

JESUS WANTS US TO DO ONLY GOOD

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.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus taught us we must serve others. When a friend comes to play at our house, we can serve them by letting them make some choices about what to do. We can offer them our toys to play with. Is it easy to share?
2. When it is hard to do what Jesus wants us to, we can say a prayer, "Jesus, help me now." Then we need to do the right thing.
3. Jesus said it would not always be easy to follow him. What did He say it is like?
4. Where did Jesus say He would be when we follow Him?

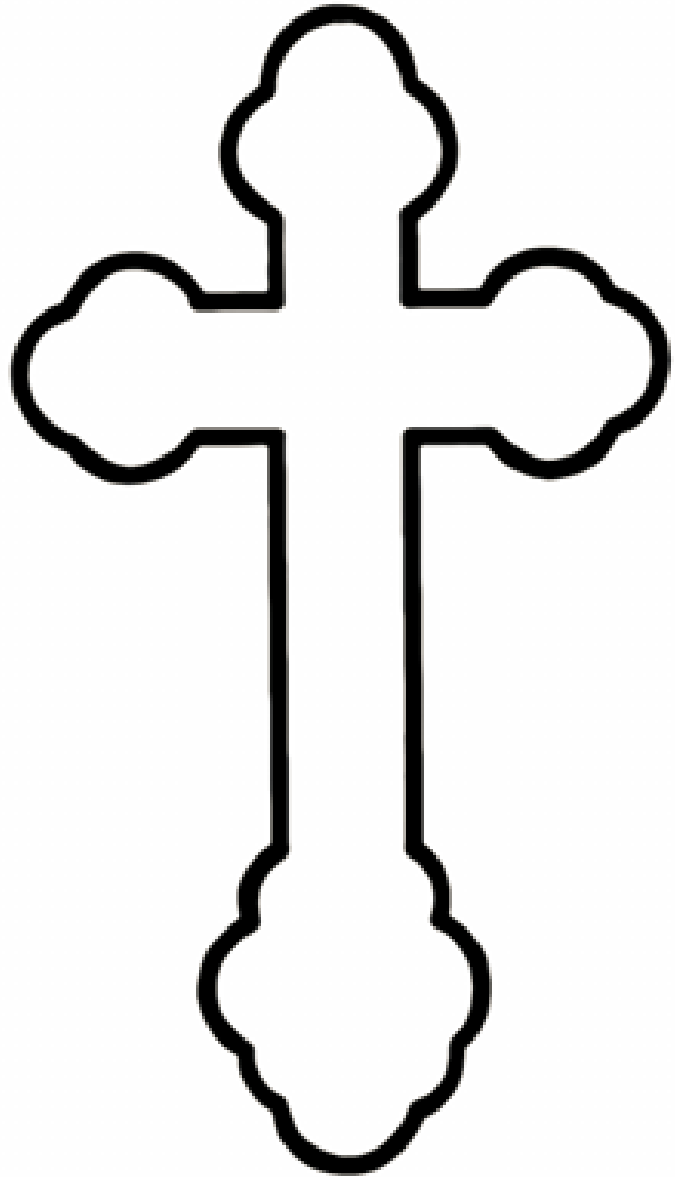
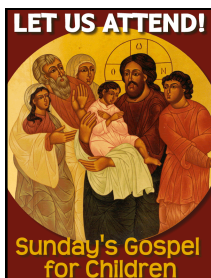


Image courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)



