

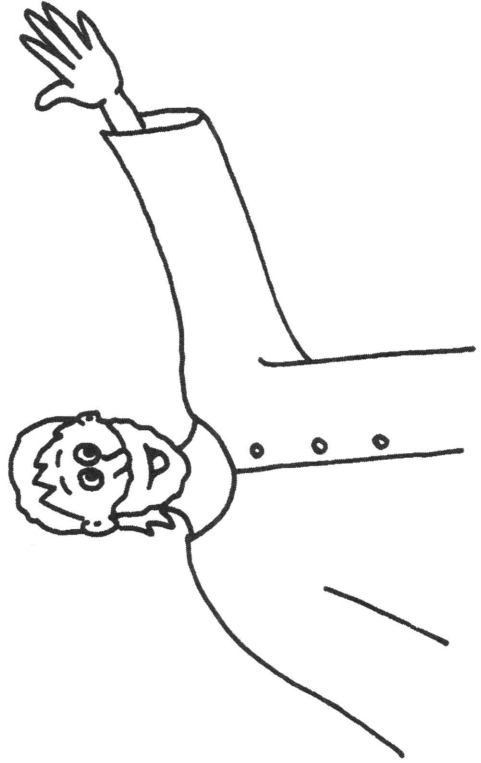
THINK and **LOOK** ahead

God's way!

MATTHEW 16:21-27

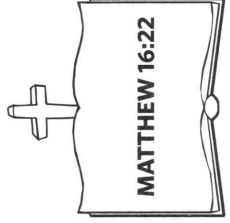
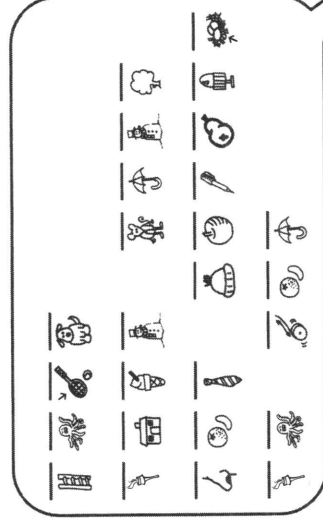
Look up Matthew 18:20 to find the missing words.

When _____ or _____
_____ meet in my name,
I am there with them.



Jesus had told his disciples that he would have to suffer and die before rising again. Peter loved Jesus and wanted to stop such a thing from happening.

Write the first letter of each picture to find Peter's words



THINK and **LOOK** ahead

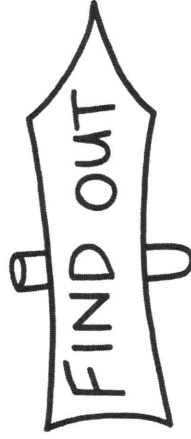
• STEP BY STEP •

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, YEAR A

God's way

MATTHEW 16:21-27

*When two or three people meet to pray,
who will be there with them?*

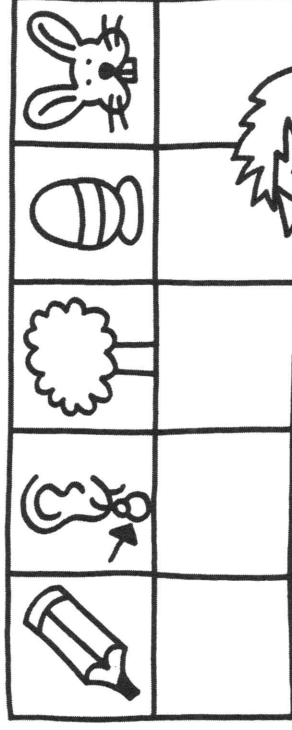


Write the answer below

.....

Jesus told the disciples that he would suffer and die, and they were sad and afraid.

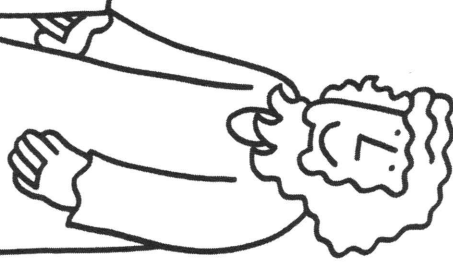
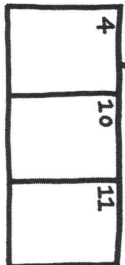
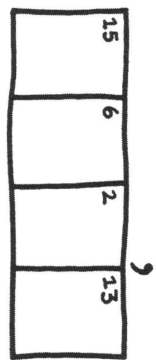
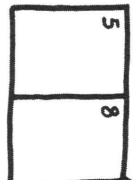
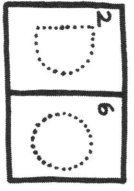
Write the first letter of each picture clue to find out which disciple wanted to keep Jesus from harm



Jesus told Peter that we must
do things God's way, even
if sometimes that is hard!

