



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A - XXII - Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20, 7-9; Psalm 62, 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9; Romans 12, 1-2; Matthew 16, 21-27

Take Your Cross and Follow Me

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

Reflection

Jesus announces His upcoming suffering and death. **How does Peter react?** He exclaims, "No such thing shall ever happen to you!" **Why did Peter say this?** Because watching Jesus suffer and die was very sad for him. Also, Jesus is God and does not deserve such a painful death. **Why does Jesus get upset?** Peter is thinking as men think which is how to avoid suffering. But God thinks instead of how to love and save us. Peter did not understand that Jesus' mission was to sacrifice Himself so that God would forgive our sins, an act of GREAT LOVE for us. **What did Jesus mean by we must deny ourselves to follow Him?** We must give up our comforts and desires and go out to help those in need. For example I can give up spending all day on my phone or playing video games and go to help with the housework, or spend time with my grandmother, or read a story to my little brother. **And what does it mean to take up the Cross (or lose our life) and follow Jesus?** It means placing God first by always loving and obeying Him and not placing our toys, games, or friends first; it means to give up our comforts and pleasures to help others; it means accepting trials with patience and faith; it means seeking to do God's will. Jesus always did God's will and lived for others. We can do works of mercy and help others with their corporal (body) and spiritual (spirit) needs. **What happens to people who live only for themselves, interested in only material things?** Jesus said that it is not worth winning the world (material things) if you lose yourself (your soul). Only following Jesus' way of love gives us joy in this world and the next.



Activity

On the next pages, choose an activity to talk about carrying our cross like Jesus did.

Prayer

Jesus, fill my heart with your love so that I can think, act, and feel just like you did; especially I ask for peace of mind so that I can stop worrying about my own problems, and instead start thinking about others. Amen.

Song: A Gift to You, Angel 911, https://youtu.be/I_g76phMf5E?si=FpgNDvBQxnue0ekk

Put God's Work First, CJ and friends, <https://youtu.be/IZfNBzZ5L-M?si=cwNgZiF5Ickn4P0Z> (8+ yrs.)

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1rPhxbzQvq0tCiFNXcEGq6qoolFMnymnl/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true



Friends of Jesus and Mary
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**“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”
(Matthew 16: 24)**



Color the picture. Jesus invites us to follow Him with love.



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HOW DOES JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS?



1. When the soldiers hit Him, Jesus.
 - a. Hit them back.
 - b. Yelled at them to stop.
 - c. Prayed, “God, forgive them, they know not what they do.”
2. When the soldiers made fun of Him, Jesus...
 - a. Made fun of them right back
 - b. He yelled at them and told them they were evil and would go to Hell.
 - c. Prayed, “God, forgive them, they know not what they do.”
3. Why did Jesus pray for them?
 - a. He was scared they would continue hitting Him.
 - b. He loved them and didn’t want them to be punished for their sin against Him.
4. Why does Jesus get mad at Peter when Peter doesn’t want Him to suffer?
 - a. Jesus thinks Peter is not listening.
 - b. Jesus knows that He must suffer and die so our sins could be forgiven and we could enter Heaven.
5. What cross do we have in our life which we would want to disappear?
6. Can you think of anything good that comes from suffering that cross?

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Write inside of the cross the words that best explain

What are the changes that Jesus wants from us?

SERVICE		JOY
ARROGANCE		WEAKNESS
VANITY		LOVE
GIVE UP MY COMFORT		IMPATIENCE
FORGIVENESS		PATIENCE
SADNESS		SELFISHNESS
SACRIFICE		
ANGER		

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Instructions: Cut out the headings, Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and place the first on a construction paper with the outline of a body; and place the second on another construction paper with the outline of a heart. Cut out each work of mercy and give them out to the children. Have them take turns placing a work of mercy on either the Corporal Works or Spiritual Works sheet.

Corporal Works of Mercy



Spiritual Works of Mercy

