



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 23

## TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

*Jesus faced the cross, and we must follow Him.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: LUKE 9:18-21**

Jesus is called the Messiah. Jesus was praying again when He stopped to ask His disciples a question. He first asked them who the crowds thought He was and then He asked the same question to the disciples. Peter, never one to hold back his opinion, answered that Jesus is the Christ of God. Jesus warned them not to tell anyone, knowing that the crowds had already tried to force Him to be king. Perhaps wanting to bring more instruction, Jesus went on to tell Peter of His plan to build the church (Matthew 16:17-19).

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What did Jesus do that made people think He was a prophet? (God had given prophets the ability to do all kinds of miracles, so it would be natural for the people to think Jesus was a prophet.)

Can you remember any miracles the Old Testament prophets performed? (See if your children can remember some of the miracles that were similar to the things Jesus did. For example, Elijah multiplied the widow's oil and flour, and Jesus multiplied the fishes and loaves. Elisha, similarly, multiplied a widow's oil.)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for sending Jesus as our Messiah to deliver us from our sins.



**TUESDAY**

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**THE STORY: LUKE 9:22**

Jesus is called to die. The people were expecting a triumphant king who would lead them to overthrow the Roman rule. After telling his disciples not to spread word that He was the Messiah, Jesus clued them in to the kind of Messiah He was. Jesus' triumph would come later. First, He would endure much suffering at the hands of the Jews themselves. Even worse, He would be killed. On the third day, He would be raised. Jesus would triumph - not over Rome, but over death!

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Do you remember when the people wanted to force Jesus to be king? (Yes. See John 6:15, after Jesus fed the five thousand.)

Did Jesus know He would die? How do you know? (Jesus knew He was on earth to die as He described in verse 22. The cross came as no surprise. The writer of Hebrews tells us, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" [Hebrews 12:2].)

Do you think Jesus was afraid of dying? (No. Although He knew it would be painful, He was willing to obey His Father with joy. The joy Christ anticipated was the joy of restoring people to fellowship with God. What a joy that is!)

**PRAY:**

Thank the Lord for His willingness to die to save us.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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**THE STORY: LUKE 9:22-25**

In Luke 9:22 Jesus specifically predicted His death and resurrection, which is the core of the gospel story. 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 very 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 end in eternal death. We have life only when we trust in Jesus and what He has done on the cross on our behalf.

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

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Where do you see the gospel in this passage? (The gospel message is that Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead. Both of these components are found in this passage.)

What other parts of the gospel are not found in this passage? (It doesn't talk about the Crucifixion, the Father's wrath poured out upon Jesus, or that He would appear again to the disciples.)

**PRAY:**

Thank Jesus for His willingness to die. Pray that each member of your family would be willing to give up everything to follow Jesus.



## THURSDAY

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### **THE STORY: LUKE 9:26,27**

We are called to follow Him. Jesus goes on to tell His disciples (and all of us) that we must be willing to give up everything to follow Him. Most of the disciples would one day be killed for following Jesus. Some of them literally took up their cross. We must be willing to give up anything as we follow Christ. Any sacrifices we make to be His disciples, or any crosses we bear, cannot be compared with having Jesus and His wonderful salvation.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What kinds of things tempt us away from the love and affection we should give the Lord? (Just about anything can take the Lord's place in our hearts. Money and possessions are a big idol for many, but comfort and control can also win our affections over from the Lord. You can always tell if you love something too much when it is threatened to be taken away. We should love nothing more than the Lord, and we must be willing to sacrifice all for Him.)

When are we most likely to be ashamed of the Lord? (The fear of man is a great struggle for many Christians. God calls us to spread the good news of the gospel, but many are afraid of what people might think of them. We need to be sobered by the words of Christ and ask God that His Spirit would fill us and embolden us to share our faith as the Spirit leads us.)

### **PRAY:**

Ask God for courage to be willing to give up anything for the Lord, and for the courage to witness and not give in to the fear of man.



**FRIDAY**  
**ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: ISAIAH 53:1-3**

Isaiah described a suffering servant who would be “despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and suffering.” Jesus identified with this description when He said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law,” in Luke 9:22. Peter also identified Christ as one who was rejected by men (1 Peter 2:4).

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What do you think the verse about no beauty or majesty is referring to? (Jesus was a king, but He did not come as a king should come. Rather than arriving dressed in royal robes, Jesus was born in a stable.)

How was Jesus rejected? (Jesus was rejected by the Jewish rulers. He was also rejected by His own disciples, who fled in fear after His arrest in the garden.)

**PRAY:**

Pray that God would draw every member of your family to Jesus and that no one would reject Him.