



Theme: Love In Action/Conflict Resolution
Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 18: 15-20
September 6, 2020 Year A

Matthew 18: 15-20

15 "If your brother sins against you,[a] go and tell him what he did wrong. Do this in private. If he listens to you, then you have helped him to be your brother again. 16 But if he refuses to listen, then go to him again and take one or two other people with you. 'Every case may be proved by two or three witnesses.'[b] 17 If he refuses to listen to them, then tell it to the church. If he refuses to listen to the church, then treat him as you would one who does not believe in God. Treat him as if he were a tax collector.

18 "I tell you the truth. The things you don't allow on earth will be the things God does not allow. The things you allow on earth will be the things that God allows.

19 "Also, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about something, then you can pray for it. And the thing you ask for will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 This is true because if two or three people come together in my name, I am there with them."

Romans 12:9-21

9 Your love must be real. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. 10 Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourselves. 11 Do not be lazy but work hard. Serve the Lord with all your heart. 12 Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times. 13 Share with God's people who need help. Bring strangers in need into your homes.

14 Wish good for those who do bad things to you. Wish them well and do not curse them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy. Be sad with those who are sad. 16 Live together in peace with each other. Do not be proud, but make friends with those who seem unimportant. Do not think how smart you are.

17 If someone does wrong to you, do not pay him back by doing wrong to him. Try to do what everyone thinks is right. 18 Do your best to live in peace with everyone. 19 My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you. Wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: "I am the One who punishes; I will pay people back,"[a] says the Lord. 20 But you should do this:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if your enemy is thirsty, give him a drink.

Doing this will be like pouring burning coals on his head." *Proverbs 25:21-2* 21 Do not let evil defeat you. Defeat evil by doing good.

Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, who gives us our friends and community, be with us as we hear your words. Help us to remember that we are meant to live together and serve you in our everyday lives. Amen.

The Story:

Read from the International Children's Bible readings on first page or from a children's bible.

Watch Video- [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

In the Bible we hear stories of many people. These people are just like us, they eat and sleep, go to school and work. God has a plan for each of them, and in hearing the stories we learn that God's plan is for each of us too. Jesus said to his followers, "If a friend hurts you, go and tell them and work it out between the two of you. If he or she listens, then you have made a friend. If that person won't listen, take one or two others along with you so that they can help. Try to talk to that person again. If that person still won't listen, tell the church. If he or she won't listen to the church, you will have to start again, and offer God's forgiving love. "Take this seriously because a yes on earth is a yes in heaven; a no on earth is a no in heaven. What you say to one another lasts forever. When two or three of you are gathered together in my name, I am with you."

The Apostle Paul was a follower of Jesus. He wrote about Love in Action, telling us how we should treat others.

Watch Video: [Romans 12:9-21](#)

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder why teaching the people how to get along was important to Jesus?
- I wonder what Jesus was trying to teach us?
- Why do you think that Paul wanted to tell people how we should love one another.
- When you have a conflict/problem with someone else, what should you do?

Teaching/Activity

We should try to live in love as Jesus and Paul both taught us. To be kind and live with actions that reflect love. But what about when someone does something that hurts us? Has that ever happened at home or at school? Forgiveness is hard sometimes, but when we are able to forgive others, our church, home, school, and communities can become whole.

Today Jesus taught us what to do if someone is being mean to us or to someone else, if something we care about got lost or broken because of someone else. Do you remember some of the things he said? Once the children have time to respond, follow up with them saying: Jesus first taught us to talk to the person and ask them to stop. We are to do this in a loving way.

- Remember the Greatest Commandment – Love the Lord your God and Love your Neighbor as yourself.
- The Golden Rule – treat others how you would want to be treated.
- Be Respectful to the other person. If the person still doesn't listen, then go to them again and bring along another person or two. It is a good idea for you to bring a trusted adult with you. Sometimes you may need to involve the whole community to solve the problem. Finally, if the person that is being mean to you or

someone else still doesn't listen, we are to walk away from the situation and take a breather. Continue to communicate with the person and when they are ready to come into the community, welcome them.

- Talk to the person
- Involve someone else, like an adult.
- Walk away and when the person is ready, welcome them back.

*We should always try to live our life in love, but we have instructions from Jesus when we need to resolve problems with another person.

Craft Activity- See Picture Puzzle on sheet below.

Closing Prayer- As we close our time together, let us pray: We thank you for our time together today as we talked about ways to solve conflicts or arguments in our lives. Please help us remember that our goal is wholeness with you and our communities and that you are with us as we gather. Help us to remember that as members of God's family, we are responsible to and for one another. In your name we pray. Amen

CRAFT- Picture Puzzle

Before: You will need a copy of the "Putting it Together" crayons or markers, scissors, construction paper, magazines, and glue.

1. Copy the puzzle on cardstock paper, if available. If you do not have a printer, skip to step 5.
2. Give the children this puzzle and let them decorate it.
3. Cut out pieces (younger children will need help)
4. When they are done they will glue the puzzle in the middle of a piece of construction paper. Make sure all the puzzle pieces line up.
5. Let the kids pick out pictures from the magazines of people showing kindness and love
6. Glue the magazine pictures around the puzzle or to a plain piece of paper.
7. Have the children explain how they see kindness in the images they chose.

*Modification- Have your children draw a picture of someone showing kindness, or look online for images together of people showing kindness.

