Children's Sermon: "When We Have a Conflict"
Matthew 18:15–20

Good morning, friends!
Have you ever had an argument with a friend? Maybe someone took your toy, said something that hurt your feelings, or didn't let you join their game.
What do we usually want to do when we're angry? Maybe yell, walk away, or tell everyone else what happened!

"Sometimes when we have a disagreement with someone, it can feel like everything gets tangled up." *Tie a few knots in the string.*

"Maybe someone hurt our feelings. Maybe we said something we wish we hadn't. Maybe neither person wants to say they're sorry. Pretty soon, our friendship can feel like this—all tangled up." *Try pulling the string apart.*

"But what happens if I just pull harder?" *The knots get tighter.*

"That's what can happen when we yell, blame each other, or refuse to listen. The problem can get even worse." *Then slowly loosen the knots.*

But in today's Bible story, Jesus gives us a different way to handle conflict.
Jesus says that when someone hurts us or when we have a disagreement, the first thing we should try to do is talk to that person.

That can be hard! It takes courage to say, "That hurt my feelings," or "I'm upset about what happened."
And it takes courage to listen when someone tells us that we hurt them.
Jesus teaches us that solving a conflict isn't about figuring out who is the winner and who is the loser. It's about trying to make things right.

And then Jesus says something really important: *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."*

That means when we come together—even when we disagree—Jesus is with us.

So, the next time you have a conflict with someone, remember three things:
Talk. Listen. Make peace.
You don't have to agree about everything. But you can treat one another with kindness, respect, and love.

Let's pray:
God of peace,
Help us when we disagree.
Give us courage to speak honestly,
ears to listen carefully,
and hearts willing to forgive.
Help us remember that Jesus is with us,
even when things are difficult.
Amen.