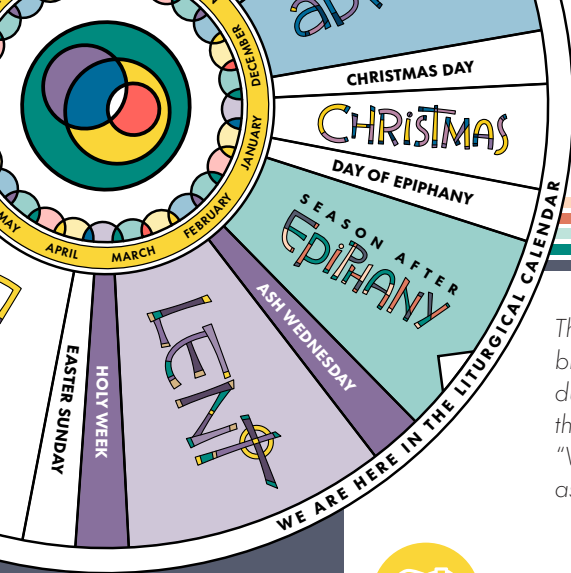


# Matthew 5:23-24

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, Sunday between February 11 and February 17



YEAR A

The Season after Epiphany began with the three wise ones following the star and ends with the bright lights of Jesus' Transfiguration on the mountain. Epiphany means "showing forth," and it is during this season when we are called to look for how God makes Godself known throughout the world. In his poem, *Epiphany*, Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann wrote the following: "We are—we could be—people of your light. So we pray for the light of your glorious presence as we wait for your appearing."



## Scripture

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your sibling has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your sibling, and then come and offer your gift.



## Questions

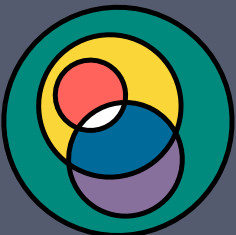
- Today's scripture is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where he taught his followers how God calls us to live and love. What does Jesus teach them to do?
- What do you notice about how Jesus treated the people following him? How did they respond to him?
- Tell a story of a time in your life when something broke and needed repair.
- Reconciliation is more than feeling remorse or even apologizing; it is a proactive attempt to take responsibility for what you've done and doing work to repair the relationship. When you hurt someone, what could you do to reconcile with them?
- How might the world be different if people worked harder to reconcile with each other?

### Look it Up!

Look up Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery using lacquer mixed with powdered gold or silver. Meant to highlight repairs instead of hiding them, this technique treats the breaking and repair as part of an object's whole history.



mini  
REVOLUTIONS





## Activity

### Materials:

Large piece of paper or whiteboard  
Writing utensils

Small slips of paper  
Bowl or hat

In today's reading, we learn how God calls us to work toward reconciliation with one another. Reconciliation is more than apologizing or feeling badly for what we've done; it is about working to mend what is broken between people's relationships. Sometimes repairing relationships can be challenging, right? Let's play a game today to practice!

Use a whiteboard or large piece of paper to write down some conflict situations that might occur on the playground, in school, etc. Some examples are provided below, but feel free and encouraged to add your own:

- A group of friends is playing a game on the playground, and someone gets out. The person who's out doesn't think the decision is fair and goes off to play alone.
- There are only eight seats at the lunch table at school, and there are nine friends. They rush to see who will get to the seats first. One person is left out and has to sit at another table.
- A person at camp has been unkind to a friend of yours for several days. You and your friend have tried to talk to this person about how it hurts your friend's feelings, but the person won't stop.
- (Add your own scenarios here...)

Write examples on slips of paper, and place them in a bowl. Working in small groups, draw a slip of paper from the bowl, and brainstorm how you might work toward reconciliation if you faced this situation in real life. Once your group has a strategy, create a short skit highlighting a possible solution.

When everyone finishes practicing, act out your skits for one another; see if you can guess which scenario each small group received. At the end of every skit, invite the whole group to discuss if there were any other ways the relationship could have been repaired or whether reconciliation was possible or desired. If the relationship

wasn't fixable, remind one another that we can't always control what others choose to do, but we can always do our best to be faithful to what Jesus asks of us.

