

HE COMES TO CHALLENGE



“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?”

– MARK 8:34-36



FAITH5 Small Group Handout

He Comes to Challenge



1. SHARE a high and a low from the past week one-on-one with a partner. Choose someone at least 20 years older or younger than you. After a few minutes, return and share your partner's high or low with the entire group.

My partner's high:

My partner's low:

My prayer for my partner:



2. READ and highlight the theme verse (Mark 8:34-36). If time permits, read the following verses aloud, highlighting them in your Bibles.

Psalms 115:1, 9-18

Genesis 28:10-17

Romans 5:1-11

What words or phrases jump out at you? Why? Are there other verses that help you understand what it means to follow Jesus? Share these verses and mark them in your Bibles.



3. TALK about how your highs and lows might relate to the theme verse, then discuss the following questions at time permits:

1. Tell about a time when you sacrificed something for the sake of someone else.
2. What would move someone to give up their life for someone else?
3. What does it mean to deny yourself for the sake of the Gospel?



4. PRAY for one another's highs and lows. Choose from among your highs and lows and bring one of each to the Closing:

PRAISE: A prayer of praise our group brings...

THANK: A prayer of thanks our group brings...

ASK: A prayer of special concern our group brings...



5. BLESS one another by tracing the sign of the cross on palms or foreheads and these words: "(Name), child of God, you shall rise from the dust one day in the power of Christ's resurrection."



LENT B1

Kids' Corner

He Comes to Challenge

For groups with young children



Share

Share one good thing that happened to you this week. Share one bad thing that happened to you this week.



Read

Open your Bible and read Mark 8:34-36.



Talk

Play "Follow the Leader" and bring little ones onto blankets in a lowly lit, quiet room. If the room is totally dark, take flashlights.

The idea is to provide a quiet setting where you only speak in whispers. As you experience the silence, share with the children the importance of having quiet time together. Jesus needed to get away from all the noise and crowds. He went into the desert alone. It is good to get away and be alone sometimes. It gives us time to think, spend time with each other, and pray. Take some time to whisper with one another, then share a quiet time. End with a prayer praising God for quiet places and time together. Ask the children if they have quiet times at home and what they do to spend time with family.

Questions

1. What is something hard someone who loves you has done for you?
2. What is something hard you could do to show love for someone in your family?
3. What is one hard thing you could do this week to follow Jesus?

Talk Activities

1. Materials needed: Construction paper, markers, sticks, string or twine, scissors. Cut a cross out of paper or tie two sticks together with the string to make a cross. Decorate or color the cross. Invite families to display their crosses at home and focus on them during nightly devotions as a reminder of the good news of Jesus' love.

2. Materials needed: Device with MP3 theme song. Play the theme song found in the Theme Music folder. There are three versions:

- Take Up Their Cross - Vocal
- Take Up Their Cross - Instrumental
- Take Up Their Cross - Piano

Invite children to sing and sign or create a dance while teaching the words to the verse.

3. Materials needed: Paper and pen. Invite small groups to write a prayer for each home to use as part of their FAITH5 Home Huddle every night this week.



Pray

Invite children to complete the following:

I praise God for...
I thank Jesus for...
I ask the Holy Spirit to...



Bless

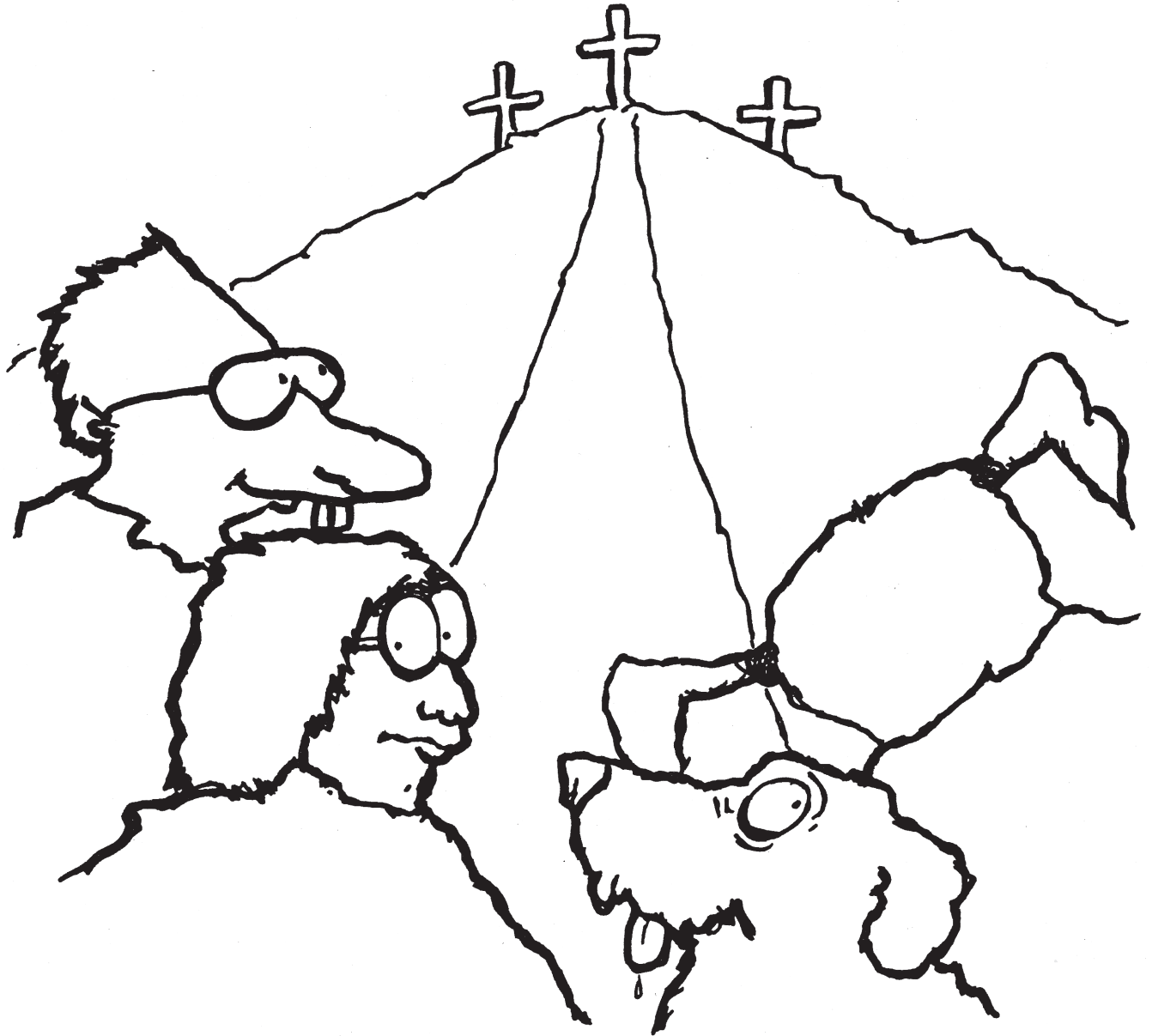
Invite children to bless one another and say: (Name), child of God, you shall rise from the dust one day in the power of Christ's resurrection."



Color Time

Invite everyone to color the next pages or to draw and color their own thematic picture.

He Comes to Challenge



How do you think the people in the picture feel as they look at the crosses?

What is something you could carry — like a cross — to show you're following Jesus?

