

LESSON 23

Take Up Your Cross

LUKE 9:18-27



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS FACED THE CROSS, AND WE MUST FOLLOW HIM

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Luke 9:18–27 from the Scriptures or read story 101, “Take up Your Cross,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Play the Role of Peter

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ if possible, enlist the help of the actor who played the role of Peter in Lesson 11
- ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

Some Are Called to Give Up Their Lives

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* (You can also look up the following martyrs on the Internet: Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Pete Fleming.)

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **15 MIN**

Cross Cutouts

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crosses cut out of white three by-five cards—one per child
- ✓ colored markers

Write the words “Follow Me” on the board or white board in the front of the room. Have the children write those words along the cross beam of their cross. Then have them turn the cross around and write their name. They can use the colored pens to do the writing and or decorate their crosses.

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Take Up Your Cross

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ the crosses the children created in activity time

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus is called the Messiah—When Jesus delivered people from demon possession, many of the demons called Jesus the Son of God (Luke 4:41; 8:28). But now Jesus asks the disciples who the crowds say he is (Luke 9:18). The answers they give are all wrong. Then Jesus asks the same question of his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter, never one to hold back his opinion, answered, “The Christ of God.” (“Christ” translated means “Messiah”). Peter got the answer correct. Finally a descendant of David had come who could deliver his people from their greatest enemy—sin and death (Luke 1:32).

Jesus is called to die—The people of Israel were expecting the Messiah to be a triumphant king who would lead them to a national victory overthrowing Roman rule. But Jesus taught the disciples that his path to victory as the Messiah would be different from this. Jesus would have to endure suffering at the hands of the Jews and be rejected by the leaders and killed—crucified. His victory over his enemies would come after that, when on the third day he would be raised from the dead. Jesus would triumph not over Rome, but over death! The disciples didn’t understand all of what Jesus told them, for when the time came and he was arrested, they scattered in fear. It was not until after Jesus’ resurrection that they remembered his teaching and understood (Luke 24:8).

We are called to follow him—Jesus says that his disciples (we included) must be willing to give up everything to follow him. In the end, most of the disciples were killed for following Jesus. Though few of us will die for following Christ, we must be willing to give up anything that hinders our following him. Any sacrifices we are called to make or any hardships we are called to bear cannot be compared with having Jesus and his wonderful salvation.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

In Luke 9:22, Jesus specifically predicted his death and resurrection, which is the core of the gospel. He continues in verse 23 to describe how the path to following him involves our own cross. We must be willing to give up everything, even our lives. Physical death is not a requirement, but death to self and the pleasures of this world are a definite cost of following Jesus. If we try to secure salvation or save our own lives by any other means, we will fail. Whether by our good works or our own understanding, all paths outside the gospel fail and lead to eternal death. We can only have life if we trust in Jesus and in what he has done on the cross on our behalf.

The passing treasures of this life may bring temporary happiness, but all the treasures of the earth are not equal in value to our salvation in Christ. Money cannot buy eternal joy. Good works cannot save.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 9:18–27 from the Scriptures or read story 101, "Take up Your Cross," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Play the Role of Peter

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ if possible, enlist the help of the actor who played the role of Peter in Lesson 11
- ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt

Have “Peter” tell the story in Matthew 16:13–28 from his perspective. The four main components to this account are the name of Jesus, the words of Christ about the church, Jesus’ rebuke of Peter for coming against the cross, and the cost of following Jesus.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Some Are Called to Give Up Their Lives

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* (You can also look up the following martyrs on the Internet: Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Pete Fleming.)

Read an account from the book to the class and/or read a modern account of a missionary who gave up his/her life for the gospel. Ask the class the following questions:

- **How could someone have the courage to give up their life for Christ?**
(God gives us the grace to do what he calls us to do. There seems to be a special grace on many who suffer and die for their faith.)
- **What are some ways we might be persecuted for our faith and need to stand up for Jesus?**
(Friends might make fun us; if we go to public school we might be penalized or punished for sharing our faith; we might not be able to participate on team sports if the games are on Sundays, etc.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Cross Cutouts

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crosses cut out of white three by-five cards—one per child
- ✓ colored markers

Distribute to a cross to each child along with the markers. Write the sentence “Follow Me” on the whiteboard where everyone can see it. Have the children write those words along the cross beam of their cross. Then have them turn the cross around and write their name. They can decorate the cross as they wish.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Take Up Your Cross

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ the crosses the children created in the activity time

Have the children line their crosses along one of the classroom walls. Then have them stand in a line across from where their cross is along the wall on the opposite side of the room. Tell the children when you give them the signal they are going to walk toward their cross and pick it up. They are to take one step for every word that you speak after you say go. If the children get to their cross before you finish, they should pick up their cross and wait till you have finished reading the verses.

Give them the signal “Ready, set, go!” Then speak the following words:

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:23–24)

Tell the children to return to their seats and put their cross in their Bible at Luke 9. Those who don’t have Bibles in class can take their crosses home and insert them later.

LESSON 23 - TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

