



Perley Lutheran Parish  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Second Sunday in Lent



Gathering Spoken Hymn: God Loved the World

God loved the world so that he gave his only son, the lost to save  
That all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith who was made flesh and suffered death  
All who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone

Welcome and Announcements

- Annual Meeting following this service
- Lenten Services at 7 at Kirkebo this week.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,

**C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are +forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

Annual Meeting Sunday Liturgy:

P O God of all power and love ...

**C we give thanks for your unfailing presence.**

P O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

**C for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.**

P O God of all power and love ...

**C we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**

P O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

**C to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.**

P O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

**C a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.**

P O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

**C wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day: O god, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Psalm 22:23-31 (read responsively)

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! **For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him.** From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. **The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. **For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.** To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,** and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Holy Gospel according to Mark 8:31-38 **Glory to you O Lord**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life

will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,<sup>1</sup> will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

## The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

### Children’s Message

Do you like to play board games? Some of the most popular board games are Checkers, Chess, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, and Clue just to name a few. One of the most popular board games of all time is called "The Game of Life." It was first introduced in 1860. Wow! That's more than 150 years ago!

The "Game of Life" is played very much like real life. At the beginning of the game, each player must choose what path he or she is going to take in their journey through life. They choose whether they are going to go to college or go out and get a job. As the game goes on, each player spins the wheel and moves his car the number of spaces on which the spinner stops. The space where your car lands gives you directions on what to do. On some spaces, you **MUST** follow the directions. On other spaces you only have to follow the directions if you want to. Just as in real life, you have many choices along the way, but what happens to you in the "Game of Life" depends on the choices you make. At the end of the game, the player with the most money wins. Is that true in real life? Do you think that when life is over, the one with the most money wins? Today we will see what Jesus had to say about that.

In our Bible reading today, Jesus was teaching his followers about life. He said to them, "If you want 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 and for the sake of the Gospel, you will save it. After all, what good is it if you gain the whole world, but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your own soul?"

Some people live as if the most important thing in life is getting more stuff—big houses, fancy cars, and pretty clothes. Others live as if the most important thing in life is following Jesus and serving him. How do they do that? By loving other people and doing good things for them. When Jesus lived on earth, everything he did was for others. If we follow his example, he promised that we will be the winners in "The Game of Life."

How about you? Do you want to be a winner in the "Game of Life?" Then stop thinking about yourself and start thinking about others.

Dear Father, we want to follow the example that Jesus set. We want to give up our selfish ways and give our lives in love and service to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Most of you know that I currently have two puppies in my house under the age of a year. It really is just like having toddlers in my home. They are so active, into everything, can never sit still and most importantly – they have selective hearing! Ok, let's be honest, it's not just little ones that have issues with that hearing part is it?? Teenagers – yes! Sometimes spouse – yes! No can seem to

hear when there's a chore like taking out the garbage or emptying the dishwasher but they sure can hear when the timer goes off to tell you the cookies are done in the oven.

Our gospel today has a similar issue going on in which the disciples are the ones with a severe case of selective hearing. Jesus talks to them this day about what's to come – he tells them that he will die and be resurrected. He tells them what it will mean to follow him and the disciples turn away from what is being said – they don't listen to what's being foretold. However, we probably shouldn't be too hard on them because you and I tend to have the same problems with discipleship – we sometimes don't listen or hear what Jesus has asked of us as well.

We hear in verse 34 of our gospel today *“He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”* Surely, this isn't a way of thinking that our society puts importance on is it?? We are in a time and a world where it's all about self-fulfillment, self-preservation and self-sufficiency. Self-denial isn't something any of us really want to or do think about. We just don't want to hear it – we all are much more concentrated on ourselves over denying ourselves anything – no matter how big or even small. But that's not the take away we find in the words of Jesus this morning.

Jesus' words are spoken to help the disciples – us too as disciples – to see that self-denial is an essential part of being a faithful Christian. That's not natural though for us as humans. It is our natural inclination to look out for ourselves – that sense of self-preservation is strong – and therefore being a follower of Jesus Christ is something that we have to be intentional in and work on as a Christian.

When I think about what Jesus is asking of us as disciples it helps me to think of some in history and in our world that really do seem to be all about self-denial and doing as Jesus is asking of them. Gandhi and Mother Theresa would be good examples of those that always put others before themselves. Dr. Martin Luther King is another one may see as a good and faithful disciple as well. These three – and of course there are many more in our world as well – function in their lives focusing on love – love of others and therefore self-denial and taking up their own cross in their lives. They didn't live their lives thinking or worrying about themselves but rather about the love of others.

