

# Family Page

Creating an atmosphere of family prayer can be a problem today. Everyone has his or her own way to go, and time together can be scarce. But this hectic pace is all the more reason to work at establishing special quick-prayer times for your family — in addition to grace at meals and bedtime prayers. Short prayers, said at specified times or for special occasions, can help to cement a family's closeness in prayer. Here are some thoughts you might use to expand your prayer times.



**1** Ask each member of the family to think of some short-prayer ideas for some times when you are all together. (For example: a brief prayer whenever you hear a fire truck or ambulance siren; a quick prayer for safety when you set out in the car, no matter how short the trip; a special prayer for the member of the family who has a test coming up.)

**2** Compose a few short prayers to fit into the times and occasions of each suggestion. (Some examples are shown below.)

**3** Remember that every time you are together in prayer, Jesus is right there in your midst.

"Lord, help us."

"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us."

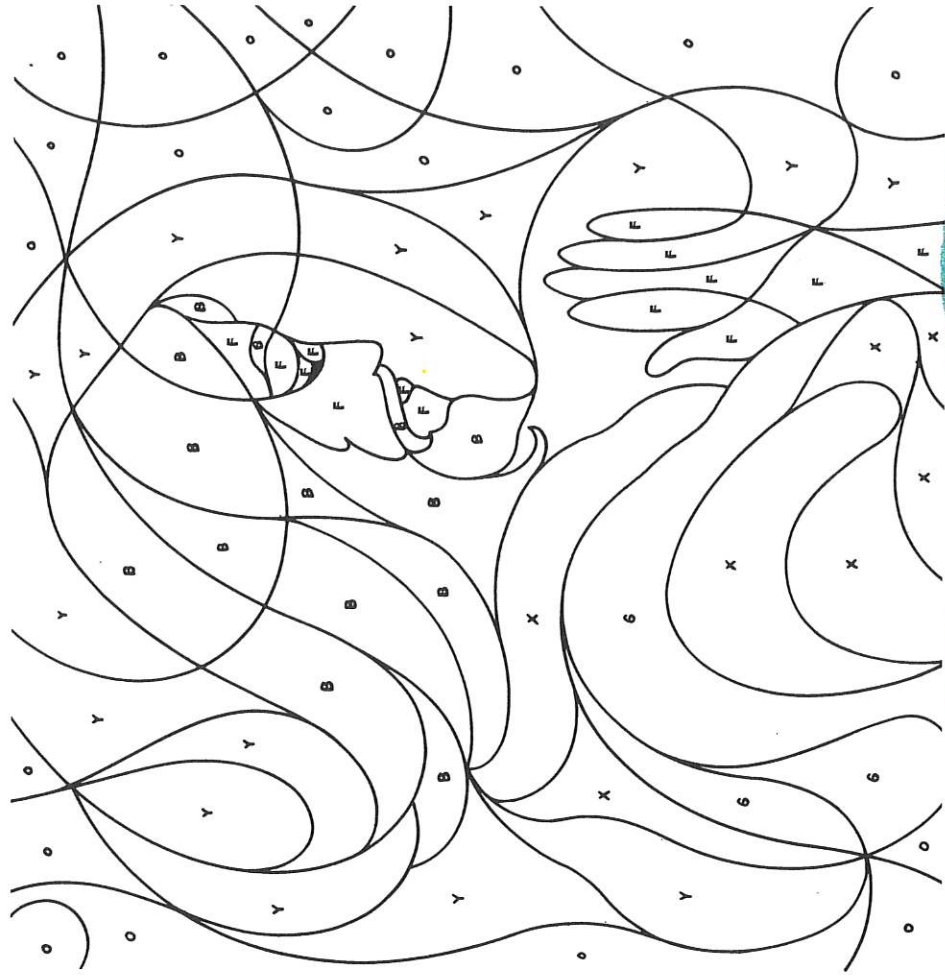
"Father, be with those who are in need."

"Lord, Jesus, keep us safe on the road."



# explaining GOD'S WORD

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) • Matthew 18:15-20 • September 6, 2020



## Your Secret Prayer Pal

Whenever you come together with others to pray, someone is with you. Do you know who that someone is? Color in this picture according to the color guide and you will find out.

**Y = Yellow; B = Brown; F = Flesh; G = Green; X = Blue; O = Orange.**



# Praying with Jesus

Did you ever wonder if God really hears your prayers? Heaven seems so very far away.

In this week's gospel story, Jesus makes a special promise: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst."

He didn't say he'd listen to you from someplace far away. He said he would be right there where you and your friends are praying!

How easy Jesus makes it to be with him in love and prayer. How wonderful to know that he will always be so near.

Jesus promised even more! He said, "If two of you join voices to pray for anything whatever, it will be granted you by my Father."

This was the way Jesus liked to pray. He would gather with his apostles on a mountain or by the shore. Together they would pray to the Father.

You are Jesus' apostle today, and he wants to gather with you to pray together with you to the Father.

Jesus makes these two wonderful promises: He will be with you when you pray, and the Father will hear and answer the prayers you pray together.

## Times to Pray with Others

Hidden below are five special times for people to pray together. How many can you find? Can you think of others?

T B M A S S V E S  
C Z A B D G I K M  
H Q S M B E A N T  
R U N M M W Y M N O  
O M E A L S T G L  
T R A V E L I N G  
P R T S O V M J N  
B E D T I M E K O  
S M O R N I N G S

### Word List

MORNING MASS  
TRAVELING BEDTIME  
MEALS

