



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – Sunday, September 6, 2026

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for young children (ages 4–8) and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings** for **September 6, 2026 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20; Preface of the Lord's Day

✨ Sunday School Lesson Plan

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6, 2026

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary

- Exodus 12:1–14
- Psalm 149
- Romans 13:8–14
- Matthew 18:15–20

Lesson Title: Jesus Helps Us Love One Another

Theme: Loving, forgiving, and living together as God's family.

Big Idea: Jesus teaches us to love one another, make peace when we disagree, and remember that he is with us whenever we gather in his name.

Lesson Focus for Kids:

Jesus is with us when we gather together. Jesus helps us love, forgive, and make peace.

Scripture Readings — Kid-Friendly Language

Exodus 12:1–14 — God Keeps His People Safe

God’s people were getting ready to leave Egypt. God gave Moses special instructions for a meal they were to share together.

Each family prepared food and ate together. They were told to be ready for the journey God was about to give them.

God promised to watch over them and lead them to freedom. God told the people to remember this special night and celebrate it for generations to come.

For children: God cared for his people and stayed with them on their journey.

Psalms 149 — Sing to the Lord!

The psalm tells God’s people:

“Praise the Lord! Sing a new song!”

We can praise God together. We can sing, dance, clap, and rejoice because God loves his people.

For children: We can be happy and praise God together!

Romans 13:8–14 — Love One Another

Paul tells us that there is one thing we should always keep doing:

Love one another.

When we truly love other people, we try to be kind, helpful, honest, and caring.

For children: When we love others, we are following God’s way.

Matthew 18:15–20 — Jesus Helps Us Make Peace

Jesus knew that sometimes people disagree or hurt one another’s feelings.

Jesus taught his friends not to stay angry or gossip about someone. Instead, we should try to talk kindly to the person and make things right.

Sometimes we may need another trusted person to help us.

Then Jesus gave his friends a wonderful promise:

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

For children: When we gather together to love God and one another, Jesus is with us.

Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

Gather the children in a circle.

Welcome each child by name and say:

“We are glad you are here. When we gather together in Jesus’ name, Jesus promises to be with us!”

Ask:

- Who is here with us today?
- What are some things friends like to do together?
- What can we do when friends disagree?
- What are some ways we can show love?

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus,
thank you for bringing us together.
Help us to love one another,
use kind words,
forgive each other,
and make peace when we disagree.
Thank you for being here with us.
Amen.

Memory Verse

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

— Matthew 18:20

Actions

“Where two or three” — hold up two, then three fingers.

“are gathered” — bring hands together.

“in my name” — point upward.

“I am there” — point to the middle of the group.

“among them” — open arms toward everyone.

For very young children, shorten it to:

“I am there among them.” — Matthew 18:20

Bible Story Time

Jesus Teaches His Friends to Make Peace

One day Jesus was talking to his friends.

Jesus knew that friends do not always agree.

Sometimes someone says something that hurts our feelings.

Sometimes someone takes something without asking.

Sometimes we become angry.

Sometimes **we** are the ones who make a mistake!

Jesus taught his friends what to do.

“Talk to each other,” Jesus said.

Instead of saying mean things about someone, go to that person and try to make things right.

You might say:

“You hurt my feelings.”

Or:

“I’m sorry.”

Or:

“Can we try again?”

Sometimes making peace is hard. We might need a trusted grown-up to help us.

Jesus wants his followers to forgive, listen, love, and work together.

Then Jesus made a wonderful promise.

He said:

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Look around!

We are gathered together in Jesus’ name today.

That means we can remember:

Jesus is here with us!

Story Questions

- Do friends sometimes disagree?
- What can we say when we hurt someone?
- What can we do when someone hurts us?
- Who can help us if we cannot solve a problem ourselves?
- Who promises to be with us when we gather in his name?

Jesus!

Craft / Activity

“Jesus Is With Us” Friendship Circle

Materials

- Paper plates or cardstock
- Construction paper
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue
- Crayons or markers
- Heart shapes
- Yarn, optional

Instructions

Give each child a large paper circle.

Around the outside, children draw simple pictures of themselves, family members, friends, or people from church.

Place a heart or cross in the centre.

Write:

JESUS IS WITH US

Around the edge add:

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Matthew 18:20

Talk about how Jesus is at the centre of our church family.

Easier Preschool Version

Provide pre-cut paper people. Let children colour them and glue them in a circle around a large cross or heart.

Game

Gather Together!

