

A presentation for the Upper Atrium Children

Direct Aim: To lift up Jesus's moral teaching in the Maxims

Materials: this meditation and possibly a candle to light as the maxims are read; for personal work the two extra resource sheets can be used.

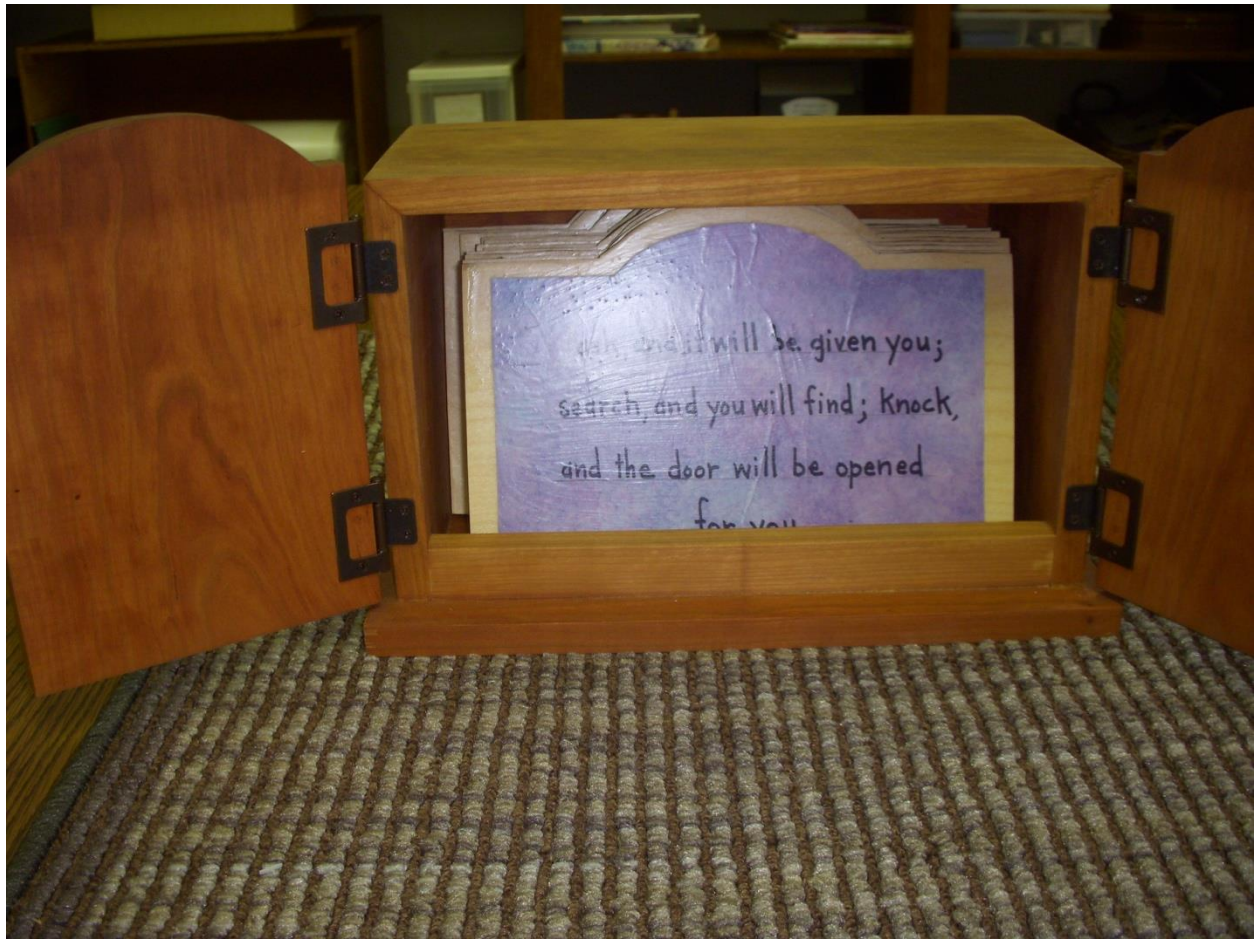
You may remember seeing this shelf in the Upper Atrium.



The shelf shows the scripture booklet for the presentation on the True Vine to the left on the shelf. In the parable of the True Vine, Jesus tells us that he wants us to remain with him in close relationship. He is the Vine and we are the Branches. God is the vine grower.

Next to the scripture is the Summary of the Law in which Jesus teaches us that to remain in close relationship with him, we must love God with our whole being and love our neighbor as ourselves.

But there are other materials on the shelf which help us remain on the vine.



