



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## Cycle A - XXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Ezekiel 33, 7-9; Psalm 95, 1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 13, 8-10; Mathew 18, 15-20*

### Correcting your brethren.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

### Reflection

Jesus wants us to love our neighbor and to desire their salvation. He gives us steps to help them realize their sin. **What is the first step?** Correct them alone. **Why alone?** So no one else finds out giving them a chance to change without other's judgement. **What is the second step?** Take two/three other people with you because the person is more likely to listen to more people if corrected with love. **What is the third step if they still don't listen?** Tell the community (the family or the Church) to try and convince them.

**And if they don't listen to the community?** Separate from them as though they were a Gentile or Tax Collector. **Why a gentile or tax collector?**

A gentile did not love God or follow His commandments; a tax collector robbed people to make themselves rich and were hated. God wanted them to separate from the gentiles and tax collectors so they would not be tempted to follow their bad habits. In the same way, if we see someone doing bad things, we should separate from them so we are not tempted to imitate them and thus to sin. But since we want to save others, God gives us hope. **What else can we do?** We can pray for them. Jesus said: "If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I." **What happiness to know we can save others with our prayers! And how should we behave if someone corrects us?**



### Activity

Complete the crossword puzzle on the following page. On the page after, color the picture of Jesus with the children. Ask God for the conversion of someone.

### Prayer

Jesus, I pray that when correcting someone, you help me do it with goodness and love as you would. When someone corrects me, I pray that I may receive it with humility, trusting that they love me and desire my salvation. Amen.

**Song:** God is Listening, Lifetree Kids, <https://youtu.be/i2gi2omSqus?si=sox-AKA67B2FXMiz> (3-7 yrs.)  
God Who Listens, Chris Tomlin, <https://youtu.be/MbWOM4wc9bo?si=z73zEXulQgS32AuU> (8+ yrs.)

**PPT:** [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ssgF\\_MvlpWYezDZs6NloT6rIrkjv9vKV/edit?usp=drive\\_link&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ssgF_MvlpWYezDZs6NloT6rIrkjv9vKV/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true)



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Amigos de Jesús y María



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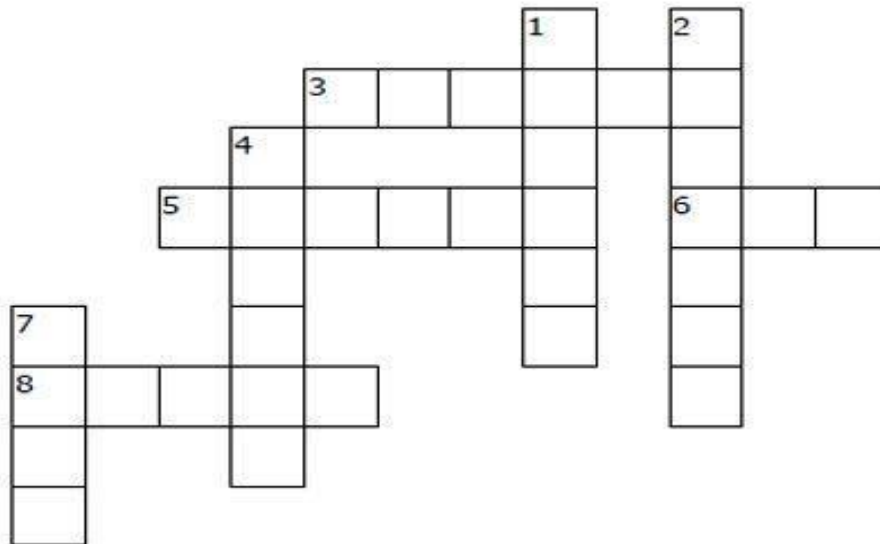
## Gathered in His Name

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 [NIV]

Puzzle is based on Matthew 18:15-20



Come Together



### ACROSS

- 3. A male parent; a term used to address God
- 5. A female who has the same parents as another person
- 6. The number that follows one (1)
- 8. To have the same opinion as another person

### DOWN

- 1. An organization that follows the teaching of Jesus
- 2. A male who has the same parents as another person
- 4. To give attention to a person who is speaking
- 7. What a person is known by and called

