

***Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way***

September 10, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

***Ezekiel 33:7-11***

***Psalms 119:33-40 (35)***

***Romans 13:8-14***

***Matthew 18:15-20***



***Don't Get Even!*** Object: None needed.

Has anyone ever said something that hurt your feelings? Sure, they have! Perhaps you were playing with a friend and he called you a name. I have heard people say, "Don't get mad; get even." Did it make you want to want to get even by calling your friend a name? He calls you a name and so you call him a name. He doesn't like that so he calls you another name and on and on the name-calling, goes. You never get even!

Here's a better idea, "Don't get even; get ahead." How do you do that? Well, let me explain. In our Bible reading today, Jesus says, "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." Now that's what I call "getting ahead." If we try to get even, we will lose a friend, but if we forgive someone, we will make a friend!

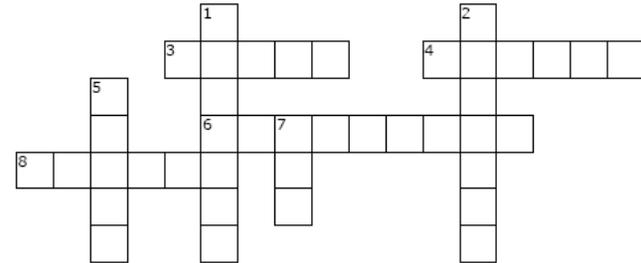
Jesus did not call us to be his disciples to make other people pay for their sins by hurting them back. Instead, he told us to do what he did -- love them and forgive them. Sometimes that is very hard to do, but we can do it if we ask Jesus to help us.

Father, when someone hurts us, give us a forgiving spirit to talk to them and try to resolve the conflict rather than to try get even by hurting them back. Help us to love and forgive others as you have loved and forgiven us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. Alleluia

# 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

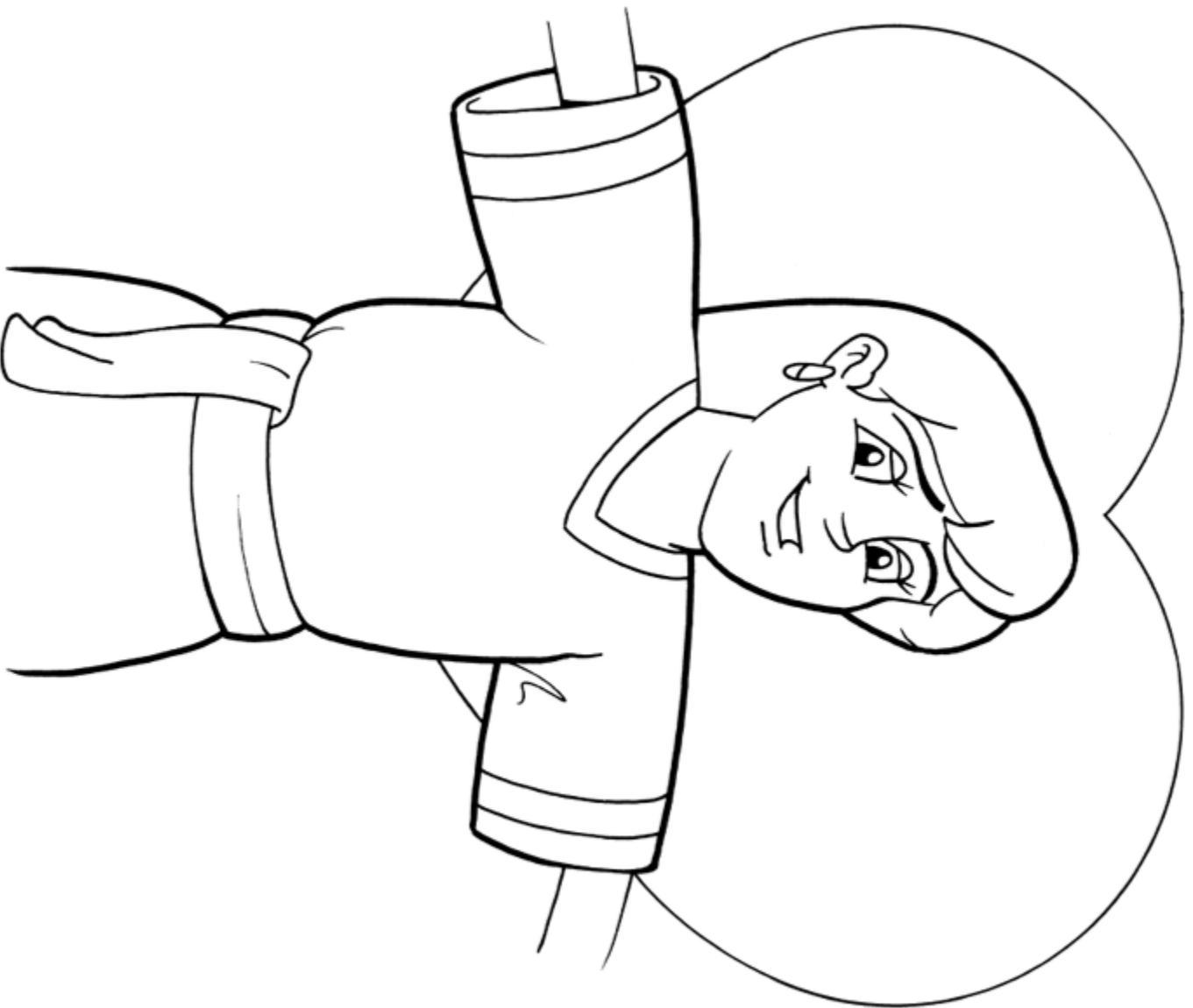
**DOWN**

- 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

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS:** Help the child to draw and cut out "friends" and form the cut-outs in a circle with hands touching. Glue onto large size construction paper. Write FRIENDS LOVE AND FORGIVE - Matthew 18:15b





“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)

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