

Activities for Juniors.

- **You can learn about how Jesus teaches his disciples.**

Now that the disciples really understand who Jesus is and why he has come to the Earth their relationship with Jesus has changed. They now understand what their new role will be as they will carry on the work of teaching people about God and God's Kingdom of love.

Now the disciples want to learn more from Jesus, and he is ready to teach them more about their new role as preachers to the people and leaders of a new church. But the disciples are still ordinary human beings and they are a bit competitive with each other. In today's reading the disciples have been asking Jesus who is the greatest one in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus tells them parables to show them that no one person is more important than anyone else in God's Kingdom. Then he goes on to advise them how they should deal with difficulties, especially as they begin as leaders in the new church. In this reading he speaks about dealing with people who are doing bad things. How should they be corrected? You can read the story to find out Jesus' advice.

Jesus also makes it very clear to the disciples that they have been appointed by him to have great authority; when the disciples agree something then God too will support their decision.

Finally Jesus makes a very special promise that he will always be with any group, large or small, who are meeting together in his name.

- **You can read the story as it is told in Matthew.**

If a person sins, does a bad thing, against you, go to them in private and talk about what they did wrong. If they listen and say sorry then you have won them back. But if they do not listen then talk to them again, but this time take one or two others with you so they can be witnesses who hear everything that is said. If the person still refuses to listen, then go and speak to the church leaders. The church leaders will decide who is correct and if they agree with you but the person still won't accept this, then the church should send them away. And I tell you this—whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever you free on earth will be freed in heaven.

I also tell you this—if two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask for, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I will be right there among them.

- **You can think about the reading.**

In this reading we see how Jesus continues to treat the disciples in a new way. He is teaching them about their new role and what they will need to do once they begin preaching and become leaders of the new Christian church.

This reading gives them a set of rules to follow and advises the disciples how they should deal with problems that may occur in the new church.

Jesus is very clear to tell the disciples that they will have special authority on Earth. The words say that **“whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever you free on earth will be freed in heaven”**. This means that if the disciples agree that a person should leave the church because they have done bad things, then that will be agreed by God in heaven. If the disciples forgive a person who says they are sorry for the bad things they have done, then they will be forgiven by God in heaven.

This amount of authority must be daunting for the disciples to carry. It very clearly puts them in charge of the new Christian church. It may be scary to take on this role. But Jesus also makes a promise that if the disciples work together, even if only two or three of them are able to meet together, then Jesus will be with them. This promise is not just for the disciples, Jesus promises to be with any group who meet together in Jesus' name.

How has the new school term begun for you? Have you been able to meet up with your friends? Maybe you have not seen them for a long time? Have you made some new friends?

What about your teachers? Were they pleased to see you again? And did they have lots to tell you? You probably had some new rules to learn about and follow. Your teachers will have a role a bit like the disciples in our story. They will need to make sure you are keeping to the rules so that everyone at school will be safe and so that lessons can work well and everyone can learn.

What can you do to help your teachers? Maybe you can follow Jesus' advice. If you see someone doing something wrong you can speak to them privately, but if they do not listen then speak to your teacher? You will need to be sure that you yourself are following the rules before you criticise anyone else. You can help your teacher most if you are following the rules and listening as well as you can.

Have you moved to a new school? How has this been? Remember you have a great opportunity to make new friends. In this second week you will start to learn which children you get on well with and start to strengthen your friendships. Remember that good friendships rely on being able to say sorry and forgive each other when things go wrong. Be kind to each other, do not expect things to be perfect from day one, but gradually learn to trust your new friends so that your friendship will be strong, even when

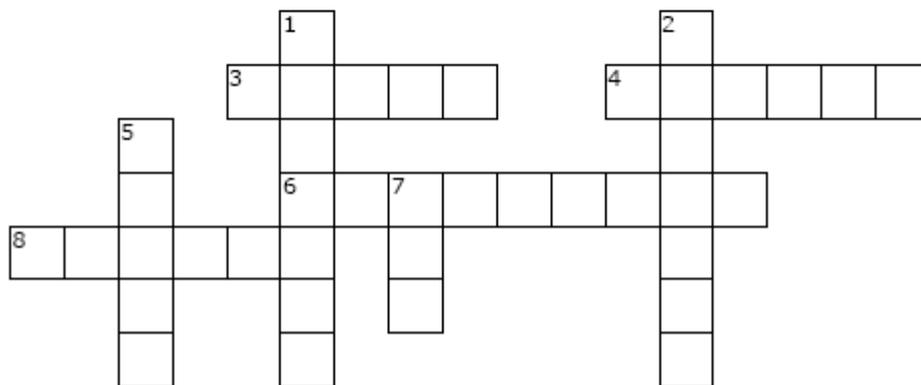
things do not work as you would wish. Saying sorry and forgiving each other will really help.

- You can do a crossword based on what Jesus said.

When Someone Hurts You

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. Matthew 18:15a

Based on Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. A statement proven to be accurate
4. To pay attention; To make an effort to hear something
6. A spoken or written statement that something is true
8. All followers of Christ as a group

DOWN

1. A member of the same race, church, religious group, or organization
2. A person who sees an event happen
5. A quality in a person that shows that they are not perfect
7. Breaking a religious law

BROTHER	TESTIMONY	SIN	LISTEN
WITNESS	FAULT	CHURCH	TRUTH

- **You can colour a picture based on the story.**

When we say sorry for the bad thing we have done then we can be forgiven and start over again. Saying sorry and forgiving are important. Being a good friend means we can say sorry when we have done something wrong. Being a good friend means we can forgive and start over with each other.

These three friends know how to forgive each other. Draw on some happy faces that show this, then colour the picture.

Forgiving Makes Us Happy

