

Why Doesn't It Work?

Key Word: **Witness**

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

Matthew 18:20

They were in the old barn, with their eyes tightly shut and their hands held firmly together. Ruth prayed, "Please, God, give us a dog of our very own." "Yes, God, please," added Tim. "I want one too, God," Amanda said. Then they opened their eyes and looked at one another. Ruth said, "It's my birthday next week. I'm sure I'll get a puppy for all three of us. I can't wait."

On Ruth's birthday Ruth's parents gave her a new bike. She was very excited by it, but kept looking for the puppy. "Where's Ruth's new puppy?" Tim demanded. Mom and Dad looked at each other. Then Dad said gently, "Sorry, son, we told you before that we can't have one now."

All three children stared at him. "You mean there isn't a puppy?" asked Amanda. "Afraid not," said Dad. "We just can't manage a dog right now."

Later that day, Amanda asked, "We didn't do anything wrong, did we, Ruth? I closed my eyes so tight, and I put my hands together." "And there were three of us, that's just like it says in the Bible," added Tim. "Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.' That's what it says in the Bible." "I guess it doesn't work. Like lots of

grown-up things, it just doesn't happen like they say it will."

A year later, the lady next door asked Ruth to walk her dog. "I'm too old now," she said, "but Mischief still needs his exercise." Ruth, Tim, and Amanda walked the dog every day, and became great friends with the lady. When the lady died, Mischief became part of their family. Ruth enjoyed the dog so much that she became a veterinary assistant.

"Tim, do you remember when we prayed in the old barn?" asked Amanda. "We thought prayer didn't work, but I'm not so sure. We all really enjoy Mischief, and we got to know Mrs. Robinson, so it all turned out for the best." Tim nodded. "The Bible says, 'No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.' Perhaps we just need to learn to look out for God's answers to be maybe different than our expectations." After that, they knew that somehow, sometime, their prayers would be answered.

Questions

1. Why do you think the Bible tells us to have prayer partners?
2. Who could you ask to pray with you?

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
Matthew 18:15-20



- Picture Differences
1. Apple in tree
 2. Colored bird wing
 3. Missing squirrel tail
 4. Missing hair parting
 5. Different shirt sleeve
 6. Pocket on pants
 7. Hollow in tree
 8. Leaf on ground
 9. Sock on boy's leg
 10. Colored sole on shoe
 11. Bunny's ears

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

Answers

Word Scramble
GENTILE LISTEN TAX COLLECTOR AGREE FATHER
Witnesses
HEAVEN EARTH MEMBER CHURCH SIN
Secret Phrase:
I am there among them.