Have the children move around the room while you clap or play music.

Stop the music and call:

“Gather in twos!”

Children find a partner.

Start again and call:

“Gather in threes!”

Continue with different small groups.

Whenever everyone has gathered, say together:

“Jesus is with us!”

Finish by gathering everyone into one big circle.

Say:

“We are all part of God’s family.”

Safety note: Don't make this an elimination game. If a child doesn't immediately find a group, invite them into yours.

Song Suggestions

Songs that fit today's themes of love, community, and Jesus being with us include:

- **Jesus Loves Me**
- **Jesus Loves the Little Children**
- **This Little Light of Mine**
- **Love One Another**
- **They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love**
- **Peace Like a River**
- **The More We Get Together**
- **Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children**

For Psalm 149, add simple rhythm instruments and let the children joyfully praise God with music.

Snack Suggestions

Friendship Fruit Cups

Offer several kinds of fruit that children can combine into one cup.

Explain:

“There are different fruits in our cups, and there are different people in God's family. Together we make something wonderful.”

Other simple choices:

- Heart-shaped sandwiches
- Crackers and cheese
- Apple slices
- “Two or Three” snack — two or three different bite-sized foods

Always check allergies and choking risks.

Wrap Up & Reflection

Gather again in a circle.

Ask:

- What did Jesus teach us to do when we disagree?
- What can we say when we have done something wrong?
- How can we show love this week?
- What did Jesus promise when two or three gather in his name?

Repeat together:

Jesus helps us love.

Jesus helps us forgive.

Jesus helps us make peace.

Jesus is with us!

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,
thank you for our friends,
our families,
and our church family.

Help us to use kind words.
Help us to listen.
Help us to say sorry.
Help us to forgive.
Help us to make peace.

Thank you for your promise
that when we gather in your name,
you are with us.

Amen.

Take-Home Idea

Three Ways to Show Love

Invite each child to try three loving actions during the week:



Say something kind.



Help someone.



Make peace with someone.

Send home a small card saying:

This Week I Can...

- ☐ Say something kind.
- ☐ Help someone.
- ☐ Make peace.

“Love one another.” — Romans 13:8

Parents can help younger children notice when they have completed each action.

Teacher Notes

Matthew 18:15–20 provides an opportunity to introduce reconciliation without placing responsibility for serious situations on children.

Keep the message simple:

When ordinary disagreements happen, Jesus wants us to speak kindly, listen, forgive, and seek help when we need it.

Avoid teaching children that they must personally confront someone who frightens them or has harmed them. A child should always be encouraged to tell a trusted adult when something feels unsafe, frightening, or wrong.

The Exodus reading contains difficult imagery surrounding the Passover. With very young children, concentrate on God's care for the Israelites, their special meal, their journey toward freedom, and the importance of remembering what God had done.

Romans 13 provides the clearest overarching theme:

“Love one another.”

Connect this with Matthew by explaining that making peace is one way we show love.

Anglican Connection

We Gather as God's People

Every Sunday, Anglicans gather as a community to worship God. Jesus' words in Matthew are especially meaningful when the Church gathers:

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Remind the children that church is not simply a building. **The Church is God's people gathered together in Christ.**

Passing the Peace

Connect the lesson to an action the children may see during worship.

During the **Peace**, we hear words such as:

“The peace of the Lord be always with you.”

We respond:

“And also with you.”

Explain:

“The Peace reminds us that Jesus wants his people to live together in love and peace.”

Practice together:

Teacher: **“The peace of the Lord be always with you.”**

Children: **“And also with you!”**

Then let the children offer one another a wave, smile, handshake, or another appropriate sign of peace.

