

## Sunday between September 11 and 17 – year B

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### Preparation

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Read the Gospel [Mark 8:27-38](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/properb19.htm>

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452\\_115925\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115925_ENG_HTM.htm)

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/24-b/F-24-b.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/petersun.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/who-am-i.html>

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

**For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.**

**For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.**

**For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Welcome the children back to Sunday School. Take a few moments and let the children share with you anything exciting that happened over the summer. If you have new children take some time to make sure everyone is introduced. Ask the children how they know who someone famous is, especially if they have never met them. *(Take a few moments to let them respond. Some possible answers are from magazines, older brothers and sisters, television, radio and the internet.)* Tell the children to listen in today's story for the question of who Jesus is to his friends.

## Story Time

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### Materials needed

- Green poster board
- Pencil, black marker
- Question mark image and cross image at end of lesson
- Scissors, glue stick

### Instructions

Look at the question mark image at the end of the lesson. Using the pencil, draw a question mark on the poster board. When you are satisfied with it, go over it with the black marker and mark out the ten spaces as seen in the image. Place the question mark poster where the children can see it through the lesson. Copy the cross image and cut it out, and have it and glue stick read for the end of the lesson.

Jesus and his friends were walking to villages in the northern part of Galilee. As they were walking, Jesus asked them a question. “Who do the people say that I am?” asked Jesus.

One of his friends said, “John the Baptist.”

Another said, “Elijah the prophet.”

Another said, “One of God’s prophets.”

Then Jesus asked them another question, “Who do you say that I am?”

At once, Peter said, “You are the Messiah. The one sent from God to save the world.”

Jesus told his friends not to tell anyone until the right time showed up. Then Jesus told them some hard things. He explained that soon he was going to have to suffer horrible things and even die. However that would not be the end of things. Three days after he died, God would do an amazing thing and Jesus would rise again.

Now, Peter got very upset by what Jesus was saying. He took Jesus to one side and told him to keep quiet about this. Jesus got upset with Peter and said, “Get behind me. You are speaking evil words. It is time to set your mind on what God wants, not what you want.”

Jesus called the crowd of people over who were with him and his friends. Jesus had something that he wanted to teach them. He said, “If you want to become a friend of mine, then you need to deny yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. What good will it do anyone to get the whole world and then lose their life with God? You must take up your cross and follow me. That is the only way to become part of God’s kingdom.”

### Question Mark Poster

*Direct the children’s attention to the question mark in the middle of the poster. With the children think about all the questions that were asked in today’s story – who do people say that I am? what good will it do you? Ask what the answers to the questions were – Jesus is the messiah and take up your cross. Show them the cross image. Have one of the children glue it into the first space. Explain that for the next several weeks they will be adding something to the poster to help them remember each week’s story.*

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Tissue Paper Cross

*With this response, the children will be able to share with their families Jesus' call to all his followers.*

#### Materials needed

- card stock
- tissue paper of various colours
- white glue
- pencils
- markers

#### Instructions

For younger children draw a large, block cross on the card stock. Encourage the older children to draw their own. Across the bottom of the card stock print **“Take up your cross and follow me”**. Show the children how to take small pieces of tissue paper and scrunch them up, put some glue on to the bottom and then glue it onto their crosses. Encourage the children to fill in as much of the cross as they can with the tissue paper and to use as many colours as possible. Suggest to the children that they tell their families why Jesus asked his friends to take up their crosses and follow him when they show their cross pictures to them.

### Project Idea 2: Stencil Crosses

*Stencilling is an old art form and will be a good way for the children to share Jesus' message with others.*

#### Materials needed

- card stock
- scissors
- crayons with paper taken off
- large pieces of white paper (legal or tabloid)
- masking tape
- markers

#### Instructions

Fold the card stock in half long ways. For younger children draw half a cross shape so that the fold will be in the centre of the cross. Let older children draw it on themselves. Cut out the inside of the cross shape. Tape the stencil to the white paper. Show the children how to colour inside the stencil, but not to worry too much about going over the lines. They may want to use more than one colour to fill in the cross shape. When they are done the first one, move the stencil and have them do another one. It might be interesting to have the crosses overlap on the drawing paper. If they have room let them put one or two more crosses on their papers. When they are finished have the children print **“Take up your cross and follow me”** on their drawings. Remind the children to share the story with their families when they show them their stencil drawings.

