

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

(On Sunday, Sept. 6, our worship was provided by our bishops and diocese staff. Bishop Goff preached. Here is an abbreviated LBT in case you did not hear her sermon.)

LOOK

Describe a time when you had a conflict or were harmed by an organization or relationship. How did you address the issue? What is your typical reaction/response to conflict/hurt?

BOOK

Matthew 18:15-20

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. 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. 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. 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. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

- 1) To whom is Jesus speaking in this passage?
- 2) What did the gospel writer mean by 'another member sins against you'? (this is not so much about when we disagree about something as when one person has harmed another).
- 3) Discuss: 'if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.' What is Jesus trying to tell us here?
- 4) Our understanding of scripture is always informed by where the passage is located in the text. This text is preceded by Jesus searching for the lost sheep, and followed by the admonishment to forgive 70 times 7. How does this inform your reading of this passage?

TOOK

How do we confuse disagreeing with each other and harming each other? Do we innately harm one another when we disagree?

Conflicts fester when people talk more about each other and less to each other. How do we address conflicts and harm in ways that effectively contribute to increased understanding and changed behavior? Where does forgiveness come into play?

In Bishop Goff's sermon on Sunday, she talked about how we express love in community. Name some ways we live out Christ's love at St. David's, with our families and in our communities.