

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# HIDE AND SEEK

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

##### *Seeking the lost (Matthew 18: 15-20)*

In chapter 18 Matthew presents his fourth block of Jesus' teaching. This is the chapter on the relationships among Christians, or life in the church, and is sometimes described as a community rule. In the first part of the chapter Matthew deals with the two issues of causing others to sin and of calling sinners to repentance. In verses 10-14 Matthew says that Christians have a responsibility to seek those who have lost their way, just as the shepherd seeks the lost sheep. In the present passage Matthew sets down the method for calling the lost back into line.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *hide and seek*.

#### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 18: 15-16)*

Jesus said, '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.'

#### *Gospel prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you put right those who have lost their way.  
Be gentle with us when we lose our way  
and call us back to the right path,  
that we may walk with you;  
now and always.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on Matthew's teaching about dealing with people who lose their way in Matthew 18: 15-20:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- how helpful is the idea of inviting the offender into a one-on-one conversation?
- how helpful is the idea of calling in two witnesses?
- how helpful is the idea of making the accusation before the whole church?
- what do you make of the final steps of breaking fellowship?
- what can we make of this teaching for today?

### ***Using your Bible***

As with the other four blocks of teaching in Matthew's Gospel, in this fourth block there is material known only to Matthew. From this whole section the only close parallel is with one verse in Luke:

- Luke 17: 3

The whole passage of Matthew 18: 15-20 may need to be read in light of the preceding three verses:

- Matthew 18: 12-14

Explore passages in the Old Testament that deal with seeking the lost and with discipline:

- Ezekiel 33: 7-11
- Ezekiel 34: 1-8

### ***Exploring online***

- explore interpretations of Matthew 18: 15-20
- explore biblical images for seeking those who are lost
- explore methods for conflict resolution in churches

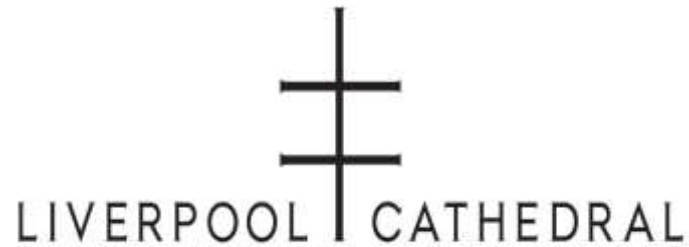
## PROPER 18 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

### *Drawing on experience*

- reflect on your experience of conflict in churches
- reflect on ways in which conflict in churches tends to be resolved
- reflect on the image of hide and seek

### *Creating and making*

- create a poster of children playing hide and seek
- create a collage of interesting places in which to hide
- create a resource on conflict management
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on looking for those who are lost



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

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