

HomeWord¹ For Parents

What did Jesus expect of those who would be His true disciples? That was a very important question in Jesus's time, and it remains important today. Many proclaiming Christians have not considered what Jesus has told us in His Word.

The first and the greatest commandment, according to Jesus, is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37–38). But Jesus went on to tell us more explicitly what He wanted from His disciples.

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24–26).

Jesus asks much of His followers. He wants us to deny ourselves, to lose our lives, and to forsake the things of the world. This is a call for submission and obedience to His Word (John 14:23). This is a call to put Jesus above the people in our lives that are dearest to us—father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters—and to love the Lord Jesus Christ so much that we would be willing to give up our very lives for Him (Luke 14:26).

In all of this, Jesus Christ is calling His disciples to take up their cross daily and follow Him (Luke 9:23). That cross includes anything that would lead us to consider ourselves over our Savior. Jesus requires that we put aside our own selfish desires and ambitions in all things and that we mimic Christ in His obedience to God (Philippians 2:4–8). Jesus's followers—His disciples—must be willing to forsake the world and all its offers for His sake (1 John 2:15–17).

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord² For Family Discussion

Suppose your friend says becoming a follower of Christ just sounds too hard! It wouldn't be any fun to give everything up.

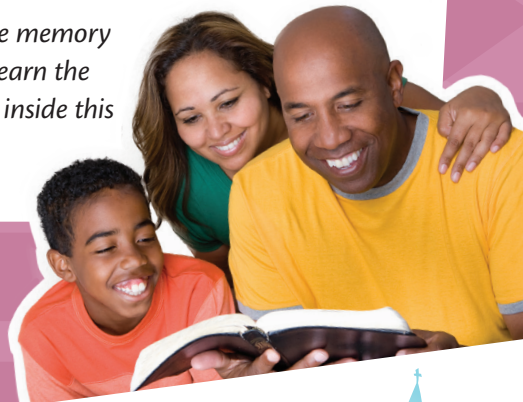
What could you say?

You are right. Being a follower of Jesus is not easy! The Bible tells us we have to deny ourselves. We have to be willing to give up the things we love in this world—and make sacrifices for Jesus. People who don't believe in Jesus just can't do this. But, it isn't that hard for believers who have admitted they are sinners, asked for forgiveness, turned away from their sins, and turned to Jesus Christ and His Word. You see, once you believe and accept Jesus's free gift of salvation, your heart will change. As you learn more about Jesus, you will realize that you WANT to do what pleases Him. You WANT to obey His call on your life. And you WANT to give up the things in your life that you know don't please Him. And I believe that the reward Jesus promises—eternal life with Him—promises more joy than anything this world has to offer.

inWord³ For Family Study

“The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver” (Psalm 119:72). Equip your children to desire God's Word above all else by encouraging your family to memorize and study it. The eternal rewards are priceless.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



True Discipleship

KEY THEME

- God demands obedience and trust.

KEY PASSAGES

- Matthew 16:24–26, 22:36–37
- Luke 14:26



What You HEARD³ in the Word

- A disciple (or follower) of Jesus loves Him above all else and is willing to give up all the world has to offer for Him.
- A disciple (or follower) of Jesus will want to live a life that pleases Jesus—not himself.

Ask your child these questions from today's lesson.





- 1 Who must we deny before we can follow Jesus?
- 2 Who should always be the most important one in our life?
- 3 We should love God with all our _____, _____, and _____.



Read the Word with Mom & Dad

- Monday** (Deuteronomy 6:5)
How should we love the Lord our God?
- Tuesday** (Matthew 6:19–20)
What type of treasures should we work for?
- Wednesday** (1 John 2:15)
What does this verse say about someone who loves the world too much?
- Thursday** (Acts 21:13)
The Apostle Paul was a follower of Jesus. What was He willing to do for the Lord?
- Friday** (Matthew 16:24)
What three things should we be willing to do if we want to come after Jesus?
- Saturday** (John 14:6)
Who must we go through to have eternal life with the Father?

LIVE the Word with Maria and Her Dad

<p>Dad, I love my new bicycle! Can I ride it all day tomorrow?</p> 	<p>I'm glad you like the bike. But you need to be careful of your heart!</p> 
<p>I'll wear the helmet for my head. But, my heart?</p> 	<p>Yes. Be careful your heart is not putting your new bike before Jesus! Jesus should always be your first love!</p> 

