



***Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way***

August 30, 2020

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Hello friends! Have you ever played follow the leader? If you haven't, let me explain how it works. If I am the leader, I make a move and you have to do exactly what I've done. If I raise my left arm, you raise your left arm. If I hop twice, then you hop twice. Get it? The follower mirrors the leader's actions.

In this week's Gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus talks to his friends about what it means to be a "follower." How would you explain that word? What does it mean to be a follower?

A follower is someone who does things in a way that someone else, a "leader", helps to decide. Being a follower can be a hard thing because it means sometimes putting aside the things we want to do and following someone else's lead.

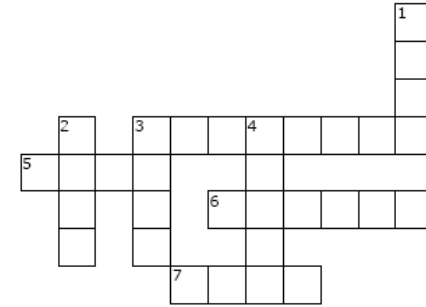
Sometimes we are called to be followers of people who have "leader jobs" like teachers or our parents. But our most important leaders are people we follow...not because we have to but because we choose to.

Jesus is a leader like that. No one is forced to be a Christian, and yet people all over the world choose to follow Jesus because they've decided all by themselves that Jesus is someone whose life and teachings are worth copying.

Following a leader like Jesus isn't always an easy job and if you listen carefully that's what you'll hear Jesus tell the disciples today. Jesus reminds his friends that being his followers will sometimes mean choosing to do things other than the things they want. It might mean taking care of someone else's needs when you'd really like to take care of your own...or, it might mean deciding not to do something that would make you feel good because you know it's just not the right thing to do. Will you follow me in prayer?

Loving God, we are followers of your Son, Jesus, not because we have to be but because we choose to be. Give us the strength to put aside our selfish ways and follow your examples. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. One who believes in Christ and follows his teachings
- 5. The period between birth and death
- 6. To accept the leadership of someone
- 7. To no longer have something because it has been taken away from you or misplaced

DOWN

- 1. To keep something from harm or loss
- 2. To discover something unexpectedly or as a result of a search
- 3. To refuse to allow yourself to have something you want
- 4. The object upon which Jesus was crucified

FIND	LIFE	DISCIPLE	FOLLOW
DENY	CROSS	SAVE	LOSE

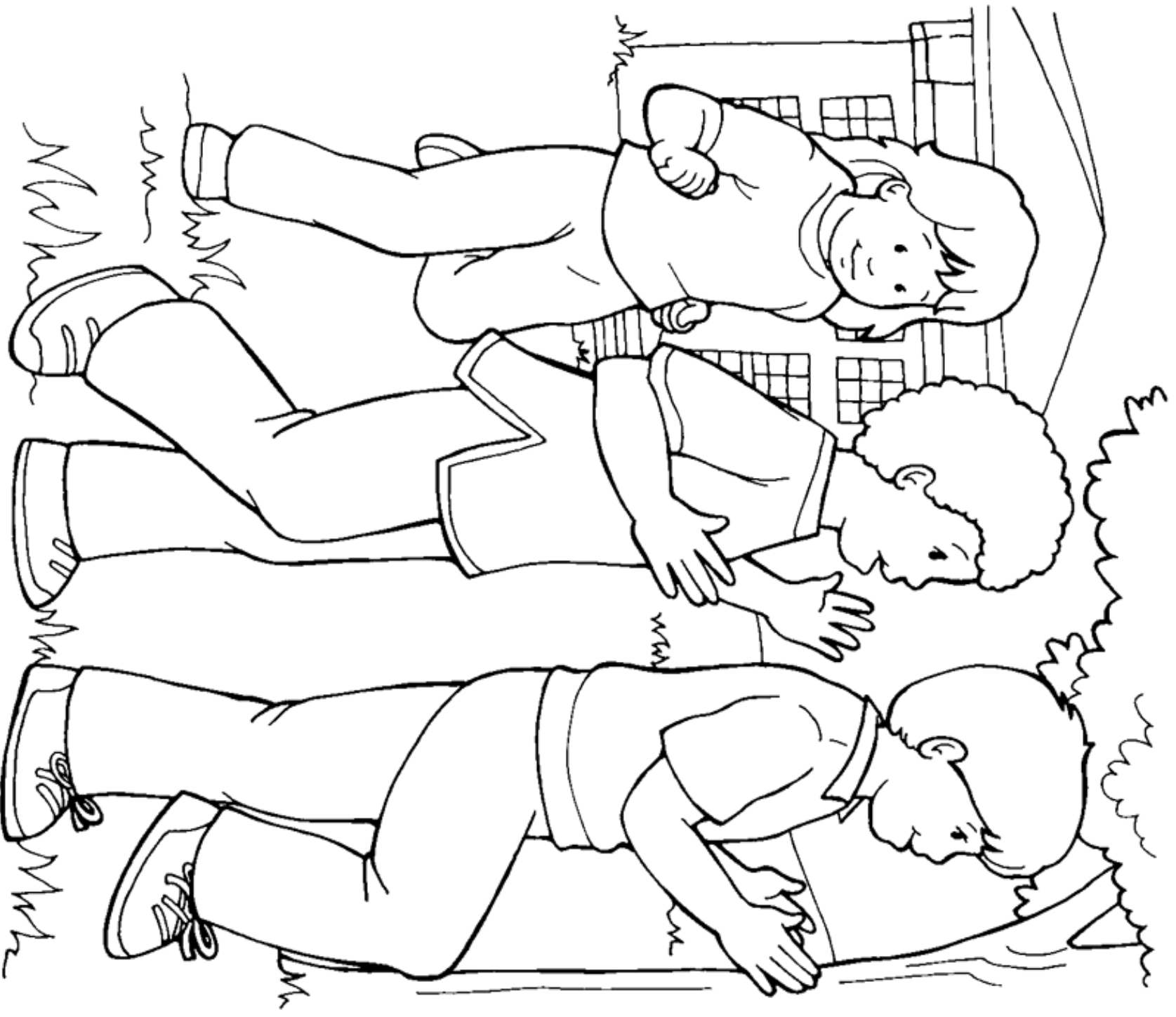
Activity: This week after dinner, play "Follow the Leader" as a family. Each night, take turns being leaders and followers.

Discussion Question Sometimes, being a leader is hard because it means that you need to do the right thing. Talk about a time when it making the right decision wasn't easy.

Family Table Prayer for August:

The air we breathe is precious
As are all people in Your sight
Make us one with each other
United in heart and mind. Amen.

August Memory Verse: How very good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity! Psalm 133:1



I will follow Jesus, our leader.

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