Find the numbered letters in the puzzle and
copy them into the squares with the same number

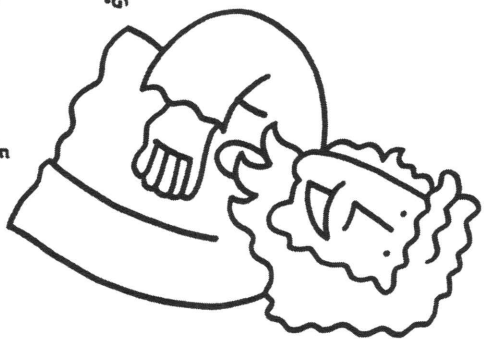
¹ J	² D	³ E	⁴ W	⁵ I
⁶ O	⁷ U	⁸ T	⁹ M	¹⁰ A
¹¹ Y	¹² B	¹³ S	¹⁴ L	¹⁵ G



Jesus said...

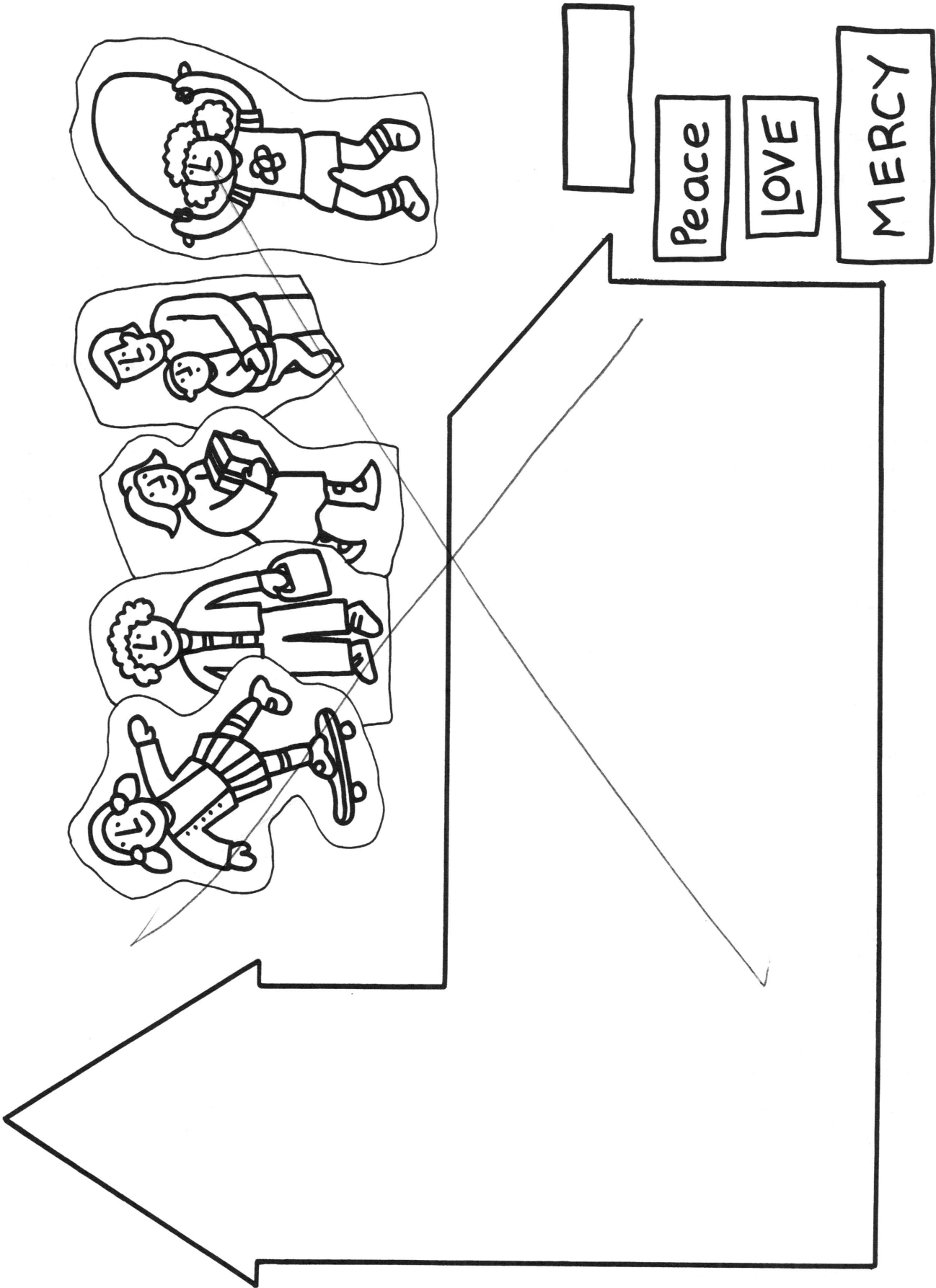
Take up your cross
and follow me!

Connect the letters
of the alphabet in order



- H
- G
- J.
- .I
- F.
- .E
- K.
- .L
- C.
- .D
- M.
- A.
- .B





Twenty-second Sunday of the Year

Focus

A piece of needlework or tapestry, or a collection of different coloured threads or lengths of wool.

