



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

March 1, 2015

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31 (27)

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38



The Game of Life. Object: *Game of Life, Monopoly, or similar board game.*
Do you like to play board games? Some of the most popular board games are Checkers, Chess, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, and Clue just to name a few. One of the most popular board games of all time is called "The Game of Life." It was first introduced in 1860. Wow! That's more than 150 years ago!

The "Game of Life" is played very much like real life. At the beginning of the game, each player must choose what path he or she is going to take in their journey through life. They choose whether they are going to go to college or go out and get a job. As the game goes on, each player spins the wheel and moves his car the number of spaces on which the spinner stops. The space where your car lands gives you directions on what to do. On some spaces, you MUST follow the directions. On other spaces you only have to follow the directions if you want to. Just as in real life, you have many choices along the way, but what happens to you in the "Game of Life" depends on the choices you make. At the end of the game, the player with the most money wins. Is that true in real life? Do you think that when life is over, the one with the most money wins? Today we will see what Jesus had to say about that.

In our Bible reading today, Jesus was teaching his followers about life. He said to them, "If you want to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel, you will save it. After all, what good is it if you gain the whole world, but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your own soul?"

Some people live as if the most important thing in life is getting more stuff—big houses, fancy cars, and pretty clothes. Others live as if the most important thing in life is following Jesus and serving him. How do they do that? By loving other people and doing good things for them.

Dear Father, we want to follow the example that Jesus set. We want to give up our selfish ways and give our lives in love and service to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. May I never boast of everything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. Alleluia (Gal. 6:14)

Word Search Puzzle

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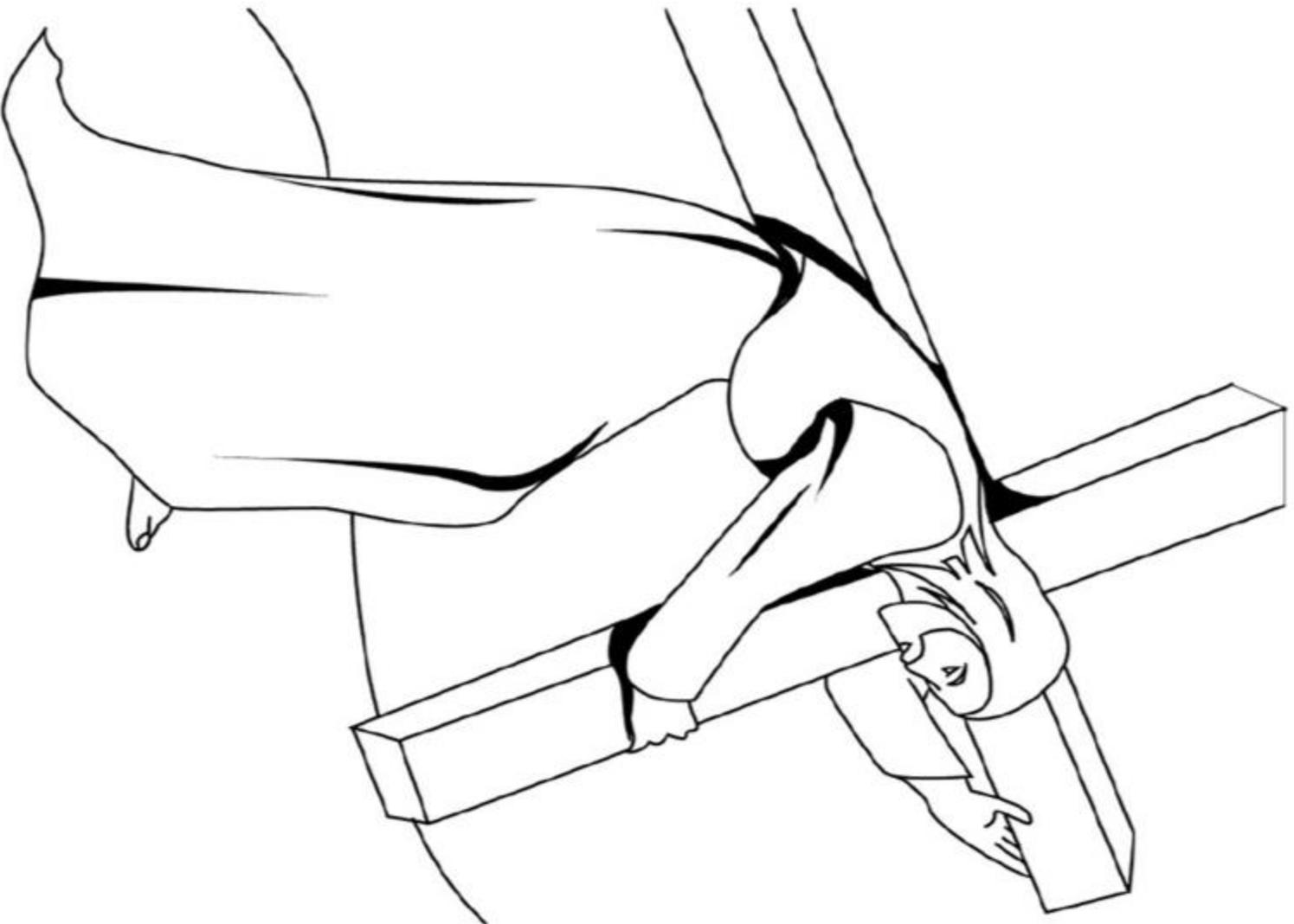
V M H E O S O D F W C N E X A
K Z H W S L H V E O H R J W Y
U Z T C O W I B Q N R O O T H
A C L I O R V F D G Y F L W N
V S D L L P L E E S X Y E E D
B K L E N R A D I E G M G I D
D O L Z V Y R S O U L Y A C T
F L W Z W D Q I X Z I R I R G
H Y Z J R U D C M V X G N O O
V I R D I S C I P L E S B S S
Z I M F L Y D E X J R E S S P
E W H S V K V P G F S C T P E
O I L P E A J M K O O G U X L
E I X P S L A J L S O W N C X
F R Z I E Q F Z A E O D T C W

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FORFEIT	WHOLE	GAIN	DENY
WORLD	LOSE	FOLLOW	GOSPEL
SAVE	GOOD	HIMSELF	SOUL
CROSS	DISCIPLES	LIFE	CROWD

JOY BOX: Give each child a small can or box to decorate on the outside and then draw or glue large letters for J.O.Y. on the container. Write Jesus by the J, Others by the O and You by the Y = Jesus, Others, You. Then give the children slips of paper that have choices we can make on each slip and have children read the choice and put it into their container. Encourage children to take out one choice from their JOY box each day and try to make that choice that day! (Suggested choices: Pick up my toys, read a Bible verse, prayer when I go to bed, help my mom or dad, dust a bookshelf)

GAME PUZZLE: Before class time, the teacher will have jig saw puzzles made up for the children to put together as a class. The teacher will make the puzzles from a large piece of poster board using words or pictures representing ideas from our lesson today. The teacher can draw the pictures for the puzzle or use magazine pictures or words, glue them to the poster board and then cut it into pieces for children to put together. Let the children work together as teams to put their CHOICES GAME PUZZLE together.



**"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me.. "
Mark 8:34 (NIV)**