

# Where Two or Three Are Gathered

September 6, 2026

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## Matthew 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup> '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.\* <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

<sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Why is it so important and yet so hard to talk *directly and honestly* with people who have hurt or disappointed us with their behavior?
  - a. Reflect on the moment(s) when you've done this or experienced someone doing this—perhaps with a child, parent, spouse, friend, or colleague. What did you learn through that experience?
  - b. Hurt or disappointment needs attention before it can be communicated. What are some ways you tend to your hurt or disappointment so you can address it in the right way, at the right time, with the right tone? Does prayer or a spiritual practice help?
  - c. There are likely better and worse ways to communicate

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hurt and disappointment.  
What have you learned  
about approaching others  
with the truth in a spirit of  
love (see Ephesians 4:15)?

courage of Jesus to address  
harmful or hurtful behavior  
from others? (see

- d. Are there some things that it  
would be unsafe or better  
not to address directly with  
someone? What are ways to  
find support and address  
these kinds of hurt and  
harm?

3. How has social media changed the  
ways people communicate and  
deal with their hurt or  
disappointment?
4. In a world of vengeance and  
retaliation, how does this practice  
of addressing broken relationships  
witness to Christ's deeper way of  
love?
5. The phrase "where two or three are  
gathered" has often been removed  
from this context of *courageous  
conversation* about broken  
relationships.

- a. How does this context  
deepen the meaning of that  
theological claim?
- b. How does Christ, embodying  
God's presence, model how  
to have difficult  
conversations? What stories  
can you think of that show  
the compassion, clarity, and

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## ANTIBULLYING POLICY

In order to promote a safe  
and welcoming environment  
for all people, especially those  
most vulnerable to  
mistreatment, South Elkhorn  
abides by an **Anti-Bullying policy** passed  
in 2019. If you have been bullied or  
mistreated by a church member, staff  
member, or someone on church  
grounds, or are looking for clarity on  
actions that might fit these descriptions,  
then you can consult [the policy here](#), use  
the QR code, or reach out to a trusted  
church leader for assistance.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH SAFETY COVENANT

South Elkhorn takes the  
well-being and safety of  
children and youth with the  
utmost seriousness. You can  
learn more about the ways South  
Elkhorn does this by consulting [the  
policy here](#), using the QR code, or  
reaching out to the pastoral staff.

