



A Renewal of Church Discipline

March 13 Matthew 18:1-20

Object Lessons and Storytelling Ideas

- Tell, read, or re-enact one of the stories found in this passage.
- Talk about how this passage teaches us (adults) that they (kids) are important, that they have something to teach us, and that their faith matters!
- Talk about how loving somebody means telling them the truth (gently!), even if it hurts.
- Has anyone ever gotten separated from their family, maybe at the park or the grocery store? Do your parents just leave without you, or do they come looking for you? Every person is born "lost" because we are separated from God because of sin, but God loves us and comes looking for us.
- Bring up a bin of Lego and explain to the children that you need a very specific, small piece - you saw it earlier but now you can't find it and you absolutely have to! This determination is what God feels for us, no matter how "small" we might feel we are.

Discussion Ideas and Questions

- Why is it more loving to tell somebody that they hurt you or that they are doing something wrong? Why is it not loving to let them continue in their wrong ways?
- Did you know that you can sometimes get lost in life? Maybe you want to follow Jesus, but it is really hard, or you are imitating someone who is mean, or we make a wrong decision and feel like God could never love us again. Did you know that God says he will never stop searching? We can never be too lost for God to find and love us.
- Does Jesus actually want you to cut off your hand or cut out your eye? No, of course not! Jesus is exaggerating so that the people listening (and us!) will remember what he says.

At Home Connections

- Talk about how the principle discussed about dealing with sin in Matthew 18:15-16 applies within your family.
- Are there others in our life that are lost? How can we reach out to them and tell them that God is looking for them too?