

## IMITATE Me!

Play a game of "Imitate Me!" with the children as they match what you do and say. Let the children take a turn being the leader.

**Pick up your cross  
and follow Jesus.  
—Mark 8:34**

## SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY

Write each word on a cross shape.  
Place words in the book of Mark for  
the children to discover.

## SCRIPTURE STORY

Let children act out the scripture story (page 35). If given direction, they can echo their parts. Talk with the children about what it feels like for someone to leave them. Many children have experienced the moving away of family and/or friends. Some will have lived through the experience of the death of a loved one—person or pet. Their understanding of all this is very basic and pure. Let them talk, learn from their insights, and help them remember that no matter where someone is, even when we can't see them, God is there with them.

## JESUS JOBS

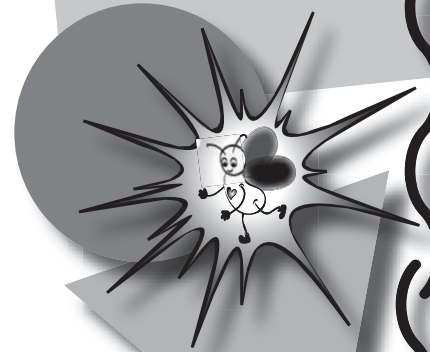
Today's theme tells us to live like Jesus did. Before class hide items around the room for the children to find. (See list below.) Tie a bright bow on each or wrap everything in a colorful box. This will make finding each object, among other things in the room, much easier. After all the items have been found let the children use them as clues to things Jesus did. With the discovery of each clue, discuss ways they can do what Jesus did.

Turn "Jesus Jobs"  
into a song sung to  
the tune of "Here  
We Go 'Round the  
Mulberry Bush."  
  
*This is the way I . . .  
care for the sick  
care for the sick  
care for the sick.  
This is the way I . . .  
care for the sick.  
Jesus showed me how.*

## Suggested Clues:

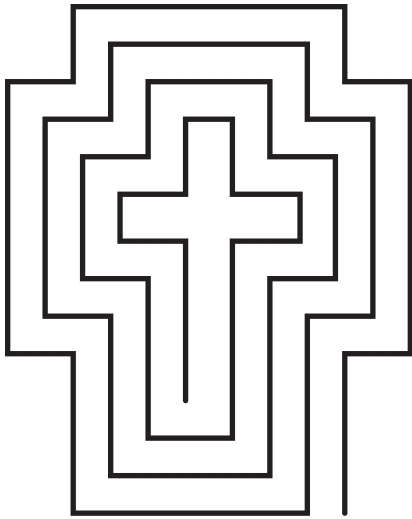
- Band-Aids*—Jesus healed/cared for the sick.
- an invitation*—Jesus invited people to join him.
- a fishing lure*—Jesus fished for people.
- a hymn book*—Jesus sang with the disciples.
- a footprint*—Jesus traveled to spread the good news.
- a candle*—Jesus told us to let our light shine to others.
- an apple*—Jesus ate many meals with friends.
- a Bible*—Jesus read the Jewish scriptures.
- a heart*—Jesus loved everyone.
- praying hands*—Jesus prayed often.

## EMBRACE THE CROSS



## MATERIALS

- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**  
Bible  
scripture cards
- SCRIPTURE STORY**
- JESUS JOBS**  
job clues
- EMBRACE THE CROSS**  
masking tape
- COLOR THE CROSS**  
labyrinth design for each child
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**  
offering basket
- PRAYER-CROSS MOSAIC**  
cross poster  
cross prayer pieces  
tape or glue stick
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**  
take-home pages



### Color The Cross

Enlarge or redraw the cross labyrinth to fit onto an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper. Let children color the pathway with different colors.

### Pretzel Prayers

Pretzels are a knotted Lenten bread created in eastern Europe to eat during Lent (*because they contain no dairy products, which historically are given up for Lent*). In North America, they were called "pilgrim's tokens" by early settlers because they looked like praying arms crossed on one's chest. Give children pretzels as a snack.

Challenge kids to do the "pretzel sit," with legs crossed and arms crossed. Invite kids to say a prayer of promising to follow Jesus while sitting in the pretzel position.



### Embrace The Cross

In the *Worship Resources* for March 12 it is suggested that a small traceable labyrinth (modified into the shape of a cross) be used. While the concept of the labyrinth is complicated for young ones, the actual walking of one can be a very calming experience. Use masking tape on the floor to create a cross-shaped labyrinth for the children to walk. At first they may wish to run. Encourage them to slow down by singing "Jesus Loves Me" and/or "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" as they walk.