### Alternate Activity

#### Materials:

Blocks or cups

Have you ever built a tower, and someone came along and knocked it down? That can be frustrating. Sometimes, even when we are frustrated, we can work to rebuild our relationships with friends and family.

Let's role play! Give half the group a set of cups or blocks, and ask them to build something tall. Then brainstorm together ways (accidental or not) it could be knocked down—playing catch near it, not watching where one is walking, frustrated it didn't turn out how you wanted, etc. Have the other group role play one of the scenarios including how they can repair what happened—apologize and help build it back up, ask how I can help, etc. Keep switching groups, building, and role playing the process of knocking it down and repairing relationships.

God asks us to try to repair our relationships when they're broken, just like we role played this experience of building and repairing with one another. At the end, make one last creation as a group—the tallest and most creative yet! Do you want to knock it down together?



## Micropractice

Sometimes people avoid situations and conversations that are hard. It isn't always easy to face difficult things and make a repair. When you realize you are avoiding something or someone, ask yourself, "What feeling am I avoiding?"



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here:

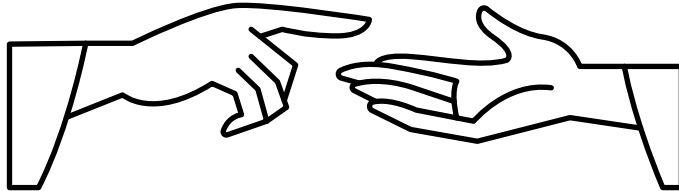
[illustratedministry.com/minirevAAE6](https://illustratedministry.com/minirevAAE6)



## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for showing us through your love and through stories that reconciliation is possible and beautiful. Help us be brave, kind, and honest as we repair relationships in our own lives. Amen.

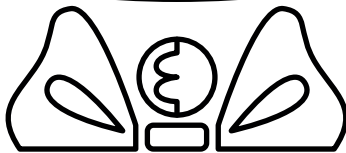
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TO YOUR

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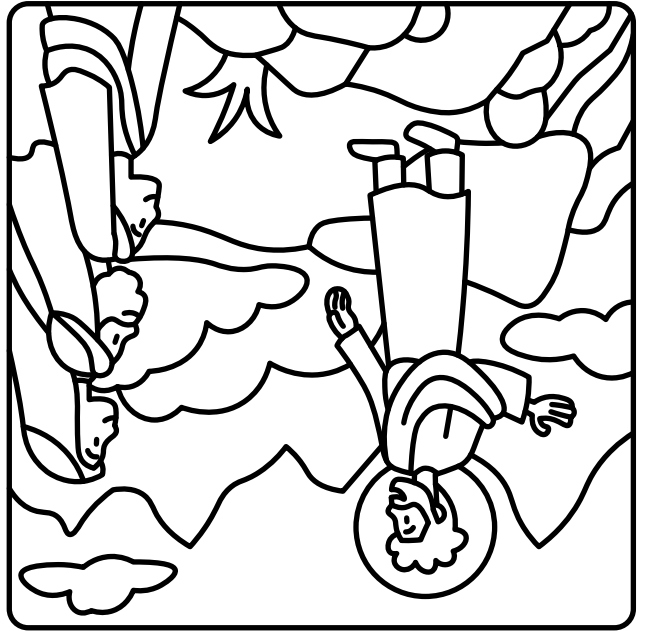


OFFER  
GIFT  
POWER

1. As Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, he taught in synagogues, proclaimed the good news about God's love, and helped people who were sick. Crowds surrounded Jesus everywhere he went because people wanted to meet him.



4. Jesus continued his message, telling them about the people God blesses, how they can do God's work in the world, how to treat one another, and more. He taught them about how God wanted them to live.



2. The people trusted Jesus because of how he treated them. When Jesus saw the growing crowds, he went up to the top of a mountain. He sat down and gave a sermon to his disciples.



3. One thing Jesus taught them was if you're leaving an offering for God but remember a friend is upset with you, stop and try to make things right with your friend first. After you repair things, you can leave your offering.