



# Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

March 22, 2015

Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**Psalms 51:1-12 (10) or 119:9-16 (11)**

**Hebrews 5:5-10**

**John 12:20-33**



**The Power of His Love.** *Object: Several metal objects and a strong magnet*  
As you see, we have several small metal objects today. Here's are some paper clips, a washer, a nail, some staples, and a lid from a jar. What else do we have? (Hold up the magnet.) We also have a magnet. What do you think will happen if we hold the magnet over the different objects? Let's try it and see. Oh my! Look how those paper clips are drawn to the magnet! The entire stack is clinging to the magnet. Let's try some of these other items. Do you think the magnet will draw the washer? You are right. How about the staples? Right again. You can probably guess what will happen with the lid from the jar, can't you? Well, you are right. The lid is attracted to the magnet too. The magnet has great power and will draw many objects to itself.

The drawing power of this magnet reminds me of something that Jesus taught about himself. The people who were following Jesus didn't understand why Jesus had come to earth. They thought that he had come to set up an earthly kingdom. But Jesus didn't come to build up an earthly kingdom. His kingdom is in heaven. He came to earth to die for our sins so that we could join him in his heavenly kingdom. Jesus knew that the day of his crucifixion and return to heaven was near, so he spoke to his followers, "I am very troubled," Jesus said. "What should I do? Should I pray to the Father and ask him to save me? No, this is the very reason that I came, and when I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to myself." The Bible tells us that he told them that so that they would know how he was going to die.

The drawing power of this magnet is very strong, but it is nothing compared to the drawing power of Jesus. He willingly died on the cross to pay the price for our sin. When we see his great love, we are drawn to him and when we trust in him, we receive the right to become the children of God.

Even after we become God's children, there may be times when we stray from his teaching and do things that we know are not pleasing to him. Does Jesus stop loving us? No. His love for us is so strong that he draws us back into what he wants us to do.

There is no power stronger than the love of Jesus. He was lifted up on the cross so that everyone would be drawn to him - and everyone includes you and me.

Father, we thank you that Jesus was willing to be lifted up on the cross of Calvary so that we might have eternal life. In his name we pray. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Alleluia (John 12:24)

## Word Search Puzzle

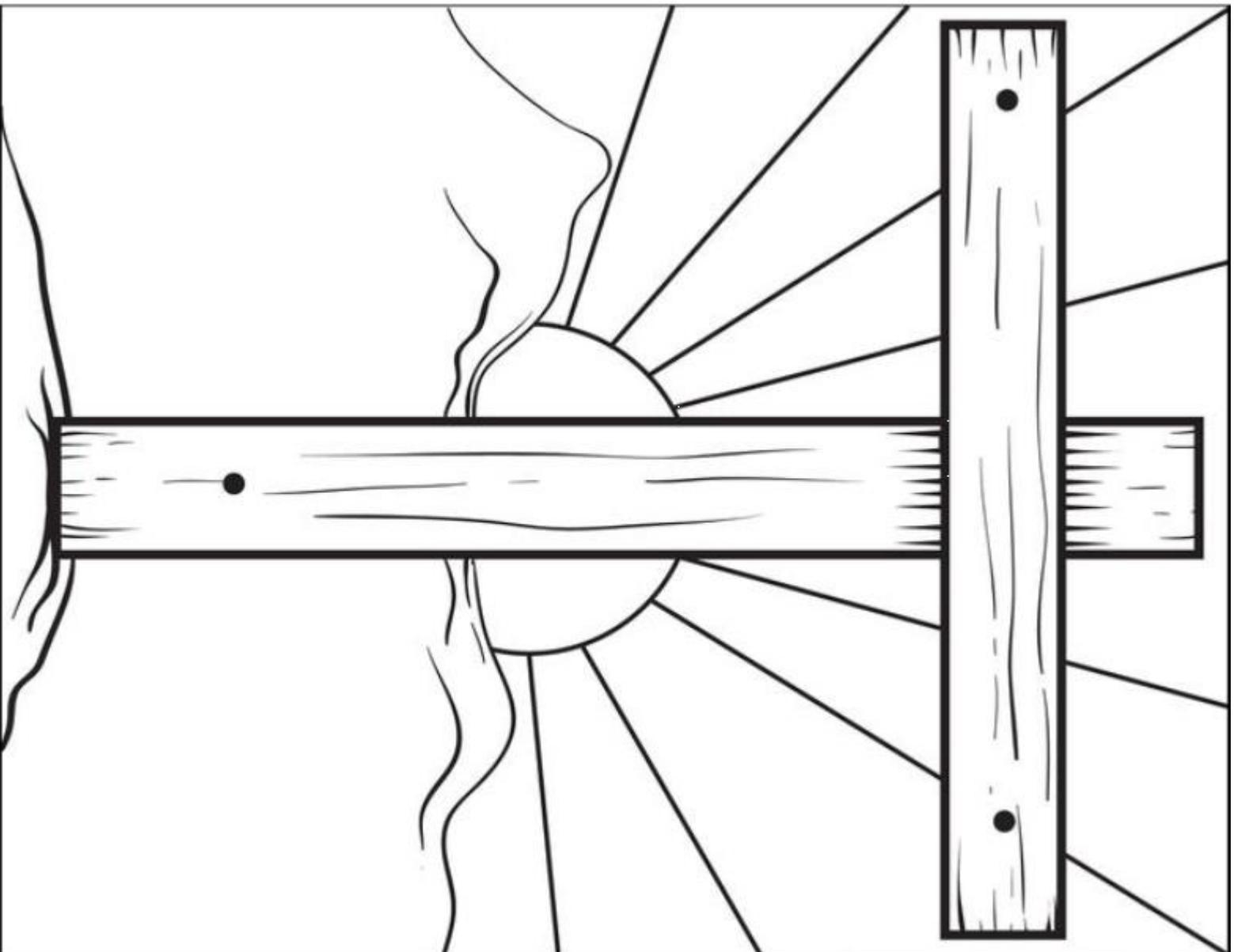
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E	O	S	D	R	A	C	X	K	U	R	X	X	M	Z
W	Y	X	G	G	W	E	C	L	E	A	P	K	Z	E
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F	X	R	R	J	T	M	N	S	H	O	W	V	W	H
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T	Z	W	B	D	H	P	O	N	R	A	O	W	F	B
H	U	V	O	T	P	E	R	R	T	W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

WORLD	DIE	TIME	HEARD	CROWD
ANGEL	HEAVEN	MYSELF	LIFTED	MEN
VOICE	FATHER	GLORIFY	PRINCE	SHOW
JUDGEMENT	DRAW	EARTH	THUNDER	NAME

**POWER OF LOVE CARD:** Give the children a half sheet of heavy card stock or construction paper. FOLD the paper in half so it will stand up. Let them write POWER OF LOVE on the front of the card. Write our memory verse (John 12:32) on the inside of the card and let children take them home to place it on their dresser or on a table!

**MAGNET CROSS:** Give the children supplies to draw and cut out a cross. Provide glitter glue and stickers for decoration. Let children put a strip of magnetic tape on the back to stick to their refrigerator at home. Encourage children to write something such as POWER IN GOD'S LOVE on their cross.

**CROSS ROPE:** Give the children a piece of heavy card stock paper and 2 sections of heavy rope to glue or tape on to the card stock paper in the shape of a CROSS. Write, NO POWER GREATER THAN GOD'S LOVE and encourage children to write today's Bible verse around the edge of their paper.



**“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,  
Will draw all people to myself.”  
John 12:32 (NIV)**