

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



September 16, 2018

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19 (7) or Wisdom 7:26 — 8:1 (7:28)

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Fans or Followers?

Object: You might like to learn and demonstrate a few simple signs used by the deaf.

Have you ever been a member of a fan club? Some of you may not even know what a fan club is. A fan club is a group of enthusiastic supporters of a well-known person, tv show, music group, or a sports team. If you are a fan of a particular sports team, you might wear a t-shirt with the team name and a picture of their mascot on it. If you are a fan of a tv show or a musical group, you might have their posters decorating the walls in your room.

One thing I have noticed about fan clubs is that the number of members in the club usually depends on how popular or successful the person or team is. If a sports team wins a lot of games, they will probably have a lot of fans. But if they start to lose, the fans usually fall away. (A few years ago, the fans of one sports team went to the games with a brown paper bag over their head to hide their identity!) If a singer or music group has a lot of big hits, they will have a lot of fans, but if the hits stop coming, the fans will go away.

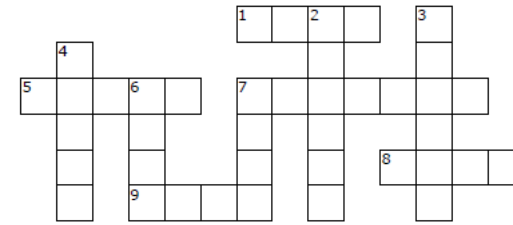
When Jesus was on earth, he had a lot of fans. As he traveled around performing miracles like feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish or healing a blind man, there were huge crowds of fans everywhere he went. But do you know what? Jesus wasn't interested in having fans, he wanted followers. One day he said to a crowd of people, "If any of you wants 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, you will save it."

To be a follower of Jesus means much more than being a member of his fan club. It means more than wearing an "I Love Jesus" t-shirt, or a necklace with a cross on it. It means to follow the teachings of Jesus every day. It means to reach out to the poor, to feed the hungry, to be a friend of the friendless, to love the unlovely. In other words, it means to show the love that Jesus showed to everyone we meet. That is what separates a fan from a follower.

Do you want to be a follower, or are you satisfied with just being a fan?

Loving God, help us to be more than fans — help us to be true believers and followers of Jesus. In the name of your Son we pray, amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. The period between birth and death
5. The object upon which Jesus was crucified
7. To care about what you want without thinking of others
8. To refuse to allow yourself something
9. To no longer have something because it has been taken away

DOWN

2. To be guided by someone else; to go behind
3. The teachings of Jesus and the Apostles
4. A large number of people gathered together
6. The part of a person that continues to live after a person dies
7. To keep someone or something safe from harm

FOLLOW	CROWD	SELFISH	LIFE	SOUL
GOSPEL	LOSE	SAVE	CROSS	DENY

FOOT PRINTS FOR FOLLOWING: Give each child two matching foot prints. On one print, they will write I WILL FOLLOW JESUS and decorate it. On the other foot print, they will write 7 ways to FOLLOW JESUS each day through that week. Place them on the refrigerator and talk about them at the dinner table, maybe the entire family will want FOLLOW JESUS too and they could work together to encourage the poor or feed the hungry, etc.

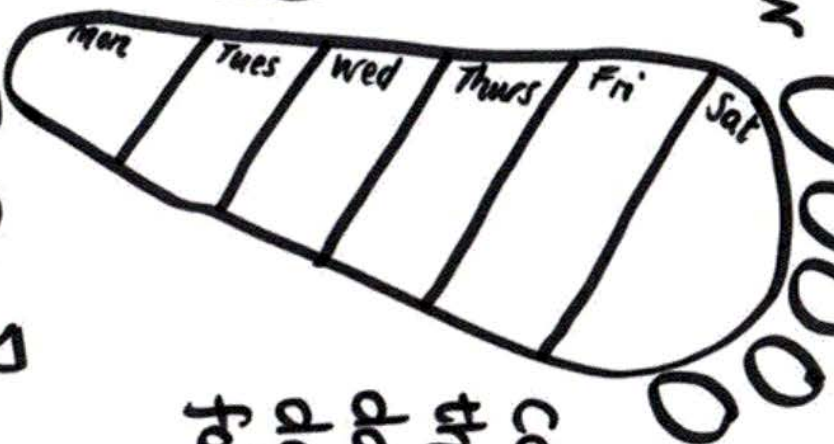
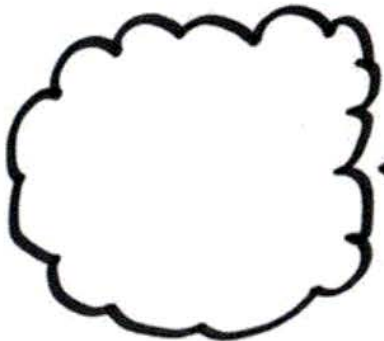
Family Table Prayer for September

Thank you for the earth so sweet.
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you, God, for everything!

September Memory Verse: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say rejoice!
~ Philippians 4:4

Following Jesus

This week
I will follow
Jesus by
doing this



colour in
the foot
day by
day as you
follow Jesus!

Lord God
help me to be a
disciple this
week.

AMEN

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