Eucharistic Connection

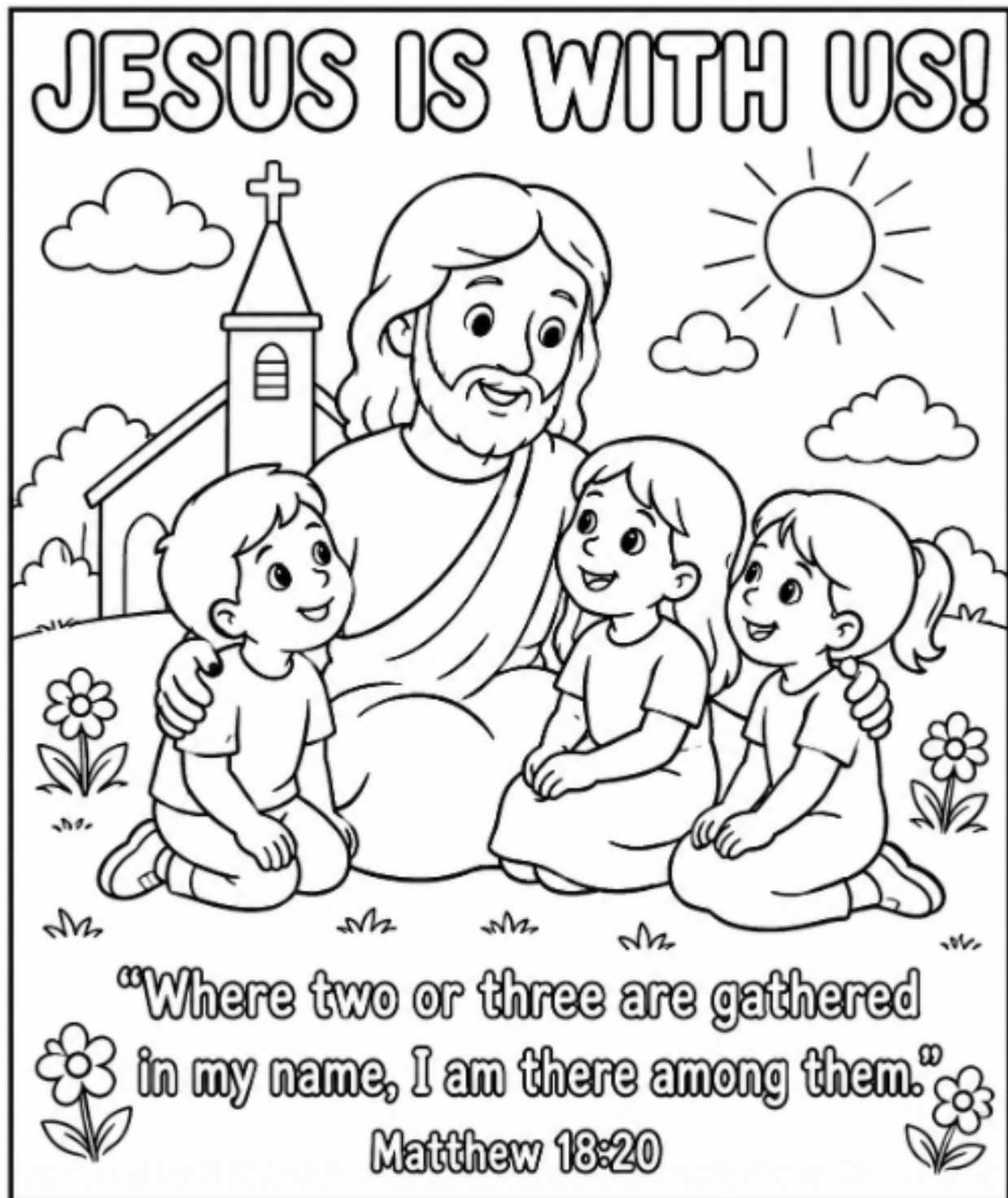
The Exodus story remembers a special meal shared by God's people. Christians also gather around a special meal—the Holy Eucharist—where we remember what God has done for us through Jesus.

For young children, simply emphasize:

We gather. We remember. We give thanks. Jesus is with us.

Jesus Helps Us Love One Another

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



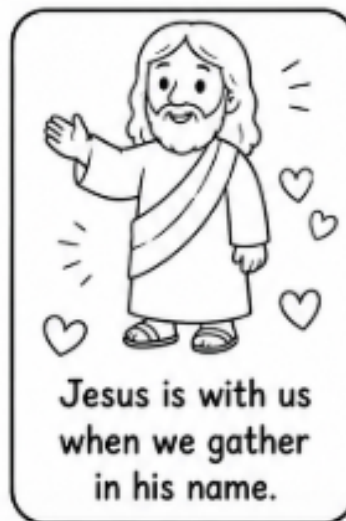
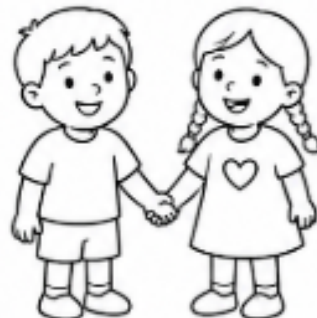
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♥ GATHER TOGETHER WITH JESUS ♥

