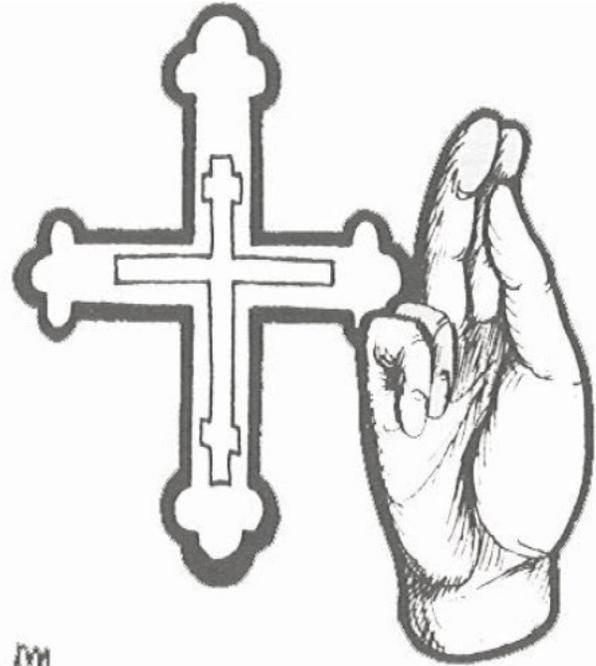


JESUS IS OUR LEADER

The Lord said, “If you believe in me, follow everything I have taught you. What I have taught you is to be kind instead of mean. This isn’t easy. You will find that some people do not like you because you are a good person, and because you are kind even to those who are not kind to you. I have also taught you to serve one another.

“You will find that it is difficult to do this because you must think about what others want, first. You must not be selfish. When you follow me, you will learn that it isn’t easy. It is like carrying the cross. But, whenever you are following me, I will be with you to help you. And one day you will be with me in heaven because you followed me.”



Images courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Have you ever played “Follow the Leader?”

What does a follower do?

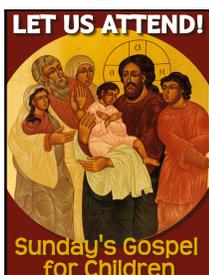
2. If the leader does something hard, like crawling under a table, what does the follower do?