Next to the Summary of the Law is a cabinet that holds twelve maxims. A maxim is a special kind of teaching. These teachings help us remain in close relationship with Jesus and teach us how to act with other people.

If we were in the atrium together, we would talk about just a few of the maxims at any one time. I am including them all here for you to ponder. One maxim tablet is being repaired, so one maxim is missing.

Choose one maxim to ponder. You may want to light a candle as you ponder the maxim to remind you that you are reading from the Bible.

What do you think the maxim means?

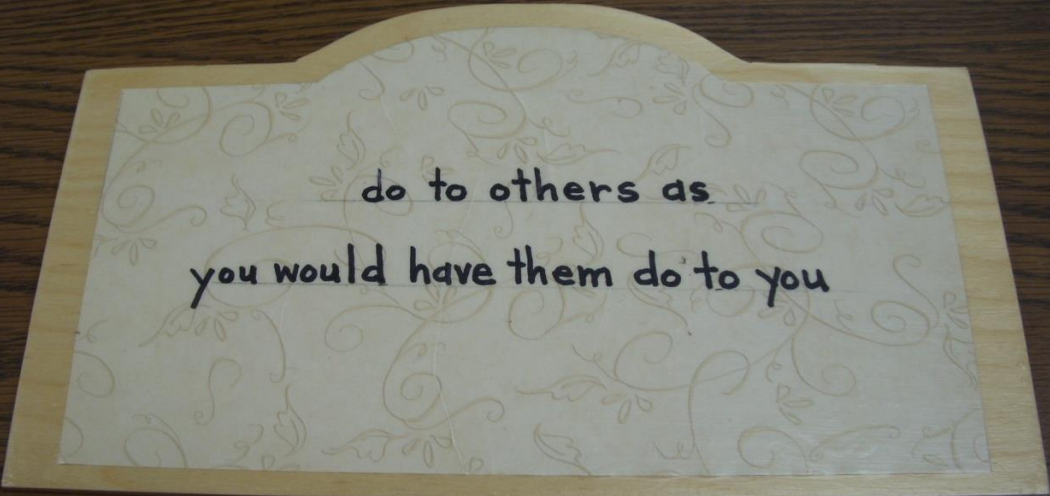
What would it look like to follow the maxim?

What would our community be like if everyone did this?

Where would we get the strength to do this?

Does the maxim you chose seem connected to any of the other maxims?

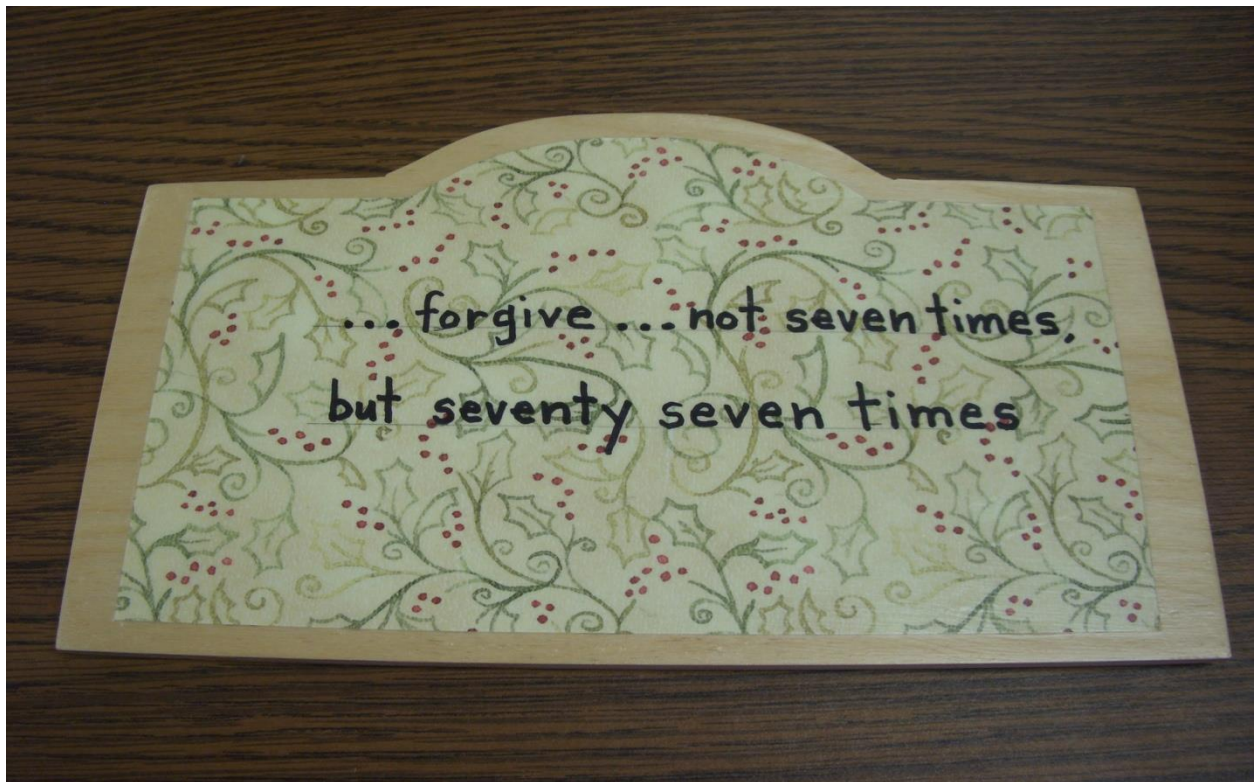
Does the maxim seem connected to the Summary of the Law? How?



