

Family resources 28.02.21

This week's Bible story is Mark 8:31-38. It's not an easy passage to use with children. Jesus tells his disciples that he will die and Peter gets cross with him. Jesus then tells the crowd that if they want to follow him, they will need to take up their cross. We'll focus on the fact that sometimes it's hard to follow Jesus, but it is always worth it because it helps us to live our best life.

Here are some websites that will help you explore that idea with your child(ren). If you would like a bit more of a structure, head to the end of the page.

This tells Mark 8:31-38 in an Australian accent!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1DdKxN-k8U>

This is an idea for creating prayer cards using a cross image.

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/03/crayon-colour-transfer-prayers.html>

Get creative and make fabric crosses together which you and your children can hold on to.

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2018/06/textured-holding-crosses-for-sensory.html>

If you would like to structure a time together, here's one way of doing it:

- Start off with a treasure hunt. Hide some crosses (made from pipe cleaners or cut out of paper) around your house.
- Tell the story of Mark 8:31-38 either from a Bible story book or using the video above.
- The attached reflective colouring sheet shows people following Jesus. As you colour it in, talk about the people you know who follow Jesus. How do they live differently? What makes it hard to follow Jesus? Maybe tell your children how you decided to follow Jesus.
- Make a cross together - use the idea above, tear one out of paper, fold a pipe cleaner, make one from Lego - use whatever you have around. Where could you keep this cross to remind you that you are following Jesus?
- Say this prayer together, 'Thank you, Jesus, that you want us to follow you. Show us the way when it feels hard. Help us to keep living our best life for you. Amen.'
- Finish with the Lord's Prayer.

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