BROTHER  
LISTEN

SISTER  
CHURCH

FATHER  
TWO

AGREE  
NAME

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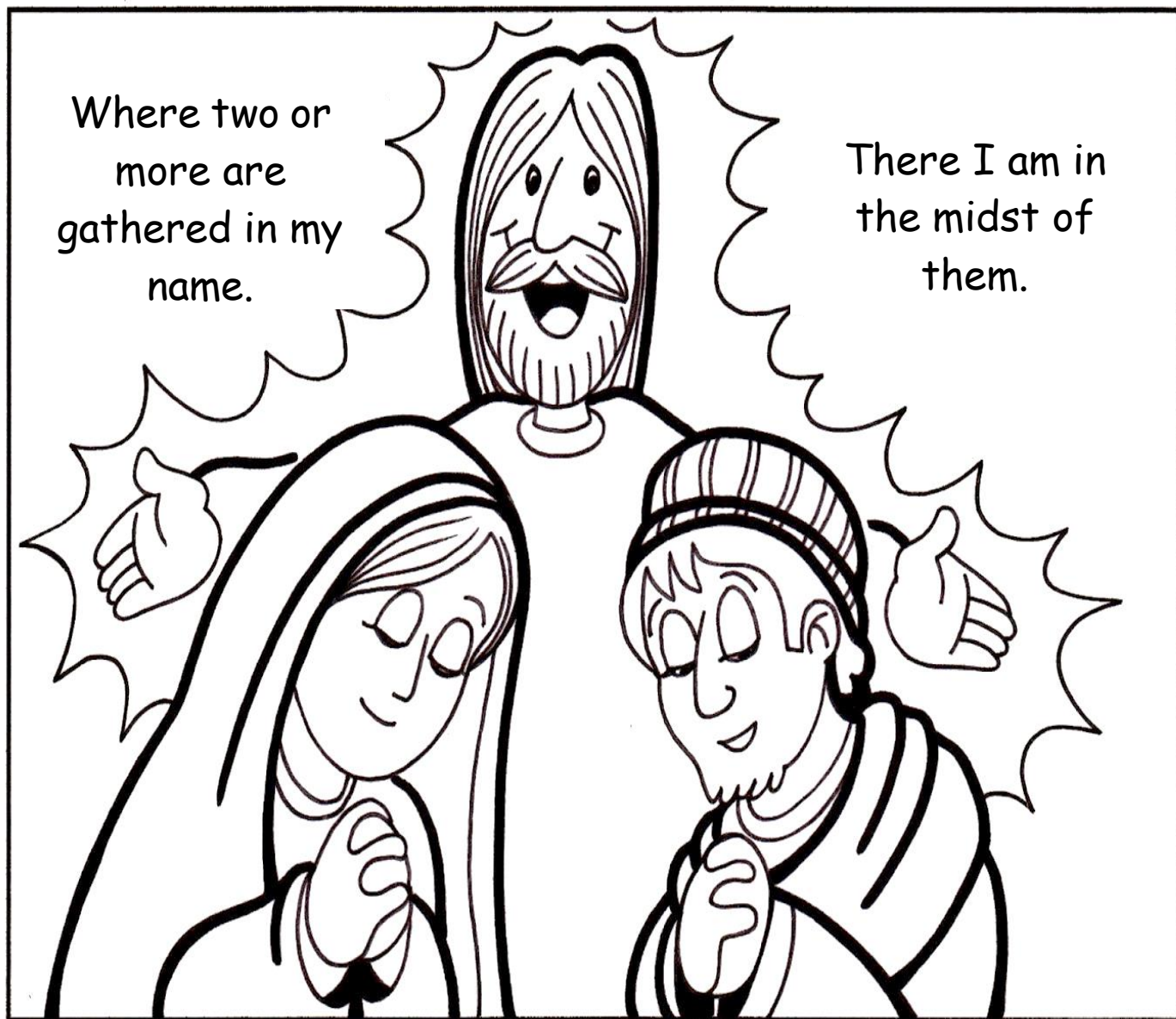
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CYCLE A

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-MATTHEW 18, 15-20



Dear Jesus, I pray for the conversion of: \_\_\_\_\_



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