

Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way



August 14, 2016

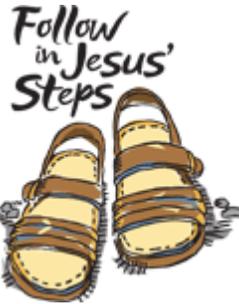
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalms 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56



Run with Endurance. Object: A medal, trophy, or some other object that would tie in with the Olympic theme.

These medals remind me of a very big event that is happening right now. Can you guess what I am talking about? That's right! I'm talking about the Olympics! The athletes have worked long and hard for the opportunity to represent their country and to try to win a medal. They are going to keep their eye on the prize and will not let anything stand in the way of doing their very best.

Our Bible lesson today describes a race that you and I are running that is even bigger and more important than the Olympics. Our Bible lesson today says, "Since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses, let us run the race that God has set before us. Throw aside anything that will slow you down. Keep your eyes on Jesus." What is this race that we have before us? It is the race of following the example that Jesus set for us and expects us to follow as one of his disciples. It is a race of obedience to God's Word and faithfulness to Jesus' call to "Follow me."

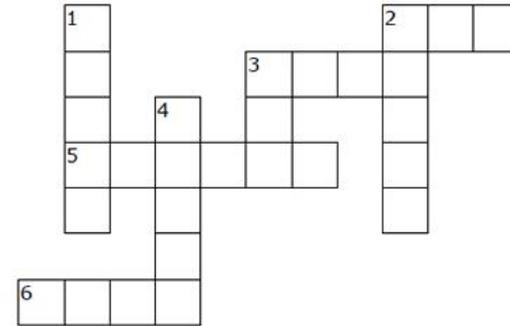
Can you imagine an Olympic athlete starting the race and giving up when the medal was within his reach? The race may not be easy, but the prize will be worth giving our all. Never give up! Keep your eyes on Jesus and, like the apostle Paul said, "Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Father, help us to be faithful in running the race which you have set before us. We pray that we will keep our eyes on Jesus and follow the example he set for us. Keep us from the sin that will keep us from faithfully running our race. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia (John 10:27)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. A feeling of great happiness
- 3. A contest of speed
- 5. The place where a king or queen is seated
- 6. The organs which are used to see

DOWN

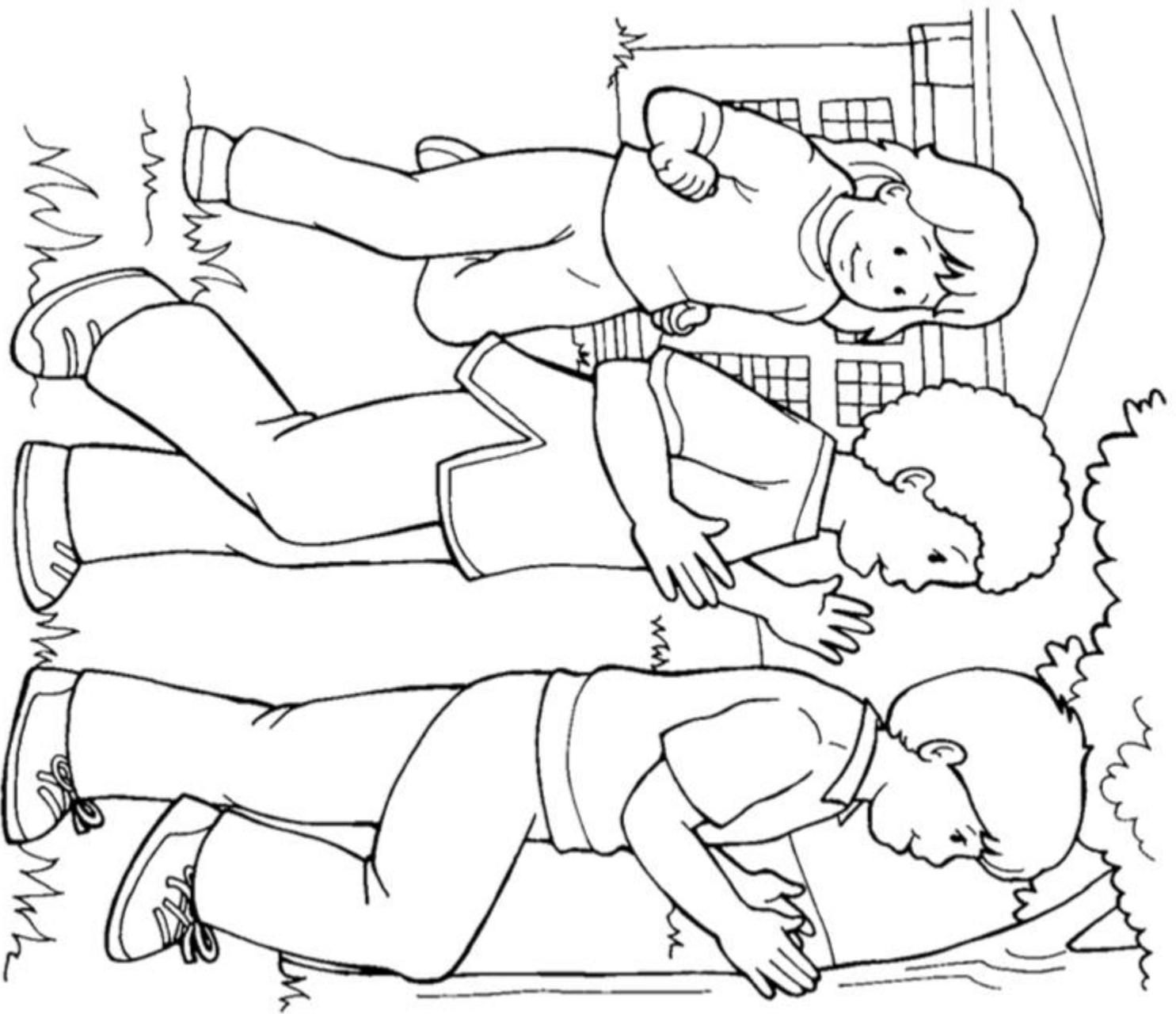
- 1. A strong belief in God
- 2. The Son of God
- 3. To traveling on foot at a fast pace
- 4. The wooden structure on which Jesus was crucified;

CROSS	JESUS	RUN	THRONE
FAITH	JOY	EYES	RACE

FOLLOW JESUS LETTERS: Have the child cut out traced letters: FOLLOW JESUS. Color and decorate them. Glue them on a sheet of construction paper and hang on the wall.



I WILL FOLLOW JESUS, OUR LEADER.



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