So what about self-denial for today – self-denial for you and I as disciples? It still requires the same elements – the same focus of love of others and denying our own selfish ways. It's not easy and definitely requires sacrifice at times. Think of it like this – as a parent we do things, give up things, and really do live our lives for our children. Sometimes its friends or other family members that we must sacrifice for – put in front of ourselves. So how can we do that? Often times it's in very small ways – maybe it's making a meal for a family who is dealing with sickness or loss, maybe it's just taking time to listen to someone who needs to talk, sometimes it's standing up for someone who is feeling alone or bullied, maybe it's giving up a Thursday night and helping out at the Perley Food Shelf? There are so many ways to put others over yourself.

So how do you hear God's call for your discipleship? Self-denial – taking up your own cross and following Him – isn't as flashy or miraculous for you and I like it was for Jesus of course. But, each and every act of self-denial, act of kindness and putting others first, in God's name is honored. People can see what the kingdom of God is like and learn about the promise of abundant life we are given as disciples of God. Amen!

Spoken Hymn of the Day: Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home

When the darkness appears and the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Apostles Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people: (Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**)

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world and all in need.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all those baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises: give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead. In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Margie and Marlis, Sonya and Terry, Mike and Jeff, Kirk and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Meal**

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## **Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer**

***Our father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

God keeps adding places to the table. Come to the banquet that has no end!

After Communion Prayer

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### Blessing

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you +that you may be a blessing the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. Amen.

#### Closing Spoken Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
we are a new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and taught us  
what perfect love can be;  
through life and death he sought us,  
and rose to set us free.

The church in every nation  
is one through all the earth;  
our charter of salvation,  
one God, one faith, one birth;  
one name together blessing,  
one holy food we share,  
to one hope ever pressing,  
at one in work and prayer.

Dismissal: Go in Peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

#### End of Annual Meeting Prayer

**Beloved Father, we thank you for being with us today as we remember all that has been accomplished together in the past year. We ask that you continue to be with us as we work to be a constant presence in this area that we find community within these walls and outside of them and that we continue to love one another as you love us. In your beloved name, we raise up all that has been discussed today and ask that you be an ever present reminder of why and what we do in your name. In your name we pray. Amen**

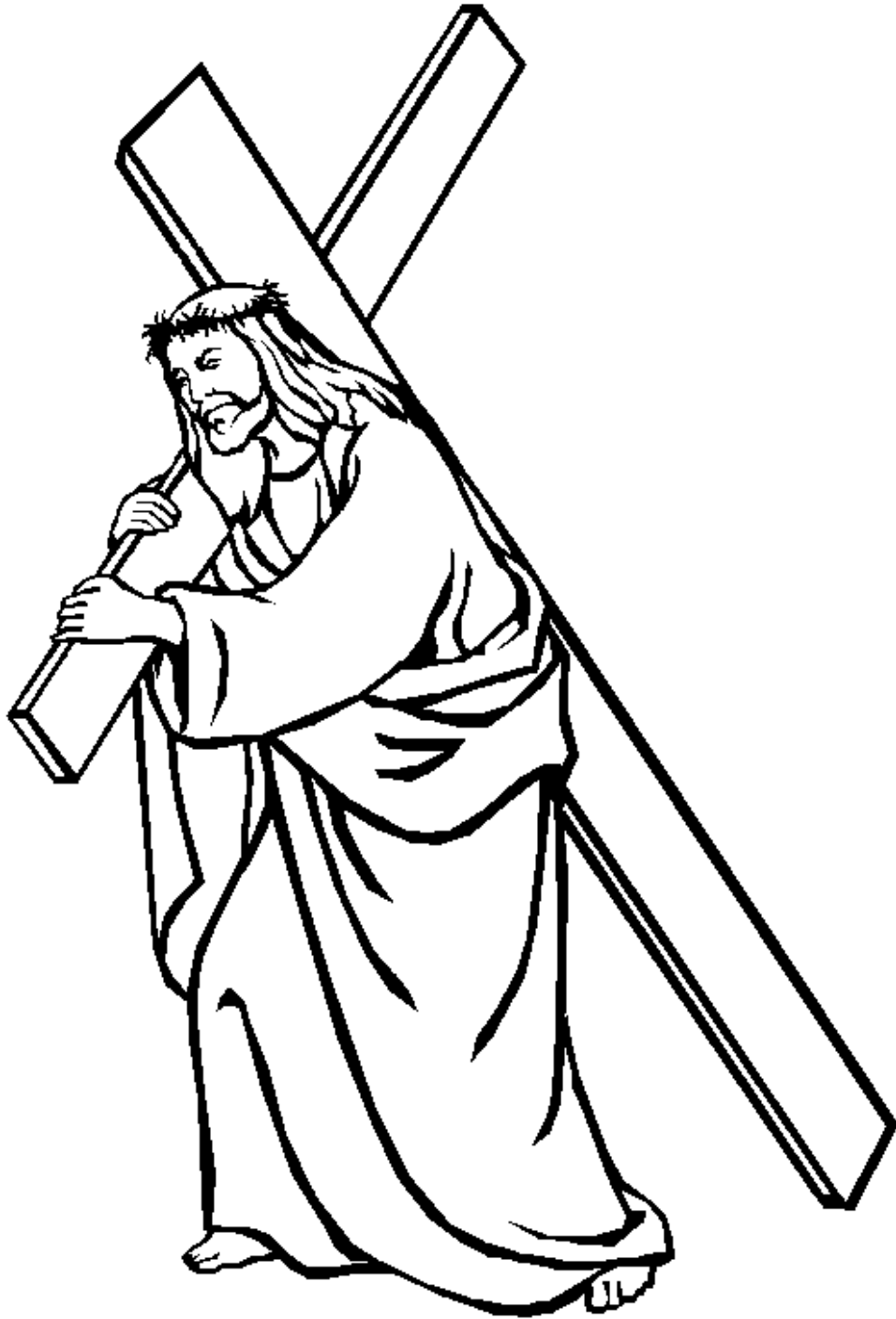
**Mark Your Calendars:** *(All services are streamed on-line as well as in –person)*