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Pre-12



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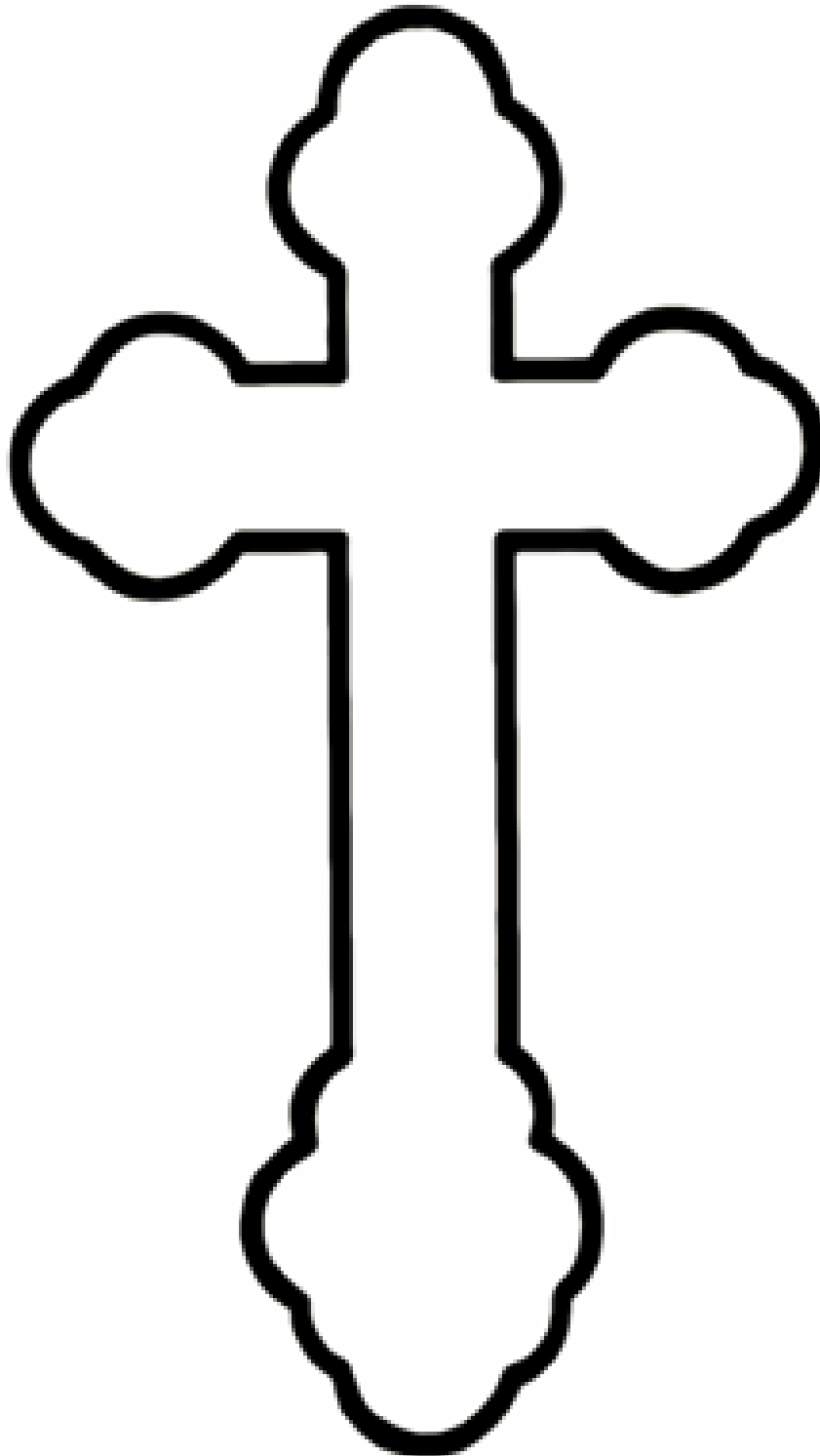


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FOLLOW JESUS

Materials:

- * copy of song, "Jesus Leads Me"
- * icon coloring page
- * print out of K-2 activity

Procedure:

1. After reading the gospel story to your child, take time to review the discussion questions following the story.
2. Allow your child to complete the icon coloring page, adding the picture of themselves beside the image of Jesus.
3. If desired, your child may choose to complete the K-2 activity, drawing themselves wearing their baptismal cross.
4. Teach the song, "Jesus Leads Me", to your child.
5. Sing verse 1 to your child, repeat the verse with your child singing along.
6. Teach your child the actions for verse 1 and repeat the verse once again.
7. Sing verse 2 to your child, repeat the verse with your child singing along.
8. Teach your child the actions for verse 2 and repeat the verse once again.
9. Sing verse 3 to your child, repeat the verse with your child singing along.
10. Teach your child the actions for verse 3 and repeat the verse once again.
11. Sing through the entire song together, using the actions.

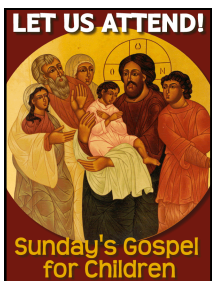


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Song:

Jesus Leads Me, to the tune of "Skip to My Lou"

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) I will always follow Christ | *Skip or walk in a circle | 3) I'll be happy following Christ | *Skip or walk in a circle |
| I will always follow Christ | *Continue... | I'll be happy following Christ | with a happy face |
| I will always follow Christ | *Continue... | I'll be happy following Christ | *Continue... |
| I'll do just what He says! | *Stop, cup hands on | I'll be happy following Christ | *Continue... |
| | either side of mouth | When I obey His words! | *Point toward the sky |
| | | | |
| 2) Jesus leads me every day | *Skip or walk in a circle | | |
| Jesus leads me every day | *Continue... | | |
| Jesus leads me every day | *Continue.... | | |
| Because I listen to Him! | *Stop, cup hand to ear | | |



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FOLLOW JESUS

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us how to follow Him. He said that we cannot just do what we want to do. He said we should do what He wants us to do. Sometimes that will be hard, just like it was hard for Jesus to die on the cross for us. But if we do what God wants, we will be saved.