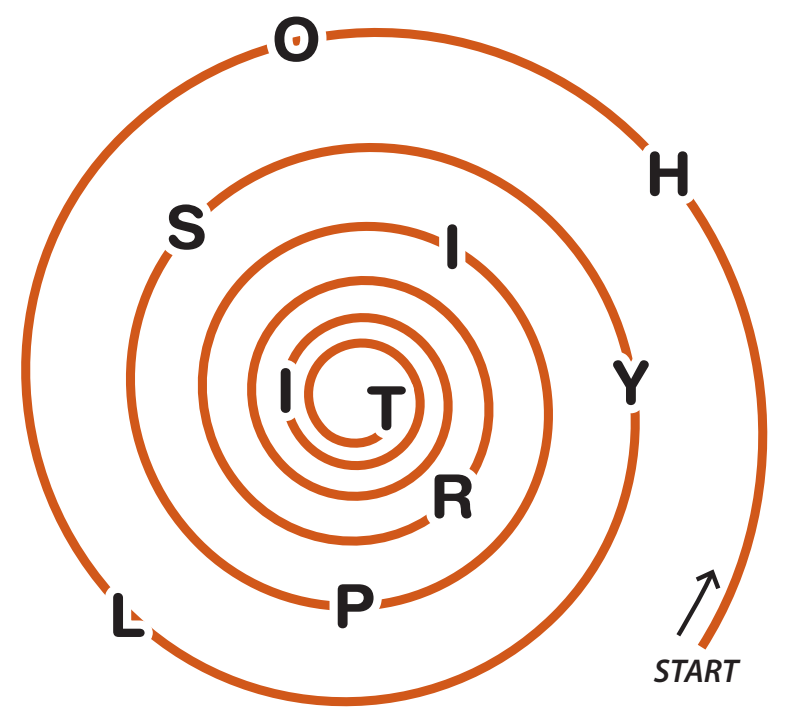
Jesus's Followers

What did Jesus tell His disciples they need to do to be a true follower? Fill in the missing vowels in the verse below to find out what He said. Remember the vowels are: A, E, I, O, U. Look up Matthew 16:24 in your Bible for help!

___f___ny___n___d___s___r___s
 t___c___m___ft___r M___, I___t
 h___m d___ny h___ms___lf, ___nd
 t___k___p h___s cr___ss, ___nd
 f___ll___w M___.
 M___tth___w 16:24

Who Will Help Me?

Jesus wants to be the most important one in our lives. That can be hard to do. But Jesus promised a Helper. As you come to the letters in the spiral, write them in the blanks to find out who the Helper is.

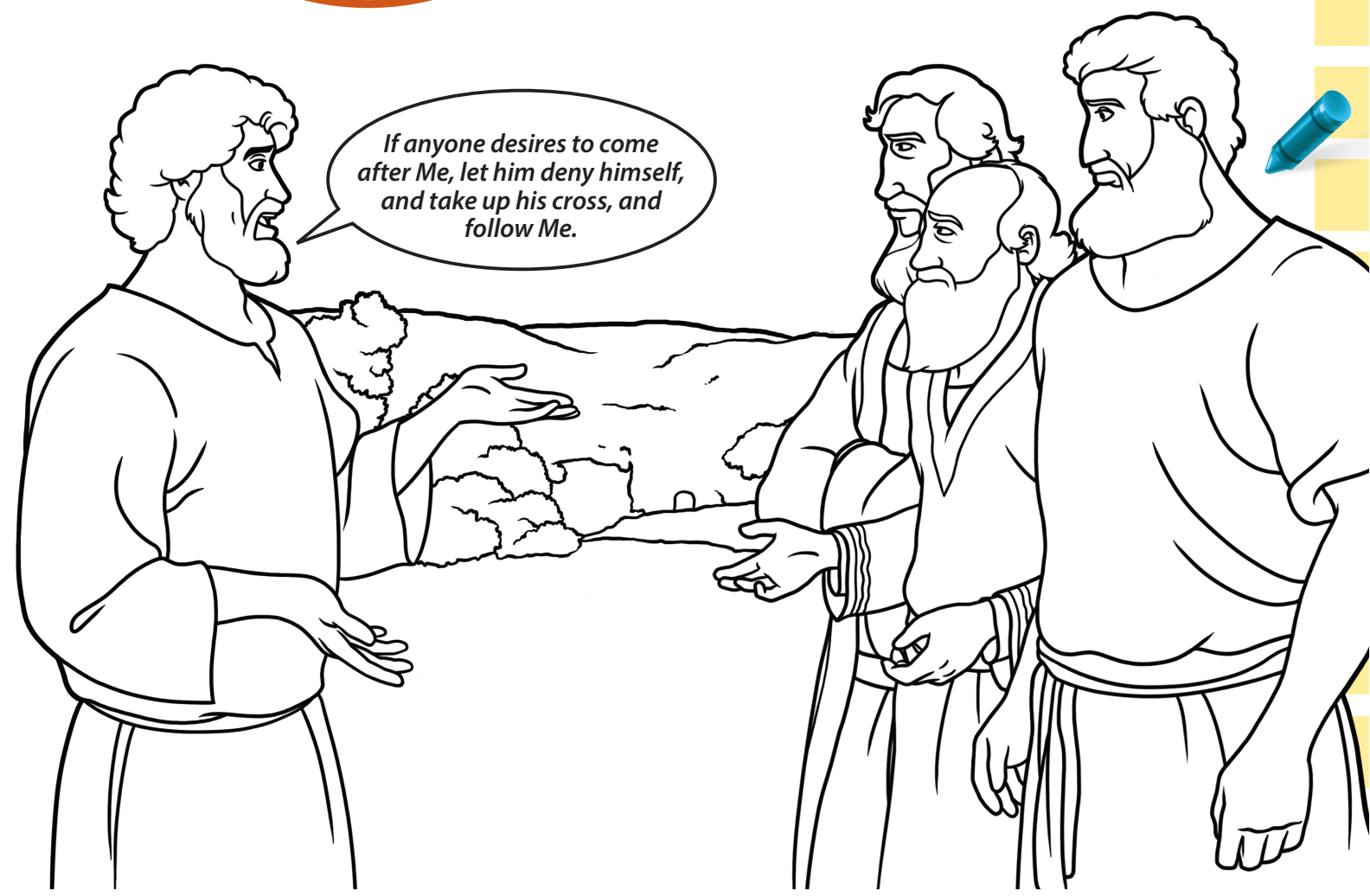


The _____

 will help us love
 and obey Jesus.

SNEAK PEEK

Why did people get so angry they wanted to kill Jesus? Come next week to find out!



Learn the Word!

Jesus said to him, "I am
 the way, the truth, and
 the life. No one comes
 to the Father except
 through Me."
 John 14:6