

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

August 18, 2019

Jeremiah 23:23-29  
Psalm 82  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

In many places, it is back-to-school time again. Are you ready for school to start? I always liked school, do you? What is your favorite subject? Math? Reading? History? When I was in school, my favorite subject was recess. That was when we got to go outside and play! Many times, we played a game that required that we divide the class into two teams. There were different ways to divide into teams. Sometimes we would line up and number off, "1-2-1-2-1-2" and the "ones" would be on one team and the "twos" on the other.

In our everyday life, we are often divided into different groups. We may be divided by size, by age, by the color of our hair, or by our likes and dislikes. I have put a piece of tape down on the floor and we are going to try several different ways of dividing into two different groups. (You may adapt the following choices to fit your own situation.)

What flavor of ice cream do you like better, vanilla or chocolate? If you like vanilla ice cream better, stand on this side of the line (Point to one side.) and if you like chocolate better, stand on this side. (Point to the other side.) Very good! We are just about evenly divided on that question.

Do you like football or baseball better? If you like football better, stand on this side of the line (Point.) and if you like baseball better, stand on this side. (Point.)

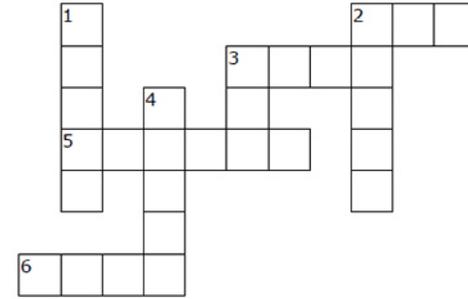
What kind of music do you like? Rock-and-roll or hip-hop? If you like rock-and-roll music better, stand on this side of the line and if you like hip-hop better, stand on this side.

As you see, we don't all think the same way or like the same things, do we? In our Gospel this morning, Jesus said that he was going to be the cause of division among the people. What did he mean? He meant that even though he came save the whole world, there would be some who would not believe. He wanted everyone to follow his teachings and be on his team, but he knew it wasn't going to be that way.

If I were to say to you, "Everyone who wants to follow Jesus, come stand on this side of the line," I'm sure that everyone here would come and stand on this side of the line. That would make Jesus happy, but sadly, it doesn't always happen that way. There are some who follow Jesus, and there are some who do not. That is why we should tell others the good news that Jesus loves them and pray that they will choose to follow him too.

Loving God, we thank you for your son, Jesus who showed us the way to love all of your children. Help us to tell others that you love them too, so that they might also choose to follow you. Amen.

*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

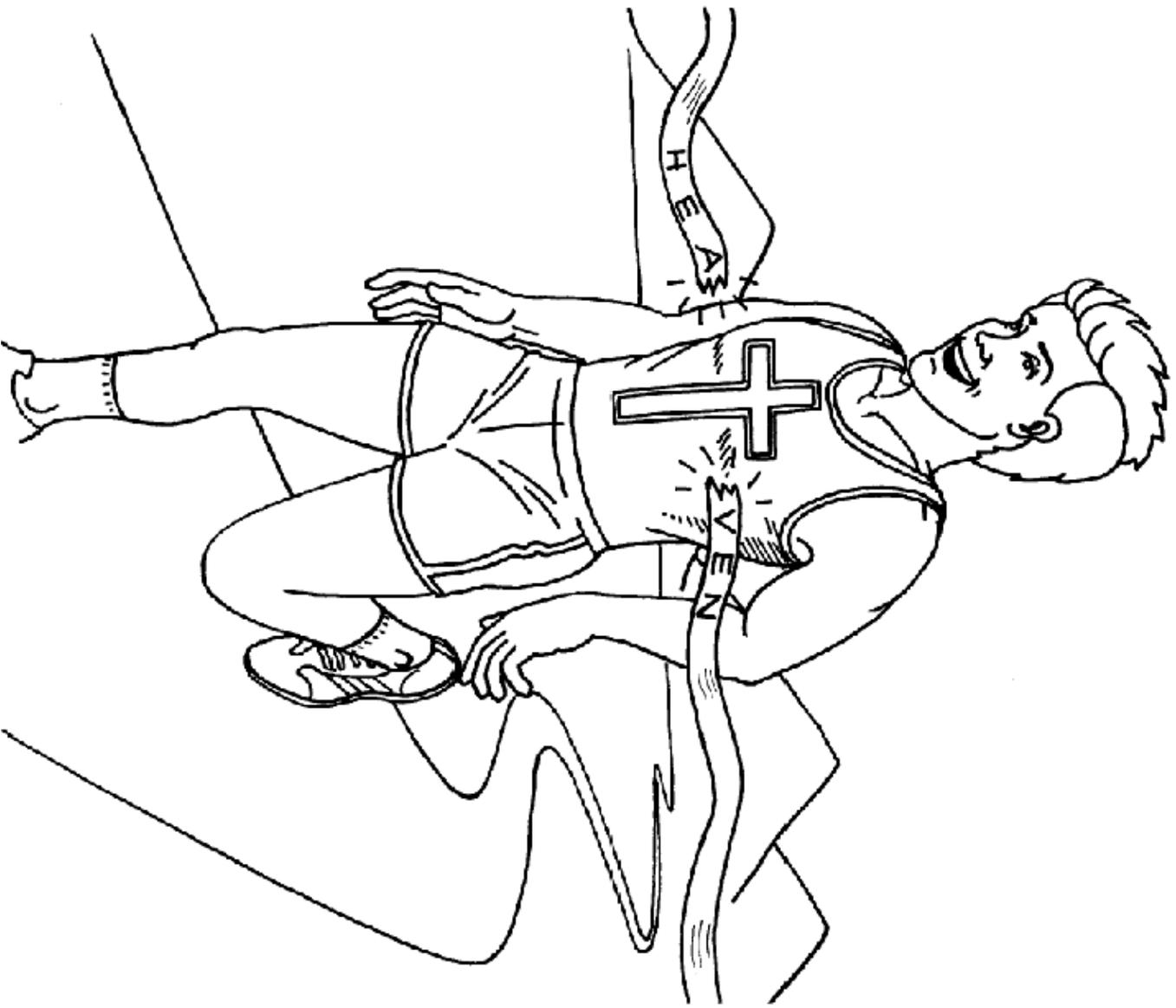
**Activity:** Team Jesus! People don't know about Jesus' love until we tell them and show them. The best way to do that is through personal invitation. Make a paper invitation and write the words Team Jesus and Come and See on the front. On the back, put the name of your church, the time of worship and your name. Hand out the invitation to someone who you'd like to join you next Sunday in church.

**Discussion Question:** Jesus talks about division in our gospel lesson. What are some things that divide you as a family, as a community, as a church, as a nation? Are these things really important? We are all members of the same family, God's family. Even though families don't always get along, we still love and care for each other. How might those divisions get in the way of loving others?

**Family Table Prayer for August:**

For family time and longer days  
For heart-felt hugs and the warm sun's rays  
For blessings Lord that only you give,  
Thank you, Lord, for this life that we live. Amen.

**August Memory Verse:** Psalm 113:3 From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised.



## Hebrews 12

Let us run with perseverance the race  
that God has set before us.