

AUGUST 31, 2014
12TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

Take up your cross and
follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned
Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
Monday	Matthew 10:32-39	Losing life to find it
Tuesday	Matthew 20:17-28	Jesus again predicts his death
Wednesday	Luke 9:57-62	The cost of following Jesus
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-16	Running towards the goal
Friday	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as a Christian
Saturday	Psalms 101	The life of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A prayer for the week:

Lord Jesus, help us to never give up on you. Keep us excited about serving God. Amen. (Romans 12:11)

Mealttime Prayer:

For all we eat and all we wear, for daily bread and nightly care, we thank you, Heavenly Father. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God keep your faith in Jesus alive and strong. May he help you to stay joyful and give you patience when times are hard. Amen. (Romans 12:11-12)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is something you find difficult to do? What makes it so?
- Sometimes following Jesus involves suffering or difficulty. In what ways have you experienced this?
- Jesus says, "If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it" (Matthew 16:25). What do you think he means by this?

DEVOTIONS

Look together at Romans 12:9-21. Make posters listing and illustrating all of the things these verses encourage Christians to do (e.g. love others, honor others, be joyful, pray, bless). Put these posters up around your home. Pray for God's help to live out these things in your home this week.

SERVICE

Work together as a household to make small crosses out of card or craft sticks. Write the words, "Take up your cross and follow me," on each cross. Commit to carrying your crosses with you this week as a reminder of Jesus' call to follow him in all things.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Romans 12:13 says: "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Plan one way you can respond to this as a household this week.



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