

# Family Page

Follow these steps for a family project this week that will help you remember to choose the Jesus way.

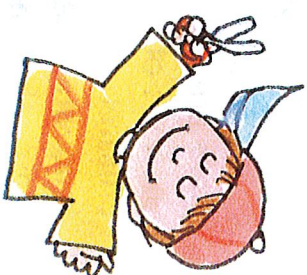
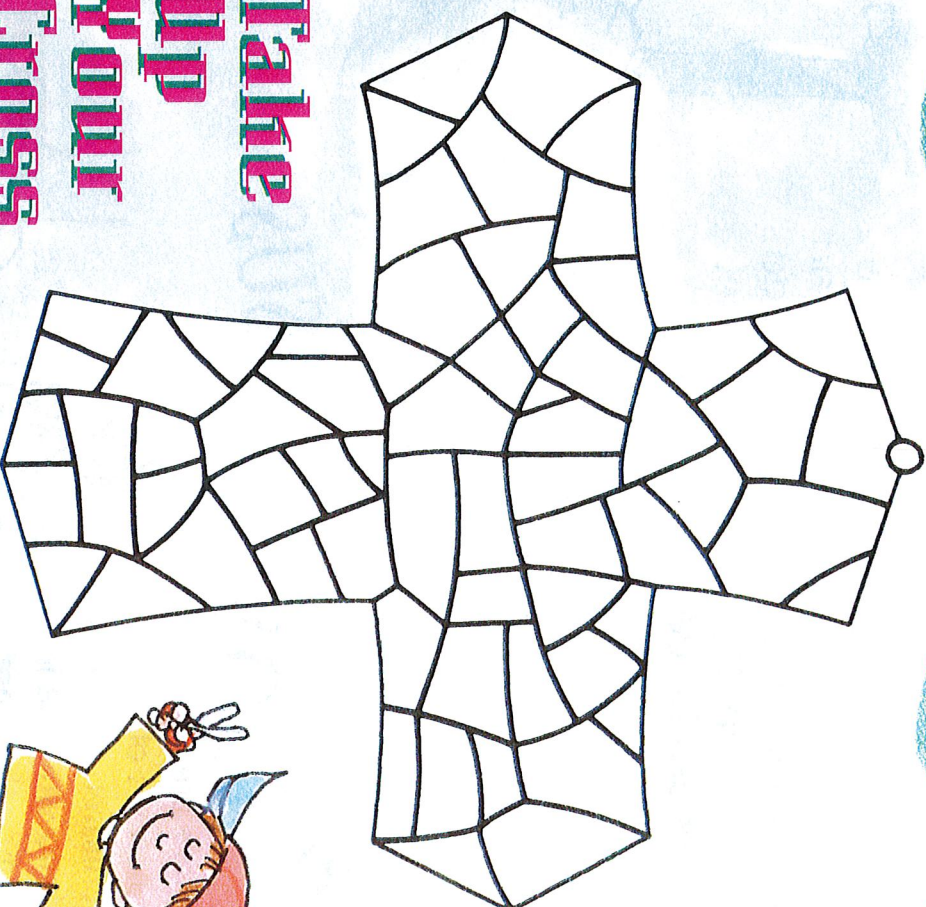
- 1 Talk about people who have made love-choices to follow Jesus even though it meant their lives would be very hard: Mother Teresa, Archbishop Oscar Romero, missionaries, and so forth. Emphasize especially people you know who are always helping others.
- 2 Talk about love-choices you can make, for example, helping at home, sharing with friends, visiting an elderly relative or neighbor, or writing a letter to grandparents.
- 3 Trace the cross on the front of this bulletin as many times as necessary to make one for each family member.
- 4 Now, every time one of the family makes a love-choice this week, he or she can color in another section of the cross, using a variety of bright colors.
- 5 When the crosses are all filled in, hang them in a prominent place to remind yourselves to continue to follow Jesus.



explaining GOD'S  
**WORD**

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) • Matthew 16:21-27 • September 3, 2023

## Take Up Your Cross



You can make this cross into a beautiful mosaic by coloring each section a different color after you have read the message on the FAMILY PAGE. Then cut it out and hang it up so you can see how often you have taken up your cross and followed Jesus.

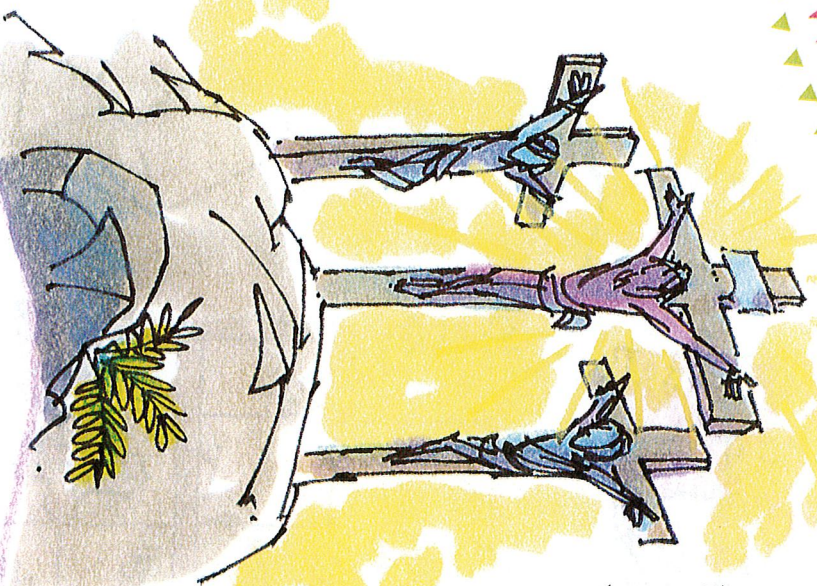


# Living the Jesus Way

In today's gospel story, Jesus says to his disciples, "You must take up your cross and begin to follow in my footsteps."

Jesus had choices to make in his life. He chose to suffer and die on the cross so we could go to heaven. It was a love-choice, a Jesus-choice.

You too have choices to make in your life. To follow in Jesus' footsteps, you have to choose the "cross." And the easy



choice, the popular choice, or the choice that would be most fun is not always the Jesus way.

You can choose the Jesus way by trying to be a loving and unselfish person just like Jesus. You can choose the Jesus way by trying to help other people who need you just like Jesus.

You don't have to die like Jesus did, you just have to *live* like him. Then you will be his disciple, and he will save you a happy place right by his side in heaven.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

Here are some pictures of children. Some are following the Jesus way, others are not. Put a CROSS (✝) by the children who are trying to follow Jesus.