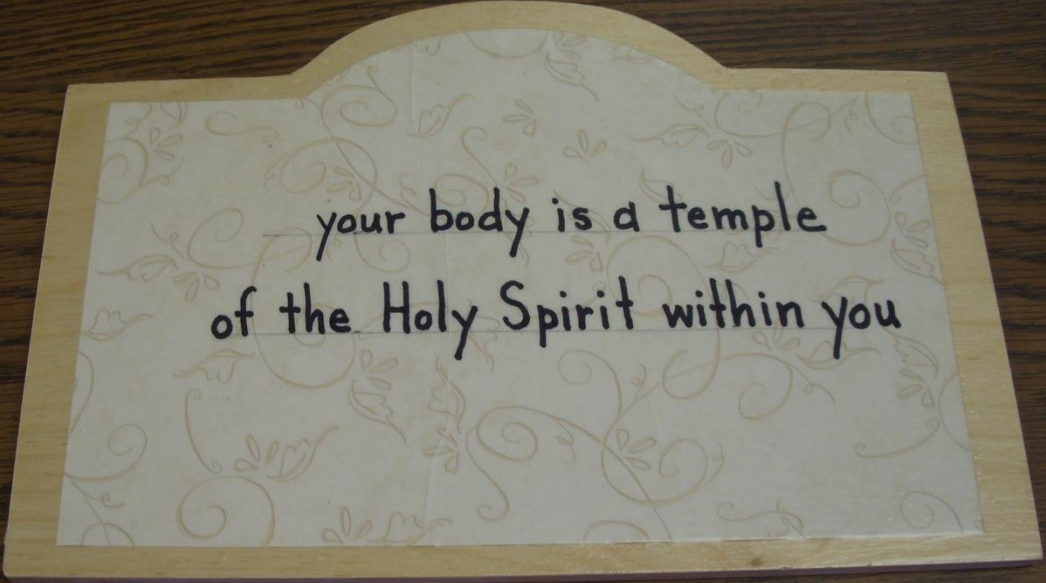
do to others as
you would have them do to you

whenever you give alms,
do not blow a trumpet before
you


ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find; knock,
and the door will be opened
for you



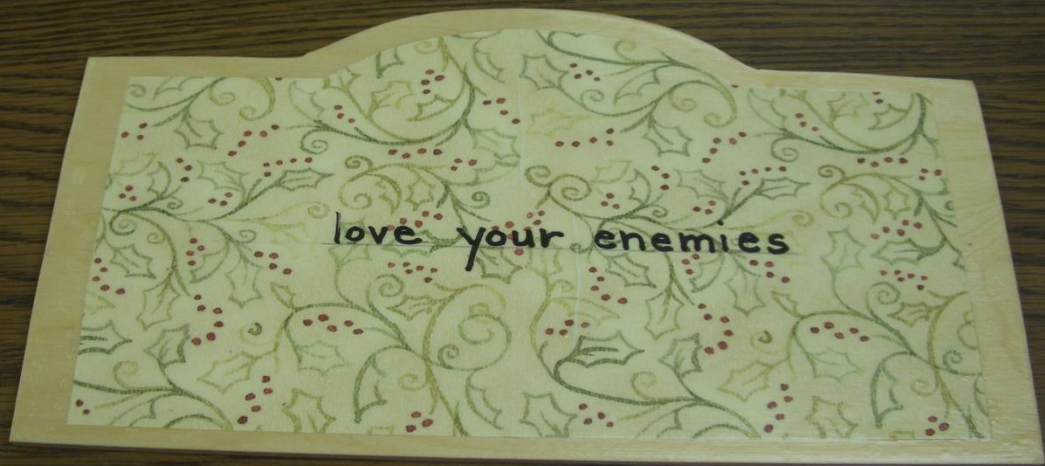
... forgive ... not seven times,
but seventy seven times