3. We follow Jesus. Jesus is our leader.

4. Jesus told us what we should not do. Can you think of something you should not do?

5. Jesus also told us what we should do. Can you think of some things we should do?

6. Jesus came to show us how to live. Jesus died on a cross and rose from the dead. He opened the gates of Heaven.



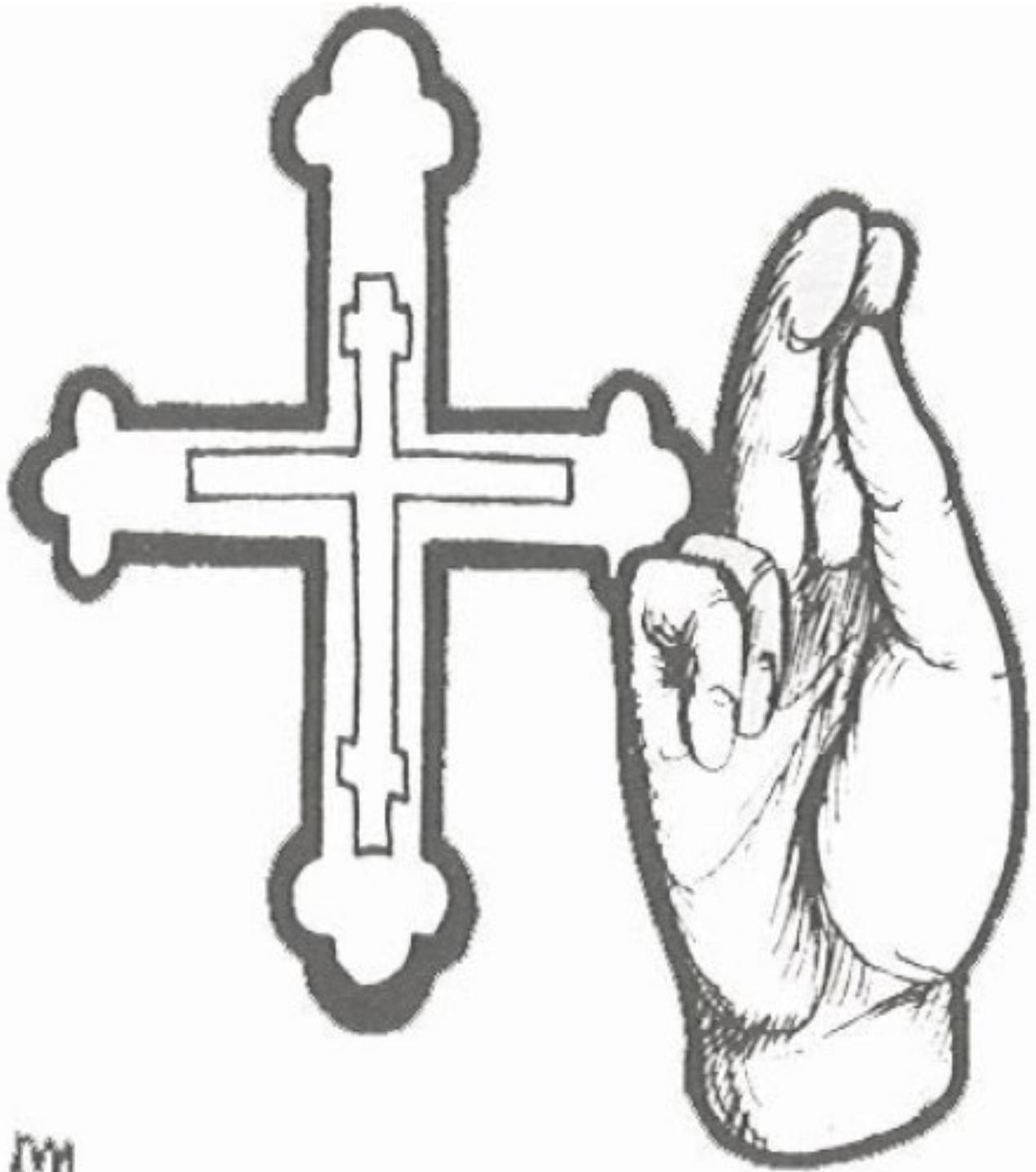
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Pre-12



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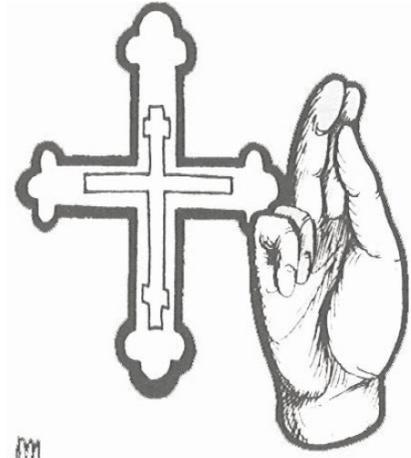
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JESUS IS OUR LEADER

One day, our Lord Jesus taught his followers that whoever wants to follow Him should not just do whatever they want to do. Instead, they should do what God wants them to, even if it is very hard. He said that those who do things God's way will be saved.

He reminded His followers that, even if they got everything in the whole world, they would not have anything as important as their souls. He also reminded them not to be ashamed to follow Him. He said that when He comes again, He will be ashamed of anyone who was ashamed of Him while they lived on Earth.

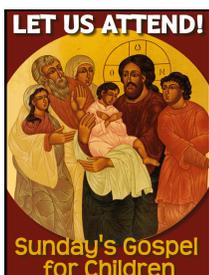
Then He promised that some of his followers would live to see God's Kingdom come with power!