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lenten Service at 7pm – Nora (no meal served)

Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Service at 9am at Nora

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## Coloring Page



"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

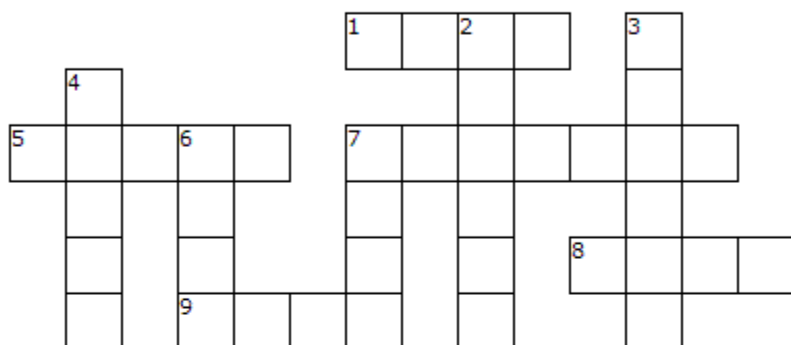
Mark 8:34b (NIV)



# The Game of Life

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world,  
yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Based on Mark 8:34-37



## 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  
GOSPEL

CROWD  
LOSE

SELFISH  
SAVE

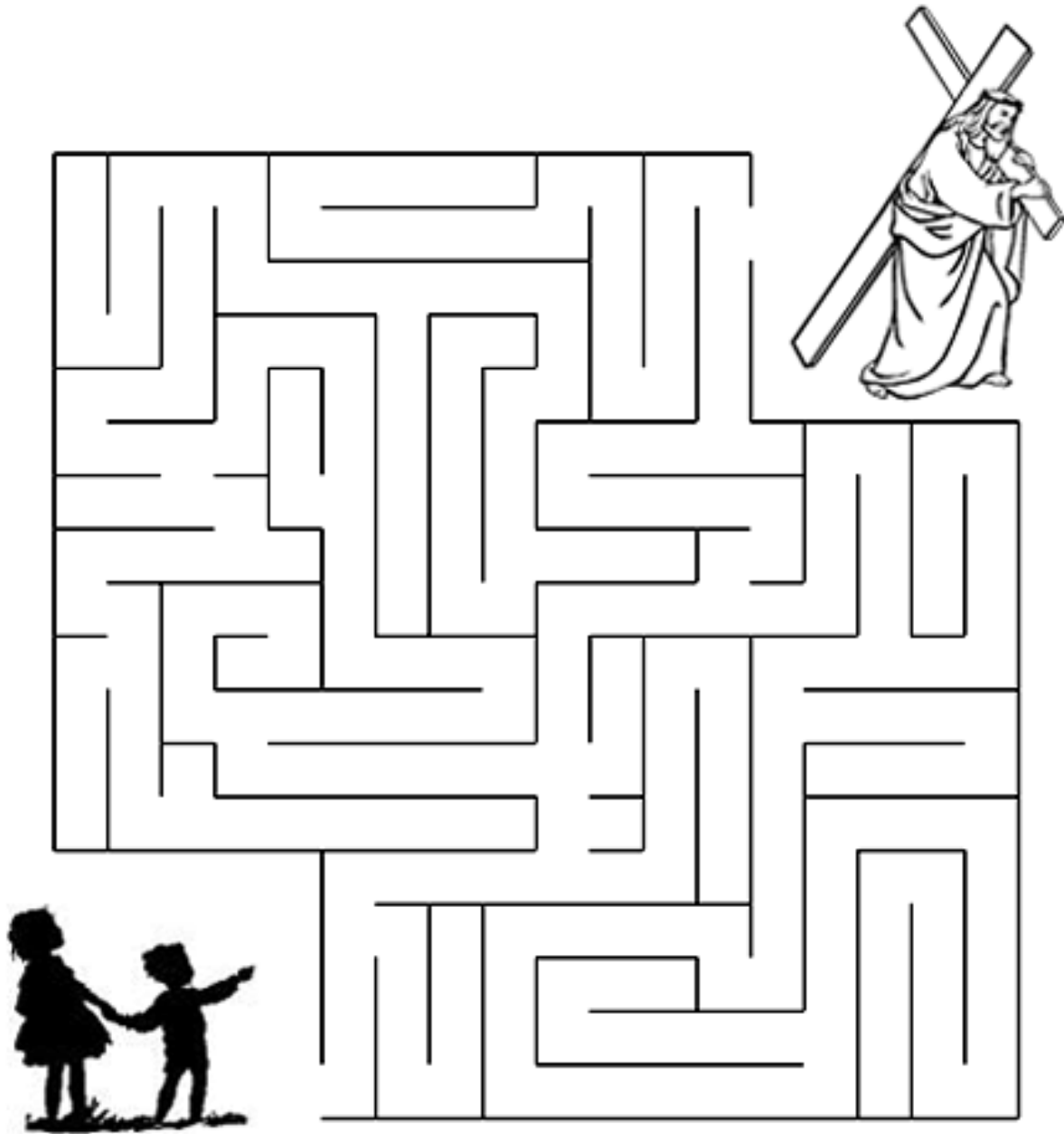
LIFE  
CROSS

SOUL  
DENY

# Maze

Take up your cross and follow Jesus!

Can you find the path to Jesus?



"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself  
and take up his cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34b

# The Game of Life

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Choose the word that best matches the definition.  
Answers can be found in Mark 8:34-37 (NIV)



- \_\_\_ 1. To refuse to allow yourself something  
A. life B. deny C. gospel D. selfish
