

Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way



March 18, 2018

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 (10)
or Psalm 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.*

We have several small metal objects today. 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! 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. 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.

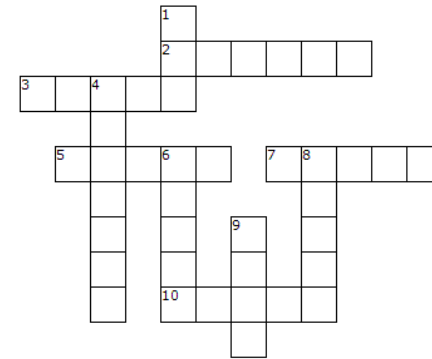
Even after we become God's children, there may be times when we stray from his teaching and do things that we know are not pleasing to him. His love for us is so strong that he draws us back into what he wants us to do.

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.

Dear Father, we thank you that Jesus was willing to be lifted up on the cross of Calvary so that we might have eternal life. We thank you for the power of your love that draws us and keeps us. In his name we pray. Amen

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

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. To be raised up
- 3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings
- 5. What we humans use to speak or sing
- 7. The Son of God
- 10. The end of life

DOWN

- 1. Everyone and everything
- 4. To bring praise and honor to God
- 6. A large group of people
- 8. The land surface of the world
- 9. To attract someone or something

DEATH	ANGEL	VOICE	EARTH	JESUS
ALL	DRAW	GLORIFY	LIFTED	CROWD

MAGNET CROSS: Draw a cross on a piece of card stock. Encourage the child to write something such as POWER IN GOD'S LOVE on their cross. Cut out the cross and give the child glitter glue and stickers for decoration. Let the child put a strip of magnetic tape on the back of the cross and stick the cross on the refrigerator.



“AND I, WHEN I AM LIFTED UP
FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW
ALL PEOPLE TO MYSELF.”

JOHN 12:32

