



## Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

September 6, 2020

Ezekiel 33:7-11  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20



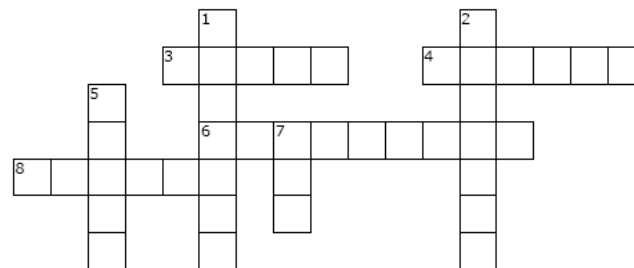
### 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Helllloooo friends! Let me ask you some questions. Do you get along with your family all of the time? Do you always agree with what your friends say? How about when you see your sibling do something wrong...what are you supposed to do?

Our gospel message from Matthew tells us exactly what we are supposed to do. Jesus tells his friends to do this "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses." You might be thinking...well, that's just at the church. Let me remind you that WE, ALL of us are The Church. We all belong to God's big family. So, if someone (a member of your family, a friend, neighbor, or anyone else) does something that we don't like, we are supposed to take them aside and tell them. We need to share with them what it is that upset us, point out what they did wrong (in a loving way) and pray that they see the error. If that doesn't help, Jesus tells us that we are to find one or two more people to help this person see what they've done wrong. We are honest in pointing out errors that are made to help the person become better, to do better. When we do this, we put a stop to gossip and holding grudges. We allow that person to apologize and we forgive them so that we can all move on. This is how we love and learn in a healthy community.

Loving God, help us to use our words to speak up when we've been hurt or when we see something wrong. Let us correct others by pointing out mistakes in a loving way so that we can move forward with forgiveness in our hearts. Amen.

## Crossword Puzzle



### 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

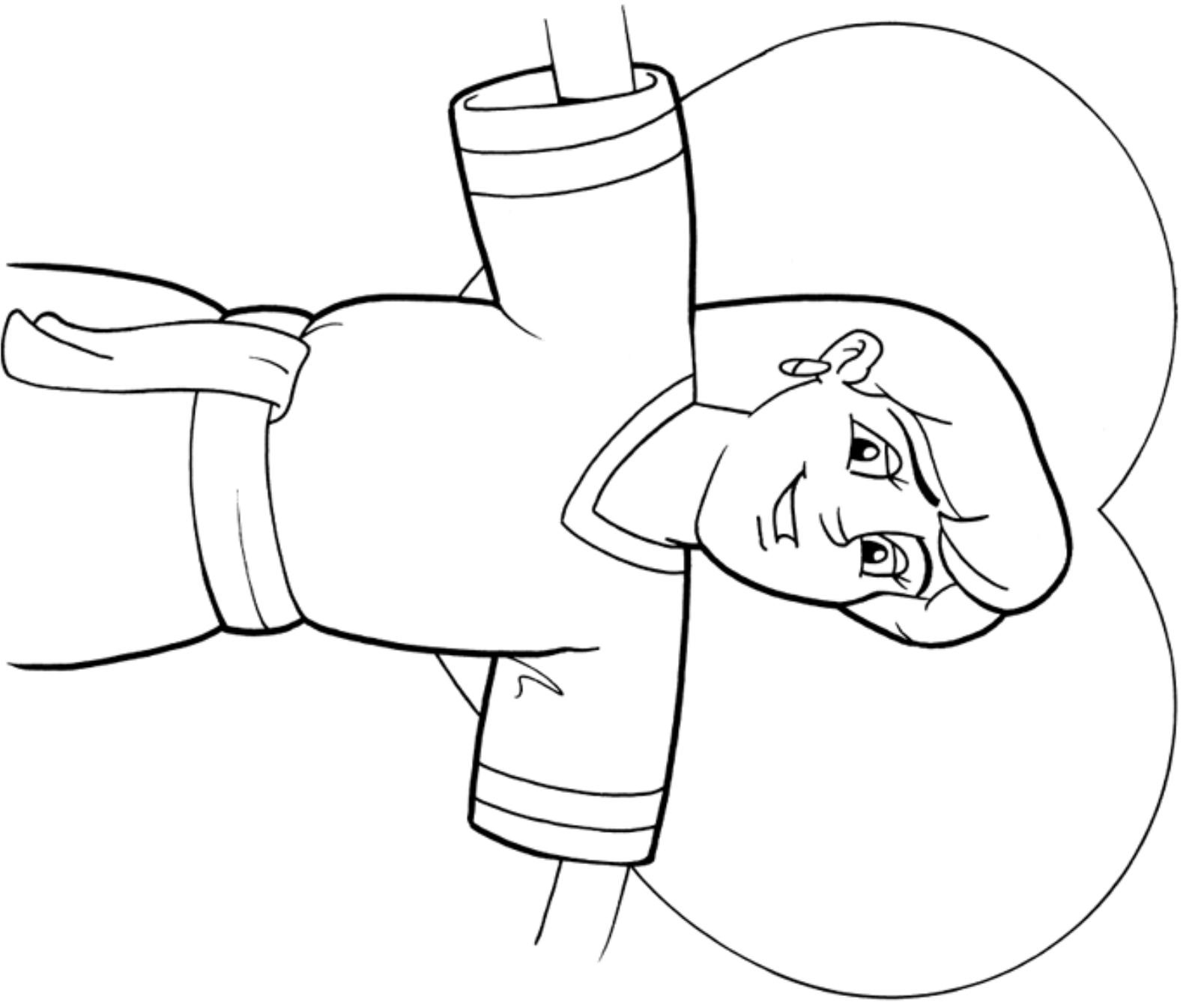
**Activity:** This week, practice using your words when something isn't sitting quite right. We confront others in love and forgive them. God forgives us, when we ask...we, too, should forgive others. Draw a great big heart on a piece of card stock. Color it and write the words "I Am Forgiven". Cut it out and put it in a place where you can see it daily.

**Discussion Question** What happened when you "called out" someone for doing or saying something that was wrong? Did they listen? Did you forgive them? What could you have done differently?

### Family Table Prayer for September:

Loving God you grant the seasons  
Colors change and leaves fall  
Bless us with all that we need  
So that we can share with one and all.  
Amen.

**September Memory Verse:** Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up. Galatians 6:9



**"If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him -- work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend."**

**Matthew 18:15 (NIV)**