Images courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Have you ever played "Follow the Leader?" What does a follower do?
2. If the leader does something hard, like crawling under a table, what does the follower do?
3. We follow Jesus. Jesus is our leader.
4. Jesus told us what we should not do. Can you think of something you should not do?
5. Jesus also told us what we should do. Can you think of some things we should do?
6. Jesus came to show us how to live. Jesus died on a cross and rose from the dead. He opened the gates of heaven.
7. When we make the sign of the cross, we remind ourselves that we must do the right thing, and we must stay close to Jesus.



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TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

The Lord said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

“For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this

adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”

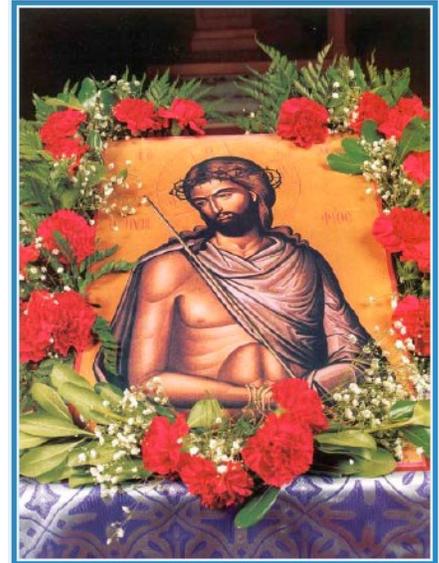
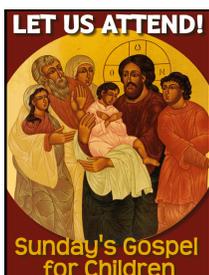


Image courtesy of Teaching Pics.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the game “Follow the Leader,” who decides what everyone is going to do?
2. In this game, what do you do if you are a follower?
3. If you are one of the followers in this game and you want to turn left but the leader turns right, which way do you have to turn?
4. Who is the leader in this gospel?
5. What does Jesus tell the disciples and the crowds they need to do so they can be his followers?
6. If Jesus tells his followers to pray but they want to take a nap, what do they have to do if they still want to follow him?
7. Do you think this is easy to do? Why or why not?
8. What things do you want to do sometimes instead of the thing Jesus asks you to do? What do you need to do if you want to follow Jesus?



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TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Characters: Narrator, Jesus

Narrator: The Lord said,

Jesus: If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

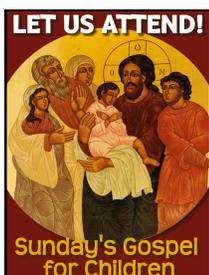
For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Narrator: And Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics.



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FOR WHAT CAN A MAN GIVE?

The Lord said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

"For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

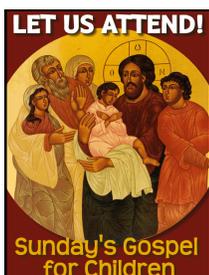
And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. According to this gospel, how does a person become a follower of Jesus?
2. Based on this principle, would a person who was following Jesus around from place to place be his follower? Why or why not?
3. Based on this principle, am I a follower of Christ if I go to church all the time? Why or why not?
4. Am I a follower of Christ if I miss my favorite television program to go to vespers? Why or why not?
5. What do you think a person needs to do in order to be a follower of Christ?
6. Ask three people from church question number 5.
7. What did they say? Do you agree with them? Why or why not?



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IF...

The Lord said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

"For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

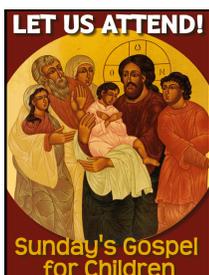
And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. This gospel begins, "If any want to become my followers." Why would a person want to be a follower of Jesus?
2. Does Jesus tell the crowds or people and disciples who have been following him around that they are already his followers?
3. What does he tell them they have to do in order to become his followers?
4. So does wanting to be a follower of Jesus make a person one?
5. What would you have to do today in order to become a follower of Jesus?



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