

Confession Prayer

Year B, Pentecost 2

By Beth Barnett

This is a prayer of confession using the text of 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and Mark 2:23 - 3:6 .

You can use it in any gathering.

You will need:

- Large 'flip chart' with 5 pages made to look like calendar pages (see below) clipped together at the top.
- Post it notes in various colours
- Markers
- Confession Prayer text on Screen (powerpoint included in the Visions and Voices Resource Zip) or printed copies

Time required:

2 minutes

Instructions

For a larger gathering:

During the confession prayer (see liturgy below) display the large flip chart calendar in a prominent place. Make sure the pages can be flipped over the top easily.

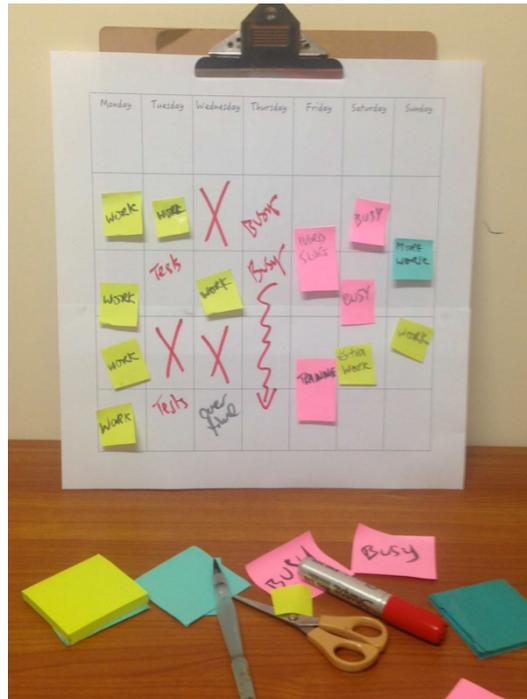
Pre-arrange a small team of people to work on filling each page of the flip chart calendar with writing using markers, and post-it notes saying 'busy'.

With each new section of the prayer at the response words 'Your mercies are new every morning', flip over to a clean new page, and begin filling it with post-it notes and writing until the next end of section.

With the final section (after "Forgive us Lord"), flip over the page but leave it blank. Invite the team of busy helpers that have been filling the pages to sit down and rest.

Optional: divide the lines between several readers (A, B, C as suggested) who are scattered amongst the seated gathering.





For a smaller gathering:

Place the calendar in the centre of your group, and distribute the post-it notes amongst your gathering.

Invite them to write 'busy' on notes and stick them on the pages.

As leader, flip the pages at the appropriate times.

With the final section (after "Forgive us Lord", marked in bold in the text below), flip over the page but leave it blank. Invite your gathering to sit down and rest.

Introduction

Friends, we are going to pray a prayer of confession together. I'm going to read out from the screen and I invite you to join in on the parts in bright blue.

I have some friends up here helping me out – they're doing a visual representation of this prayer on our behalf.

(alternative: I invite you to gather around this calendar and take a little pile of sticky notes and a marker. As we read through this prayer, write "busy" on sticky notes and stick them on the calendar, mindful of all the things we cram into our lives that keep us busy.)



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Confession Prayer

Lord of the Sabbath
the day of rest
You rolled up your sleeves and loved your work
Then you rolled over and rested
And your Sabbath rest was made for the benefit of humans
Not humans for the benefit of the Sabbath

[Your mercies are new every morning](#)

We have rolled up our sleeves
And rolled up to work
and the days have rolled on and on
(A)Forgive us for over-working our bodies
(B)Forgive us for over-working the bodies of others
(C)Forgive us for over-working the earth

[Your mercies are new every morning](#)

Young Samuel lived in the Temple day and night
(A)Forgive us for rushing in and out of worship
as if it's just another diary item
(B)Forgive us for missing your presence with us in the every day
(C)Forgive us for missing your voice when it comes to those who are small

[Your mercies are new every morning](#)

(A) Forgive us for filling our days with grudges and jealousies
(B) grasping for power and judging unjustly
(C) grumbling in our abundance and guarding our privilege.

[Forgive us, Lord.](#)

In your grace
we roll over a fresh page
and begin again to listen for your voice
and to learn your ways of love.
As we receive your mercy,
and gift of rest from striving,
may we leave space in our days
for you.
(Pause)

[Amen](#)



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