- \_\_\_ 2. To care about what you want without thinking of others  
A. happy B. sharing C. generous D. selfish
- \_\_\_ 3. To be guided by someone else; to go behind  
A. lead B. follow C. stay D. ignore
- \_\_\_ 4. The part of a person that continues to live after a person dies  
A. body B. crowd C. mind D. soul
- \_\_\_ 5. To keep someone or something safe from harm  
A. save B. lose C. exchange D. gain
- \_\_\_ 6. The period between birth and death  
A. youth B. soul C. life D. selfish
- \_\_\_ 7. A large number of people gathered together  
A. crowd B. disciples C. gospel D. lose
- \_\_\_ 8. The teachings of Jesus and the Apostles  
A. life B. selfish C. gospel D. crowd
- \_\_\_ 9. The object upon which Jesus was crucified  
A. save B. cross C. selfish D. lose
- \_\_\_ 10. To no longer have something because it has been taken away  
A. cross B. life C. lose D. soul

# The Game of Life

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world,  
yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Based on Mark 8:34-37



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

FORFEIT  
WORLD  
SAVE  
CROSS

WHOLE  
LOSE  
GOOD  
DISCIPLES

GAIN  
FOLLOW  
HIMSELF  
LIFE

DENY  
GOSPEL  
SOUL  
CROWD