**Save the labyrinth for use next week, too.**

#### "Sharing Generously"

Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

God needs me a disciple to be,  
Sharing generously.  
In faith we give because we care,  
Sharing generously.  
With a nickle here, and a quarter there,  
See our money helping others,  
bringing love to one another.  
God needs me a disciple to be,  
Sharing generously.



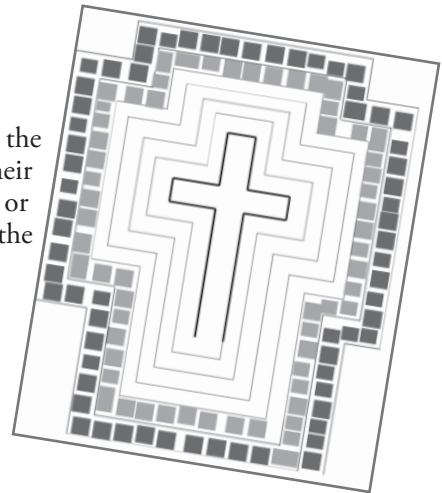
#### Disciples' Generous Response

Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song "Sharing Generously."

### Prayer-Cross Mosaic

Today's prayer pieces can be cut into the shape of a cross. Let children stick their prayer paper on the poster with tape or glue stick as they say a prayer for all the hungry people in this world.

Dear Jesus,  
I love you. Help me to live my life like you. Help me to help others. Help me to do what I know is right. In your name I pray. Amen.



### Family Connections

Make copies of the Family Connections (*page 35*) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.

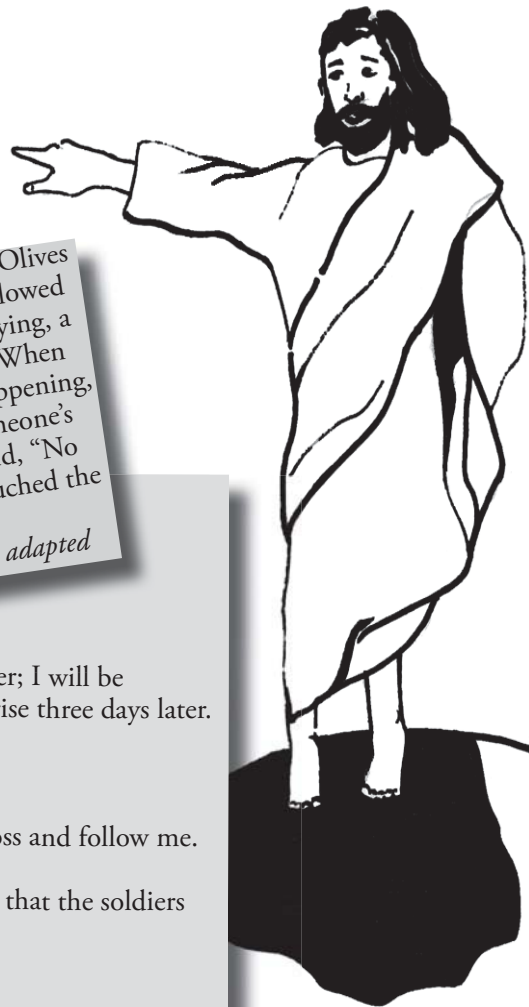


Jesus taught that he would be rejected by the religious leaders, be killed, and after three days rise again. Peter didn't want Jesus to say that, but Jesus also said, "Get behind me! You are not thinking like God thinks. You are thinking like people think." Then Jesus said to the disciples and the crowd, "If you want to be my followers, pick up your cross, and follow me. Anyone who tries to keep their life for themselves will lose it, and anyone who loses their life for my sake will save it. What good is it to own the whole world if you lose your soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"—*Mark 8:31–38 adapted*

**Pick up your cross and follow Jesus.**

—Mark 8:34

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray and the disciples followed him. When he finished praying, a crowd came, led by Judas. When everyone saw what was happening, one follower sliced off someone's ear with a sword. Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched the ear and healed it.  
—*Luke 22:39, 47–51 adapted*



## **Jesus' Best Choice** adapted from **Mark 8:31–38** and **Luke 22:39, 47–51**

Narrator: Jesus taught his disciples.

Jesus: Everything will happen as the scriptures say: I will suffer; I will be rejected by the religious leaders; I will be killed; I will rise three days later.

Peter: Don't talk like that!

Jesus: You are not thinking like God thinks. Pick up your cross and follow me.

Narrator: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray. It was there that the soldiers found him.

Peter: Shall we use the sword to stop them?

Narrator: One of Jesus' followers sliced off the ear of a soldier.

Jesus: No more of this! Here, I've healed your ear.

Narrator: The soldiers led Jesus to the courts while the disciples watched.

- **Let's read today's scriptures together.**
- **Let's act out the drama.**
- **Let's write a letter to someone who lives far away.**
- **Let me teach you how to say a pretzel prayer!**