

## TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 9:23



## The STORY

Read what Jesus taught about giving up the treasures of this earth to follow Him in Luke 9:23.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did Jesus say we should give up in order to follow Him? (All the world.)
- What does Jesus mean that we should give up the whole world? (Jesus is the most important treasure of all. Nothing is more valuable than Him, not even all the treasure of the world.)
- Why are Jesus and His Word so special? (There is only one God who creates. Jesus made the earth and He died on the cross for our sin so that we could be forgiven and spend our lives forever with Him in heaven. His Word tells us this story of the Gospel so that we can believe.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a maze with various paths. Engage the children by asking:**

- Who can solve the maze and help the two children find their way to Jesus in heaven? (Have the children draw a line along the path to Jesus.)
- What did the two children have to pass up to get to heaven? (Earthly treasure and earthly pleasure.)
- What is drawn along the path to help their way? (The crosses drawn along the path guide their way. Explain that the cross represents the Gospel and that it is through what Jesus did on the cross that we can get to heaven. We need to embrace the teaching of the Bible and be willing to pass up the treasures and pleasures of this life. This is taking up our cross and following Jesus.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- Why is the Bible a special book? (The Bible is God's Word. Other books might have great stories but they are just the words of man.)
- What does it mean when it tells us not to be ashamed of God's Word? (We should not be afraid to tell others we believe the Bible is God's Word. We are ashamed when we don't want others to know that we believe and follow God's Word.)
- What story does the Bible teach us? (The Bible teaches us the story of Jesus. From the very beginning to the very end, the Bible is the story of how God created the earth and is saving the earth from the evil of sin through what Jesus did on the cross.)

### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

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 of 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.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*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.*