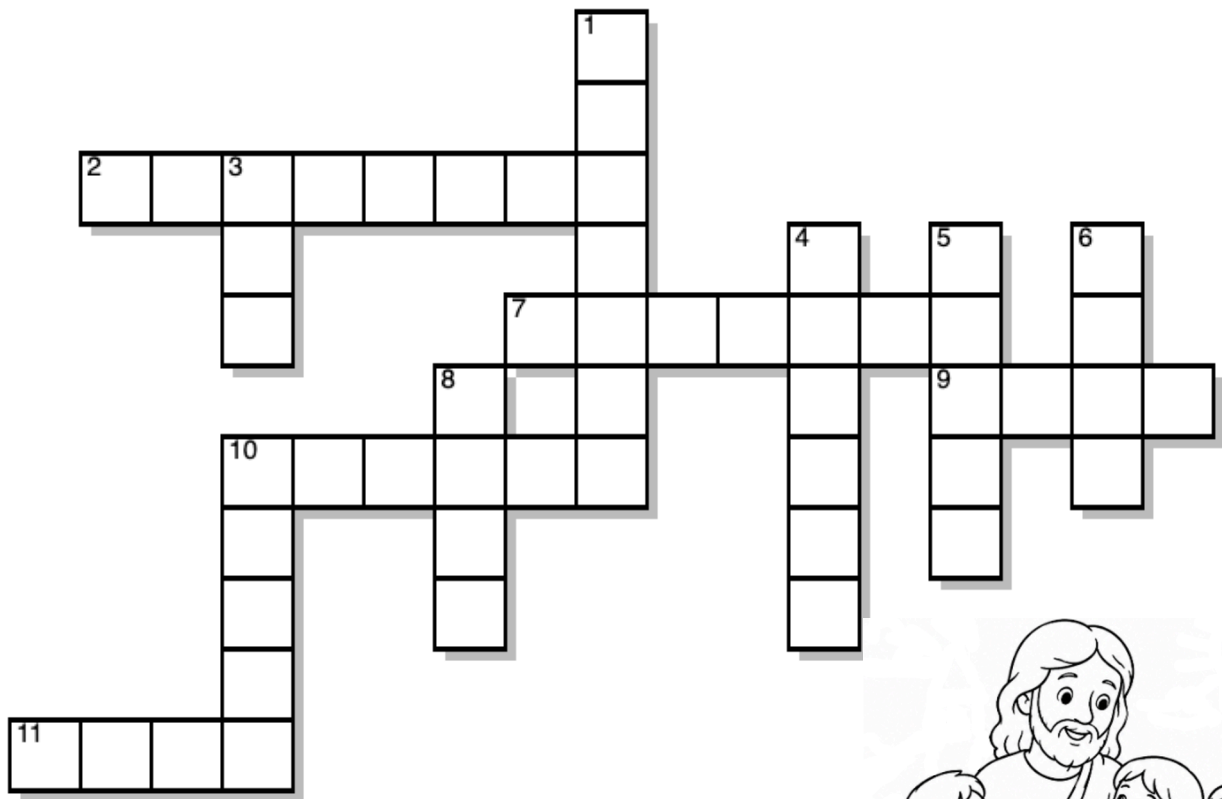
Activity 1 — Find the Groups

Circle every group that has
TWO or **THREE** children.



Jesus Helps Us Love One Another

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



ACROSS

- 2 Not apart
- 7 Error
- 9 Chant
- 10 Express approval
- 11 Devotion

DOWN

- 1 Pardon
- 3 Father of All
- 4 Relatives
- 5 Our Saviour
- 6 Considerate
- 8 Be alive
- 10 Harmony



Jesus Helps Us Love One Another

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D N I K B Y N G X
R E H T E G O T E
F P K B P D G V M
O R S A X E O R F
R A U Q T L A A Y
G I S L R S M C S
I S E V I I I I E
V E J D L V N M M
E P X Y Q G E B T