### **Project Idea 3: Cross Luminary**

*This will be a craft response that will be best with older children. In it they will make a luminary (light holder) to remind them of Jesus' call to take up their cross and follow him.*

#### **Materials needed**

- clean large tin cans (make sure the edges are smooth)
- hammers
- small nails
- sharpie markers
- votive candles
- hard surface to work on

#### **Instructions**

Give each child a tin can and have them draw at least two or three crosses on the outside of the can. Show them how to use the hammer and nail to punch holes around the cross shapes. Explain that the people have often used luminaries to light up the way for friends and family. As they are making their luminaries, ask the children to think about how they can take up their crosses and follow Jesus. When they are done, give each child a votive candle to put in their luminary. Remind them to only light them with an adult.

### **Closing**

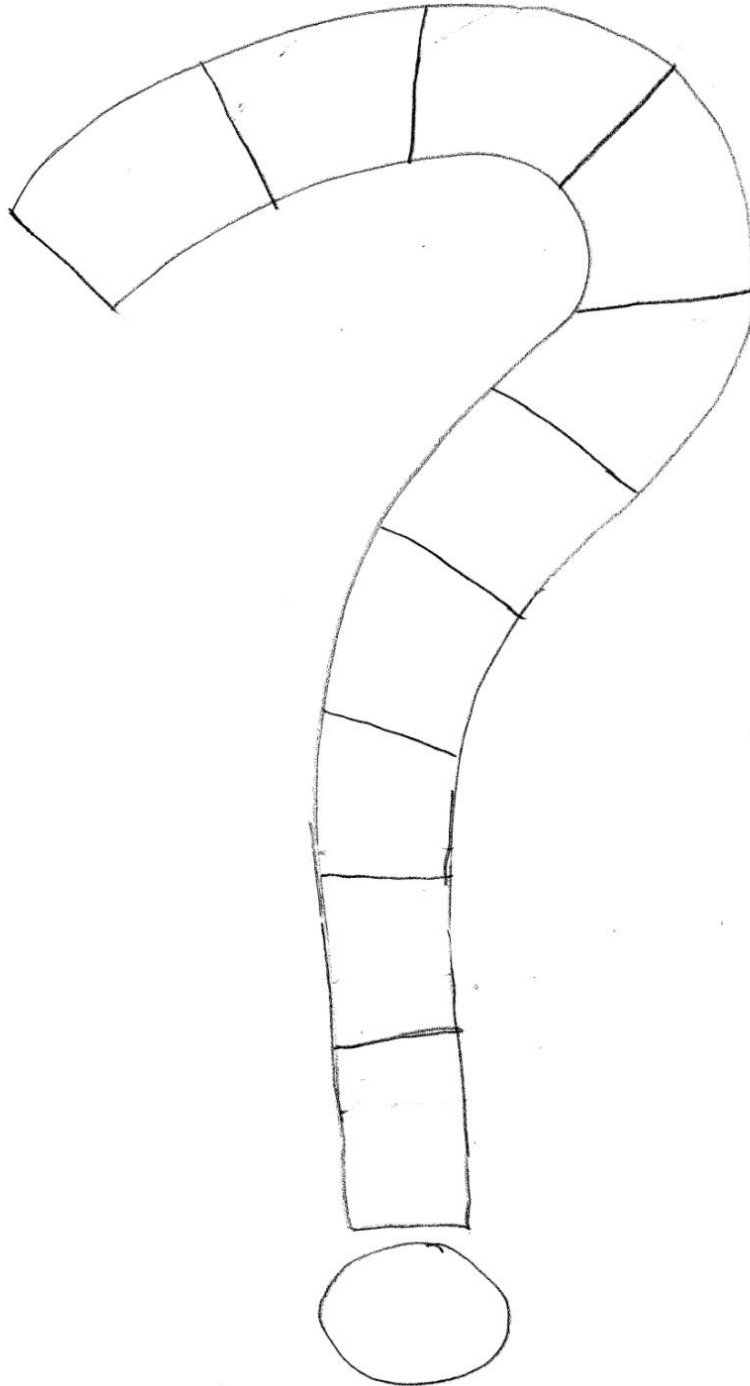
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Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,  
Friend Jesus be with us each day,  
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,  
Amen.**

## Question Mark Image

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## Cross Image

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