Introduction

As human beings we cannot begin to understand the way in which God thinks or makes plans. For this reason we can sometimes feel confused or anxious when things in our lives don't seem to be going quite as we had planned. It can be difficult to accept that things should happen in a particular way that we might not understand at the time; our natural human instinct is to avoid painful situations if at all possible. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his friends that he will be put to death in Jerusalem, but Peter has other ideas!

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 4.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (16:21-27)
(See page 376.)

Reflection

Close your eyes for a moment and think about some of the people in your life whom you really love – it might be your mum and dad, brothers or sisters, or your grandparents.

How would you feel if someone wanted to harm a person you love deeply?

What danger was Jesus facing?

Jesus was making his way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover. He knew that his enemies were plotting to have him arrested and put to death.

How did Peter react when he heard about this threat to his Master's safety?

Peter was deeply upset and concerned. He loved Jesus very much and could not bear the thought of him coming to harm. He was ready to take whatever action was necessary to prevent these dreadful events from unfolding as Jesus had foretold.

How did Jesus respond to Peter's concern?

Jesus was very firm with Peter. He pointed out that Peter wanted to do things his way rather than considering and accepting what was God's will. Jesus knew that he would be put to death and rise again, and he was prepared to obey and follow his heavenly Father's plan for salvation for his people.

Do you think that Jesus always found it easy to accept God's way?

No one looks forward to suffering and pain; it is something we try to avoid if at all possible! Jesus knew what ordeal lay ahead of him and he was afraid (remind the children of his anxiety and fear in the Garden of Gethsemane). Peter's suggestion of avoiding his fate must have seemed tempting; after all, it is easier to run away from difficult situations

than to have to face up to them. Nevertheless, Jesus would have prayed to his Father for the strength and courage he needed to do his will and follow his way.

Do we always find God's way clear to understand and easy to follow in our own lives?

Definitely not! Often we are uncertain about what exactly God wants us to do and how we can please him. Think of God's way like this:

Have you ever admired an intricate and detailed piece of needlework or tapestry, and marvelled at the thousands of threads and stitches that together create the picture or scene? If we stand too close to such a piece of work, it can be hard to make out what it is; we need to stand back to appreciate and understand the image before us.

Our lives can be compared to such a tapestry, with God the master weaver who is the only one who knows what the final picture will look like. As he busily weaves and helps us to direct the threads of our lives, it is as though we are standing at the back of the tapestry, where we are unable to make out the final picture. We must trust him to direct our efforts, even at times when things seem to be going badly in our lives. Although we may not understand how the twists and turns in our lives are all part of God's elaborate plan or way, we must trust, as Jesus did, that the threads of our lives will help to complete his wonderful tapestry.

Activity

Fold a piece of plain white paper in half. Then open it out. Drip some different colours of paints on one half, and then carefully fold it over again. Gently smooth the paper with your hand and carefully open it out again. What does your picture look like? Does it remind you of anything in particular?

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

For the Church and all her people throughout our world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who work to build God's kingdom on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For nations and communities divided by conflict and fear.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have lost their faith and way in life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts

let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,

as we follow your loving way,

keep us faithful to you

and help our trust to grow strong.

Grant this through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

God's way

INTRODUCTION

No one likes to do something difficult when there is an easier way! Sometimes it is hard to do what we know is right, but today Jesus tells us that we should not try to take the easy way out but follow his way.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light the candles today, say together:
May the light of Jesus fill our lives.

SORRY

Each one of us is filled with God's spirit. If we have acted selfishly or unkindly towards someone else, we have done the same to God. As we sing our song together, we ask God to forgive us and to fill our hearts and our lives with his love. Sing Sorry Song 4.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 16:21-23)

Jesus began to tell his disciples that he would be brought before the high priests and be put to death before rising to life again.

"Lord, this cannot be allowed to happen!" exclaimed Peter, who was deeply upset by what Jesus had told them.

But Jesus said, "Peter, your way is not God's way. If you follow me, sometimes things will be difficult, but you must accept them and try not to take the easy way out."

DISCUSSION

What made Peter feel so upset? Jesus had told the disciples that he was going to die.

What did Peter want Jesus to do? Peter knew that if they kept out of harm's way Jesus would be safe, and could not be put to death. He did not

want Jesus to go to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.

Jesus said to Peter, "Your way is not God's way." What do you think he meant? Peter wanted to take the easy way out because he did not want Jesus to suffer and die. Jesus chose to follow God's way, to give up his life so that God could save all of us.

He had been sent by God the Father to suffer and die and bring everlasting life to the world. He showed how much he really loved us by following God's way. Like Peter, sometimes we do not fully understand God's way of doing things, but we should trust the father as Jesus did.

When we find it difficult trying to live as Jesus taught us, should we give up easily?

As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane he felt afraid to die. He did not run away and hide, but instead he asked God to give him the courage to do what he knew was right. With the help of Jesus, we, too, can face up to any difficulties in our lives and choose to show God how much we love him by following his way.

ACTIVITY

Make copies of the bookmark templates to give out and be colored by the children.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we pray for people
who are suffering difficulties;
the homeless and unemployed;
the sick and the lonely;
the hungry and the poor.

Share your courage and strength with them
and surround them with your love.