



OF LENTEN DEVOTIONS

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Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25

A disciple is someone who follows a leader. We are Jesus' disciples when we follow in his footsteps.

This Lent season, we will read about following Jesus to the cross. Some people think only his 12 disciples followed him. We will find out that the faithful people in the Old Testament and people all through history have been disciples. We can follow Jesus to the cross and be his disciples, too.

Color the picture on each two-page spread as our journey with Jesus takes us to the cross and beyond!

Dear Jesus, thank you for being strong enough to walk the path to the cross in my place. Help me understand how to be your disciple. Amen.





Day 1 · Jesus Talks About the Cross

The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. Luke 9:22

Jesus met with his disciples, the twelve men who followed him and learned from him. They listened and tried to understand him, but they were confused most of the time. When Jesus said he would suffer, be rejected, die and be raised, they didn't know what to think!

Do you ever get confused about what Jesus says?

DAY 2 · Take Up Your Cross & Follow

And [Jesus] said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

Some people see something confusing in the Bible and stop reading it. Not us! We're going to keep reading and learning how to follow Jesus. He says we must deny ourselves and daily take up our crosses. We can do that when we have faith in Jesus. Our faith helps us not to be selfish (deny yourself) and do what Jesus wants us to do.

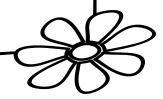
Pray for a strong faith to be a follower of Jesus.

DAY 3 • He Walks With Us

And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. Leviticus 26:12

Way back in the Old Testament, even as far back as Adam and Eve's time, God walked with his people. Today we can say that he walks with us all day long. He is our God. We never need to feel alone.

When you feel like it's hard to be a disciple, remember that God is there to help you.









DAY 4 · Walk in the Light

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

Before we had faith, we didn't know Jesus. It was like looking in the dark. He was there, but we didn't know it. If we know Jesus, we have faith. If we have faith, it will show. We want to do the right thing. We want to show other people the one who lights up our day and shows us how to live.

How do you shine the light of Jesus and show that you are his disciple?

DAY 5 · Look for Examples

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. Philippians 3:17

Babies watch people and try to do what they do. It's fun to watch them smile and make silly noises. When they get older, they try to walk just like we do. It takes a while for them to learn, but they don't give up. They watch and try, fall and get up again.

Who do you know who follows Jesus? Watch them!

DAY 6 • Noah Walked With God

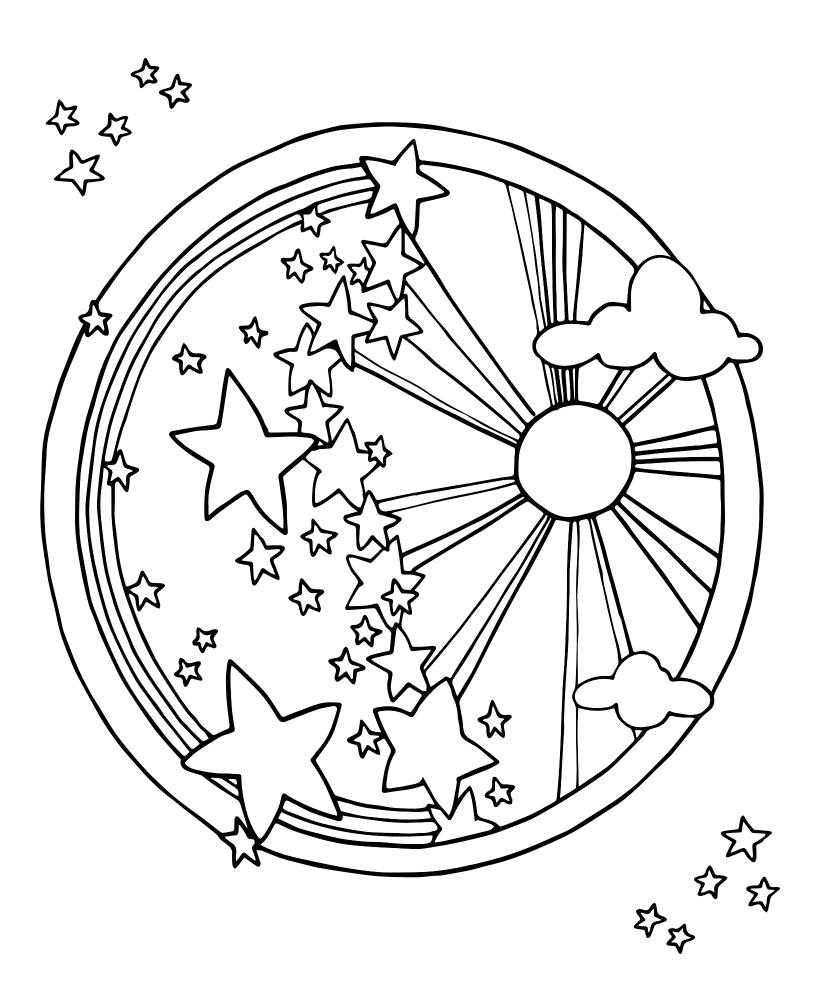
These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. Genesis 6:9

Noah followed God. He did good things even when others teased him. He had the courage to do the right thing because he had faith. He talked and walked with God all the time.

Does anyone make it hard for you to follow God? Have you prayed about it?









A COLORING BOOK OF LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Jesus called his first disciples with a very simple invitation. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, and those faithful fishermen dropped their nets to go where Jesus led.

We receive the same invitation each day as Jesus tells us, "Take up your cross and follow!" The devotions and Bible verses in this Lenten coloring book help children to hear and respond to that call.

So, with crosses (and crayons or markers) in hand, children discover that they are disciples, called to follow Jesus each day of Lent and throughout their whole lives.

