



Bible Heroes

2 or 3
Praying together

Teachers
Story notes

Essential Teachers notes:

There are two quite distinct teachings in this short 6 verse section from Matthew 18 - the teaching on resolving arguments and the teaching on corporate prayer. I've tried to capture both by weaving a slightly fictional story alongside about one of the crowd of extra's. We know from Acts 2 that many men were with Jesus throughout his time but not chosen to be one of his disciples, I've chosen a name from there 'Justus' to be our hero. Which of the two elements you choose to stress is entirely up to you but for the supporting material I've chosen the latter message about corporate gathering as I write this while the world is struggling with a pandemic and the idea that Jesus is just as present in the living room as the sanctuary is key.

Tell this story or a similar one of your choice from a favourite bible translation or story book.

Main Passage : Matthew 18 15-20

Jesus was teaching his followers, but today he wasn't speaking to a large crowd, he was speaking to those who already knew him. To Jesus' right he saw Justus, one of the men who followed Jesus and the apostles. Justus wasn't looking at him but at another man, his face was angry. The two men had argued the day before and clearly hadn't made friends again. Jesus paused for a moment, he didn't want arguments to pull apart his followers.

"Are you listening?" Jesus said loudly into the air, in the corner of his eye he saw a few faces turn back to him including Justus.

"When somebody wrongs you this is what you should do. First go and talk to the person. If they will not listen then ask 1 or 2 people to join you, not to take your side but to listen to you both. If that does not work then ask the church to speak to him or her."

"But what if they still don't listen?" Justus called out hoping that this argument would never go so far

Jesus looked down at the ground. His heart broke because he knew there would be people who wouldn't listen.

"They will be like one who has never known the church," he sighed. "Love them, pray for them, but walk away from trying to get them to apologise."

Justus looked at the man who was once his friend. He couldn't imagine this journey without him "Will they ever come back?" he asked.

"Pray they do" said Jesus, a smile forming on his lips "Pray, pray together, for when your prayers are in agreement then the father will answer them. Gather together to pray with other believers.

"How many others?" Justus asked

Jesus paused, raising his voice again, this was important.

"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there with them."

"Just two or three?" shouted another voice

"Oh yes! You need no great crowd, I will be with you"

Justus pushed through the crowd to his friend, they were both apologising at the same time. Days would come when they would pray together, praise together, and remind themselves that they gathered because of Jesus and when they did He . Was . Always . There .

Today's hero is Justus because he shows us the gift of praying together