Jesus
Love
Forgive
Live
God
Family

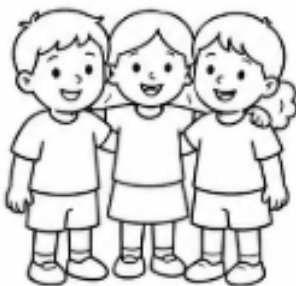
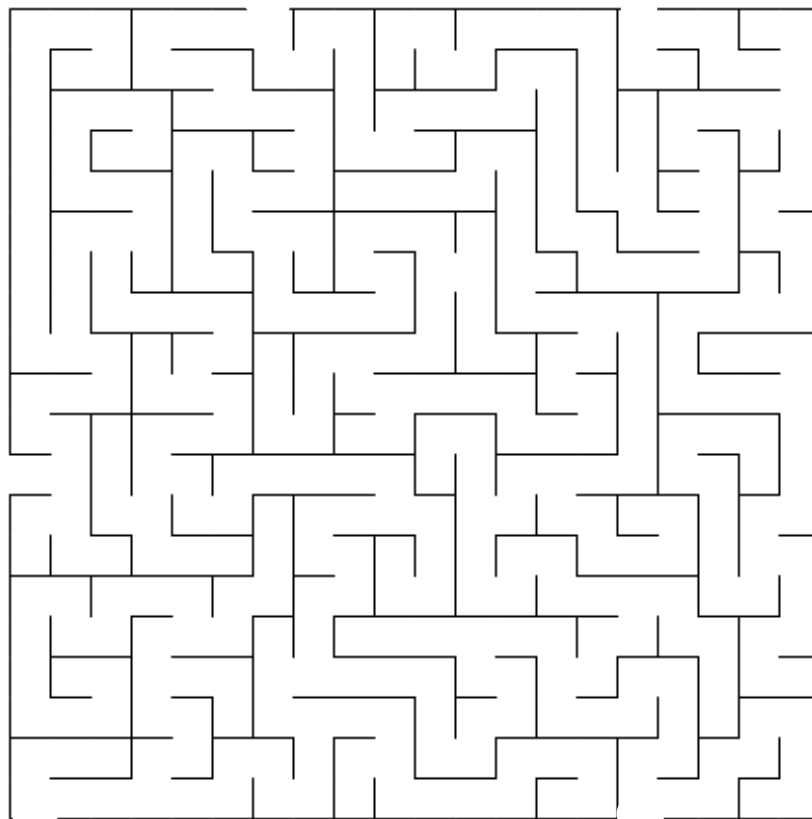
Peace
Praise
Sing
Kind
Together
Mistake



Jesus Helps Us Love One Another

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Help the children through the maze to find Jesus. You can use a different colour for each group.