A rectangular sign with a decorative, arched top edge, mounted on a wooden board. The sign has a light-colored background with a faint, repeating floral and vine pattern. The text is written in a black, cursive-style font.

your body is a temple
of the Holy Spirit within you

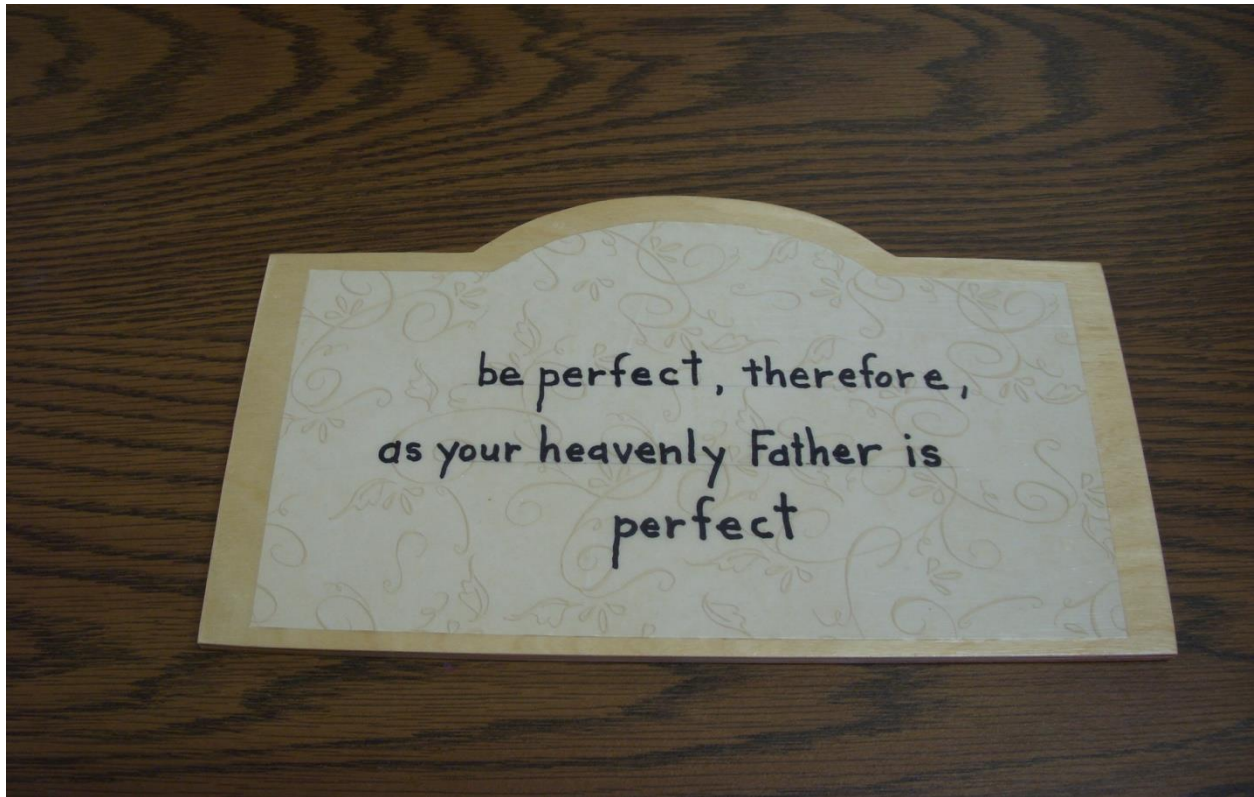
A rectangular sign with a decorative, arched top edge, mounted on a wooden board. The sign has a light-colored background with a faint, repeating floral and vine pattern. The text is written in a black, cursive-style font.

do good to those who hate you



I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another
just as I have loved you

give to the one who begs from you,
and do not refuse anyone who
wants to borrow from you



Is there anything you want to say silently or aloud to God, before extinguishing the candle.

Extinguish the candle.

These are some ways to use the materials. (as always these are optional)

- You might write one of the maxims on paper and decorate it. You might pick one that you want to think about.
- You might draw a picture to show what living the maxim might look like.
- You might want to sort the maxims in some way that shows how you think the maxims connect with each other.
- You might look for the maxims in the Bible using the citation sheet. In the atrium the location of each maxim in the Bible is on the back of the tablet.