Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 18:15–20: A Brother Who Sins

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.”
Focus Questions

1. What does Jesus first say we should do if our brother sins against us?
2. What will happen if our brother listens to us?
3. What should we do if our brother does not listen to us?
4. What will happen if two of Jesus’ disciples agree on what they are to pray?
5. What will happen where two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name?
Correcting A Friend

Directions: Read each story and decide what to do. Use the Gospel to help make your decision.

1. Your best friend breaks your father’s car window and then lies about it. He said that you broke it. What should you do?

2. Your friend starts cheating on tests in class. You find out about it tell him to stop. He tells you he will make you a cheat sheet too if you just don’t tell anyone about it. What should you do?

3. You catch your sister taking money from your mom’s wallet to buy ice cream for herself and her friends. She says she is sorry but does it again the next day. What should you do?
4. What makes someone a friend?

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5. Why it is important to correct a friend when they are wrong?

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