

# GROW kids

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (B)



## Story of the week

**Mark 8:31-38**

The way of the cross

## Focus of the week

Jesus willingly went to the cross for us



## Introduction

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. It is a time of self-examination and repentance. There are forty days in Lent, not counting Sundays. During Lent our eyes are focused on the cross, more specifically on our Saviour who died on the cross.



## Welcome

*Welcome the children and parents.  
Invite participants to share a high or low of the week.  
Make a note of some of the responses and include them in prayer at the end of your session.  
You might like to respond to the following question.*

**What is an obstacle course?**



# Story telling

## Background story notes

*Jesus knew what was ahead of him, and he had to teach his disciples. It was something so foreign to the expectations of the Messiah, that he must suffer many things and be rejected. How could it be that God would allow his own son to suffer and die? But it had to happen this way. We can marvel at Jesus' obedience to his Father's will, at his faithfulness to his mission as the Messiah, and at his love for us humans for his willingness to go the way of the cross for us.*

## You will need

- Bible (you might like to choose to read this from a children's Bible)
- A road map, or phone with maps

## Read Mark 8:31-38

Show map.

**Do you know what this is? We use a map like this to find out which way to go when we want to get somewhere.**

**Maps can also tell us what the road is like. We can see whether it is a thin, winding road or a wide, straight road. This map also tells me what I can see as I travel along. It helps me to know what the road is like. If the map tells me that the road is dangerous or hard to drive along, I'll probably decide not to go that way.**

**Jesus didn't have a map like this when he decided to go to Jerusalem. But he knew that the way he had to go would be very hard and dangerous. He knew that people would be waiting to capture him and put him on a cross and kill him.**

**But Jesus still decided to go on that road. He knew that God wanted him to go on that road to the cross, so that we could go safely on the road through life to God's home in heaven.**



## Prayer

*We encourage you to invite the participants to pray. You may like to begin with the following prayer, and also include some of the participants' highs and lows as shared at the beginning.*

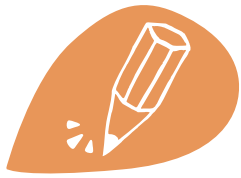
**Thank you, Jesus, for loving us so much that you were willing to die on the cross, for us and for all people, to save us from our sins. Amen.**



## Blessing

*Encourage participants to bless each other, using the following words (or you can make up your own).*

**(Name), may you know Jesus' love and his sacrifice made for you.**



## Creative response

### What to do

Create an obstacle course. (If you have an outdoor playground area you could use this space.)

Follow the leader through the obstacle course. Talk about how we might try to look for an easier way rather than complete the obstacle in front of us. We can be ever thankful that Jesus did not find another way, but went to the cross for us.

### You will need

- Tables, chairs, hoops, skipping ropes etc



## Catechism spotlight

In the Apostles' Creed we say: *I believe in Jesus Christ.... suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.*

Jesus rescued me when I was lost and sentenced to death. He set me free from all my sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. It cost him more than gold or silver; it cost him his life. Even though he was holy and innocent, he suffered and died for me.

By nature, we are all lost in sin and need salvation. Jesus is the only Saviour from sin, death, and the power of the devil. At great cost he redeemed us (set us free) by giving his holy life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. No amount of money could buy this. We receive the blessings of forgiveness and salvation by faith when we trust in Jesus as our redeemer.

### You will need

- A copy of the Apostles' Creed



## Liturgical significance

The word Lent comes from a very old word for springtime. In the Northern Hemisphere, this church season leads out of winter and into spring. Lent is a solemn season in which Christians remember Jesus' suffering and death to pay for the sins of the human race.

Violet is the liturgical colour for the season of Lent. It's the colour of royalty, repentance, and self-discipline. This deep, rich colour represents a time of penitence and prayer.