDERSTANDING



Word of The Week

This week's Word of the Week tells us to treat others as you would want to be treated. It also tells us how important it is to try and understand each other.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, [e] until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18: 21-35



Prayer for The Week

Lord Jesus Christ, grant me the gift of understanding. Help me to understand the feelings of others, the desires of others, the goals of others. At the same time, help me to understand myself in my actions and reactions. Widen my vision beyond my own small world to embrace with knowledge and love the worlds of others.

Help me, Lord, to always see you at work in my own life and in the lives of others. Bless me with insight, acceptance, and love . Help me to understand. Amen.

Imagine for a moment putting on someone else shoes. How do they feel? Are they too big or too small? Are they tight around the toes or slip off at the back? How comfortable are they? Imagine walking around in these shoes all day? How would your feet feel at the end of the day?

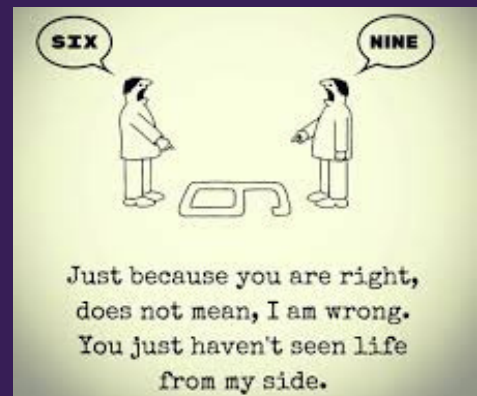


There is an old American Indian proverb that says:

"You should not judge a person until you have walked a mile in his shoes."

It isn't easy to walk a mile in anyone's shoes and understand fully what they go through, however we are able to listen to the experiences of others to try and understand more fully others lives.

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Have a chat...

We all wish to be understood, we all wish that people could see life as we see it so they understand us better.

Can you think of a time when you felt you weren't understood? How did it feel?

Can you think of a time when you felt like you were understood? What did that feel like? What did the person do to help you feel understood and listened to?

Talk to the person next to you.

"All our minds are narrower than we think, and blind spots and obsessions abound in them like bees in clover."

From an early age we pick up the prejudices and opinions of those around us. Then as we go through various experiences we add our own opinions to our collection of prejudices. This collective reflects how we feel about ourselves, our capabilities, our personality, our strengths and weaknesses. It also highlights our ideas about others, the categories that we place people in, the positive and negative feelings we have about certain groups.

We need to regularly have a 'spring clean', throwing out all our negative thoughts and developing our positive thoughts in order to develop a better understanding of those around us.

Something to watch...

- **Putting yourself in someone's shoes.**
[CLICK HERE](#)
- **Make me a channel of your peace.**
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