

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking+ faith home

Take up your cross and follow.

## 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	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross
Monday	Romans 1:16-17	Paul not ashamed of the gospel
Tuesday	Philippians 3:7-16	Running towards the goal
Wednesday	Hebrews 12:1-13	The example of Jesus
Thursday	1 Peter 3:13-17	Suffering for doing right
Friday	1 Peter 5:6-11	God will restore those suffering
Saturday	Psalms 54	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is greatest

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said, "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me." Mark 8:34

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, give us strength today to take up our crosses and follow you. Amen. (Mark 8:29, 34)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we chew and as we swallow, make us strong to love and follow. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God's goodness give you peace in your heart and your mind. May the Lord protect you with kindness. Amen. (Ps. 116:5-7)

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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you carried something heavy. How hard was it to do?
- Jesus says that if we want to come after him, we must pick up our crosses and follow him. What do you think he means?
- Do you think it is hard or easy to follow Jesus? Why?

## DEVOTIONS

When you gather as a household this week at mealtimes or for your home devotions, begin by making the sign of the cross. This is an ancient Christian tradition that reminds us that we are people saved through the cross of Christ. To make the sign of the cross, bring together your thumb and index and middle fingers. Place them on your forehead, then move down to the sternum, then from the left shoulder across to your right shoulder.

## SERVICE

We serve others not only through what we do, but also through what we say. James 3:1-9 encourages us to use our tongues to bless others, not hurt them. Aim to be God's "sacred agents" with your words this week in your home, workplace, school, church and community groups. Set out each day to give at least one compliment or affirmation to someone else. Report back to each other daily about your experiences.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Visual symbols are a powerful means for communicating our faith and reminding us of Christ's place in our lives. What crosses do you have on display in your home? Aim to have a cross of some type in every room. Spend time together designing crosses (from paper, wood or other materials) to place on your walls or furniture.



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