Jesus said that nothing on earth is better than our soul. He said we will lose our soul if we just do what we want while we're alive. He said we should not be embarrassed to follow Him. He also said we should not be embarrassed of His words.

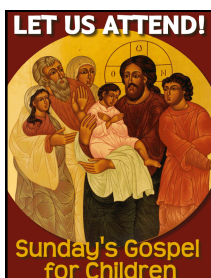
We are happy to follow Jesus!



Image courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus taught us that instead of being mean, we should be kind. What is one kind thing you have done?
2. Jesus taught us we must serve. When a friend comes to play at our house, we can serve them by letting them make some choices about what to do. We can offer them our toys to play with. Is it easy to share?
3. When it is hard to do what Jesus wants us to do, we can say a prayer, "Jesus, help me now." Then we need to do the right thing.
4. Jesus said it would not always be easy to follow him. What did He say it is like?
5. What does Jesus say will happen if we do what God wants us to do?



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FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT ALWAYS EASY

The Lord said, “If any man 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?”

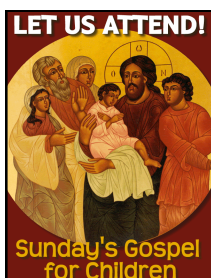
For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who gives you life? Can you give yourself life?
2. What do you think this gospel means when it says: “What can they give in return for their life?”
3. Can we give God anything that is equal to the gifts He gives us?
4. What does that tell us about God? About us?
5. What gift does God ask us to give Him in this gospel?
6. How can you give God that gift this week?



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FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT ALWAYS EASY

Characters: Narrator, Jesus

Narrator: The Lord said,

Jesus: If any man 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?

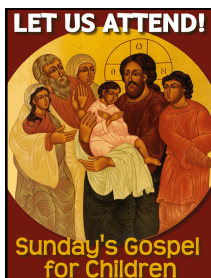
For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Narrator: And he 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.



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JESUS FIRST

The Lord said, “If any man 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?”

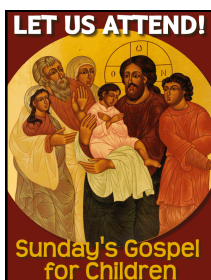
For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”



image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the gospel mean when it says, “What can they give in return for their life?”
2. Who gives us life?
3. What does this gospel argue we can give in return for the gift of life?
4. What does it mean to lose you life for the sake of the gospel?
5. Are there different ways one can give up her life for the sake of the gospel?
6. What can you do this week to give up your life for the sake of the gospel?



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WHAT CROSS DO YOU CARRY?

The Lord said, “If any man 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 he 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.”

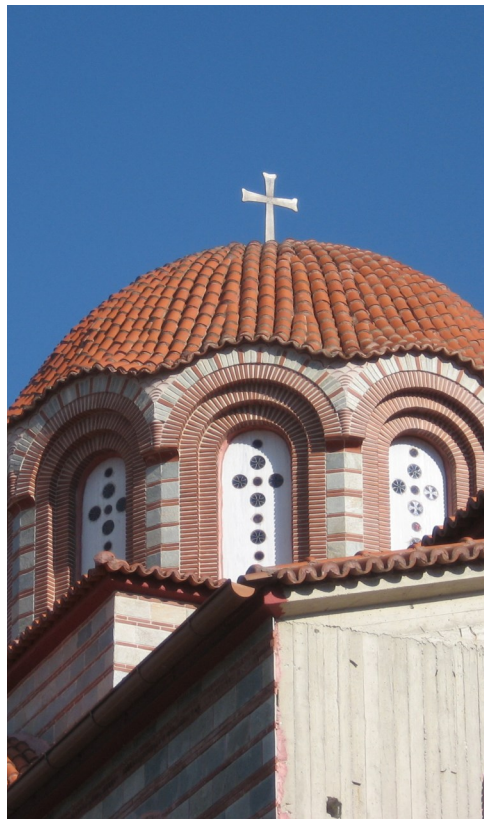
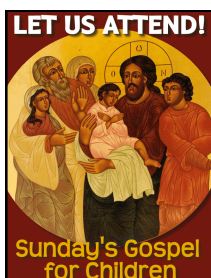


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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What do you think the gospel means when it talks about denying yourself?
2. What does denying oneself allow a person to do?
3. What do you think taking up your cross means?
4. What do you think following Christ means?
5. What is the heart of a Christian’s life according to this gospel? What do you think about that?
6. What is one thing you can do this week to create room in the life you have been given to follow Christ?



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