Jesus Helps Us Love One Another

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

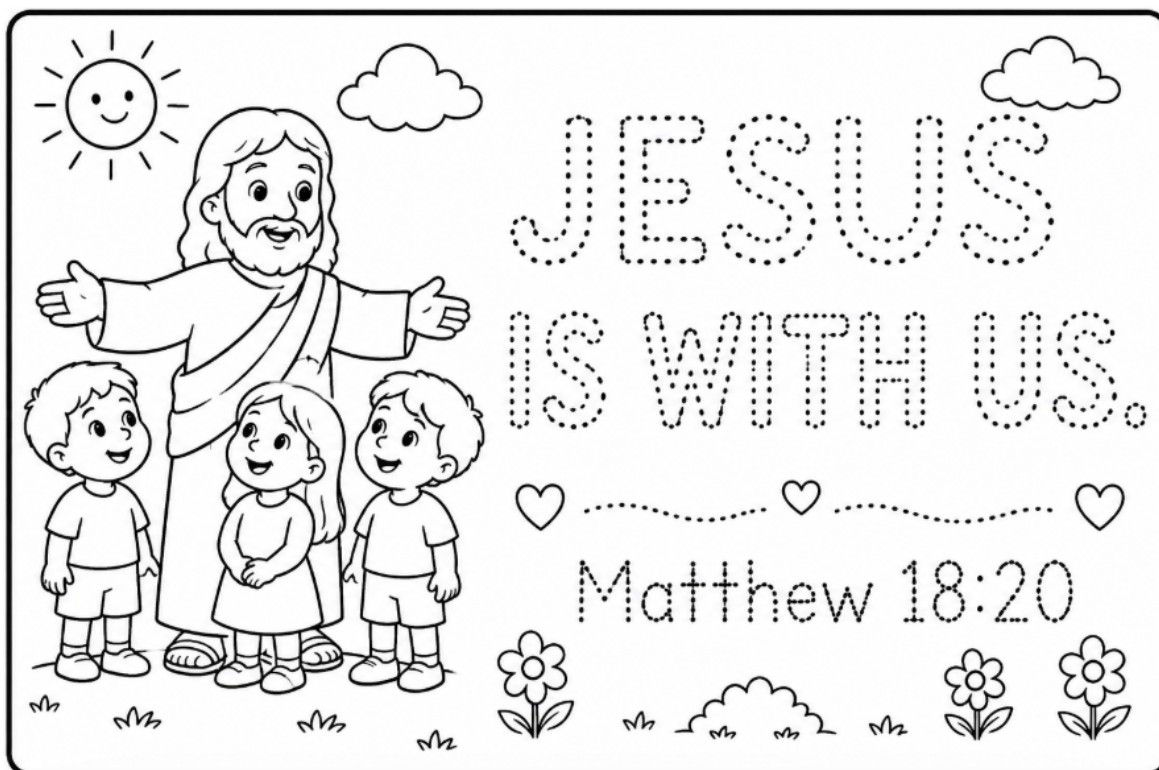
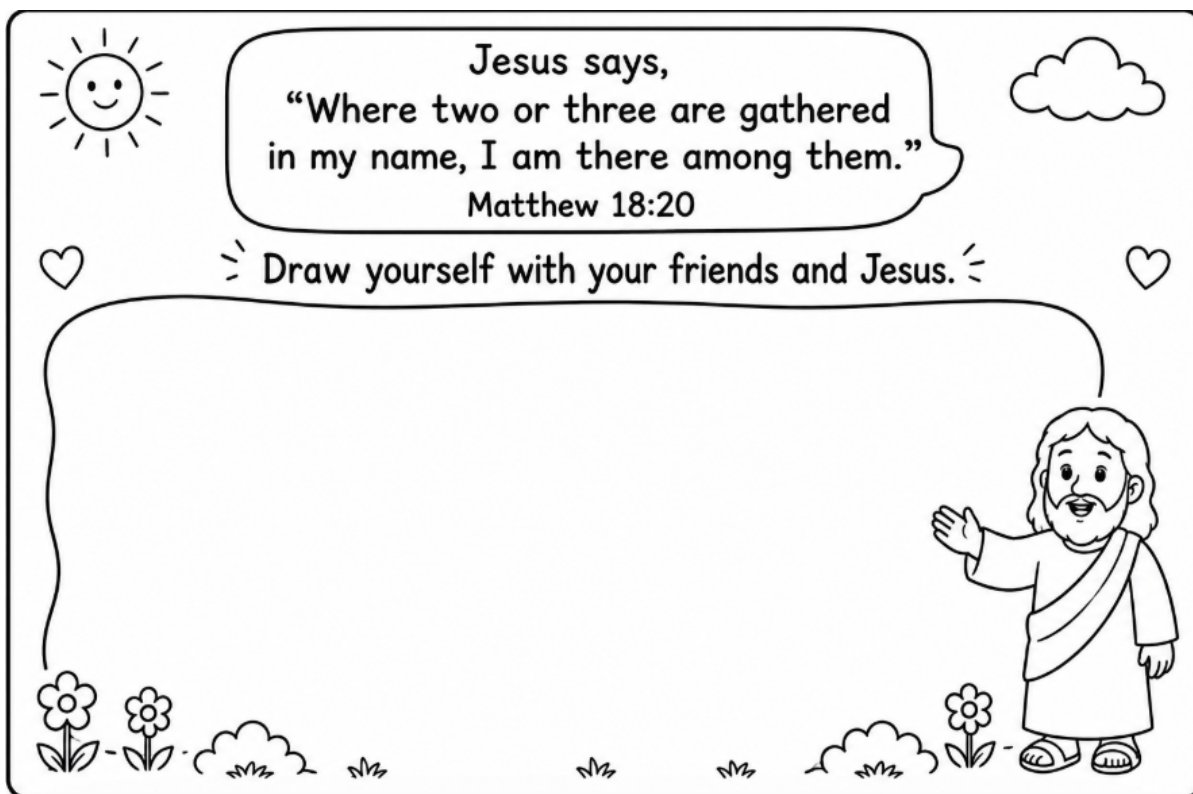
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
6						25						14		13					5						

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$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{4}{21}$	$\frac{21}{8}$	$\frac{8}{21}$		$\frac{6}{14}$	$\frac{14}{13}$	$\frac{13}{23}$	$\frac{23}{25}$			
$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{4}{21}$	$\frac{21}{14}$									



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Across

- 2. Together
- 7. Mistake
- 9. Sing
- 10. Praise
- 11. Love

Down

- 1. Forgive
- 3. God
- 4. Family
- 5. Jesus
- 6. Kind
- 8. Live
- 10. Peace

Cryptogram – Key:

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.