

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 29

**PETER CALLS JESUS
THE CHRIST**

MARK 8:27-34

Life of Christ

Peter Calls Jesus the Christ

Mark 8:27-34

Younger Verse

"You must take up your cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34

Older Verse

"If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34

Lesson Goals

Learn that Peter had faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Learn that Jesus said that following Him would not always be easy
Learn what it means to take up your cross and follow Christ

Opener

Have you ever played a guessing game? Somebody gives you a few clues and then you have to figure out what the answer is. In our story today, Jesus asks the disciples two questions. Let's see how they do.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned about when Jesus and His disciples were in Bethsaida. A blind man was brought to Jesus. Jesus healed him and he was able to see. When they had finished there, they left to go to some other villages further away. These villages were in a place called Caesarea Philippi.

Jesus wanted to ask the disciples a question. He asked, "Who do other people say I am?" They replied to Jesus, "Some people say you are John the Baptist; others say you are Elijah; and a few others say you are a prophet."

Who are those people they named? We have talked about John the Baptist before. He was Jesus' cousin. He baptized Jesus and many people. He told people to change the wrong things they were doing. Elijah was a prophet that lived many years before Jesus came. He went around telling people about God and did many miracles. A **prophet** is someone that tells other people what God wants them to hear. Jesus did tell people about God, but He is more than just a prophet.

Jesus then asked the disciples, "Who do YOU say I am?" Peter looked at Jesus and said, "You are the Christ."

This was an amazing thing for Peter to say. Jesus had already spent a lot of time with the disciples. They had seen Him do many amazing things. Jesus had taught them many things about God. Finally, Peter realized Jesus is the Son of God. The word "Christ" means "Messiah", which means "anointed one." The prophets that lived before Jesus came had spoken that one day God would send someone to save His people. Peter had realized that Jesus was the One that God had sent.

Jesus also wanted to share some things that would be important for the disciples to know. He told them that He would have to suffer through many things. Then He told them that He would be killed, and after three days, He would come back to life. Jesus wanted them to be ready for what was going to happen. He did not want them to be surprised by everything. Peter did not like what Jesus was saying, so he pulled Jesus off to the side. Peter told Jesus that He should not be talking about

those things.

Jesus turned back to look at the disciples and began to correct Peter. “Get behind me, Satan! You do not understand the ways of God, but are only thinking about the ways of men.” Wow! Jesus really wanted them to understand the importance of what He came to do. Jesus recognized that Satan was trying to use Peter to get Him to change His mind. Jesus knew better than to listen to what the Devil wanted. Jesus followed God, no matter what.

Then Jesus called the crowd of people and the disciples to gather around Him. He told them something important for all people to know. He said if anyone wants to know Him, they need to forget about themselves. They need to take up their cross and follow Him. What does it mean to take up your cross? Jesus wants us to obey His commands, even when we don’t want to. We need to think about the needs of other people before our own. When we do that, we are taking up our cross.

Following Jesus is not always easy. Sometimes it is hard to do the right thing. Jesus can give us the strength to stand up and make the choice God would be pleased with.

Do you know in your heart who Jesus is? Have you made the choice in your own heart to believe He is God’s Son? Jesus really did everything He told the disciples He would do. He died on the cross for all of our sins and came back to life. Jesus made the way for us to be with Him forever in Heaven. If you would like Jesus to be part of you life, please talk with me.

Review Questions

1. Who did Peter say that Jesus was? (the Christ)
2. Why did Jesus say, “Get behind me, Satan!”? (because Peter didn’t want Jesus to die on the cross)
3. What did Jesus say people had to do to be His followers? (Forget about themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him.)

Prayer Time

Thank God that Jesus was willing to take up His cross for us so that we might live. Pray that we will follow Him and forget about ourselves.

Life Application

Forget about yourself?!? Take up your cross?!? Those do not sound like any fun. Yet that is exactly what Jesus says we must do to follow Him. Do you believe that God knows what is best for us? If so, then He knows that the best thing we can do is to think about the needs of other people. If we only think about ourselves all the time, we become selfish. Selfish people are not happy people. They are never satisfied with anything.

When we follow Christ and His example, we can have the joy that only He can give. We don’t have to depend on things or comforts to make us happy. We find our happiness in pleasing God.

Planning for Lesson 30
On the Mountain with Jesus
Mark 9:2-13

Preschool Lesson for Peter Calls Jesus the Christ

Hey boys and girls! Today's story is all about two questions that Jesus asked His special friends-the disciples. They might sound kind of funny, but they are very important questions.

One day, He and the disciples were walking to another town. On the way there, He asked them, "Who do people say that I am?" They answered Him, "Some people say you are John the Baptist. Other people say you are a man named Elijah, and still other people say you are a prophet."

These are all good answers, but none of them are exactly right. John, Elijah, and the prophets were all important to God. But none of them are the same as Jesus.

Jesus asked them another question. He looked at them and asked, "Who do YOU say I am?" Peter answered very quickly, "You are God's Son who was sent to save us." Is that the right answer? Yes, it is. This was an exciting thing for Peter to say. Peter and the other disciples had been with Jesus for a while and saw Him do great things. They had heard all about God's love. Now Peter finally realized why Jesus said and did all the things He had done. He did them because He is God's Son and wanted everyone to know how much God loves them.

Jesus then told the disciples that He was going to go through some hard times; He would die, and then come back to life three days later.

He told them what to do if anyone wanted to be with Him. First, they have to think of God and others first. They need to know it won't always be easy. Then live and act as Jesus would.

Do you know who Jesus is in your heart? Do you know what He did for you? He died on the cross for all the wrong things we have done and came back to life three days later. If we ask Him to come and take away the wrong things we have done, He does. The reason He can take them away is because He came back to life. If you are ready to know Jesus in your heart, please talk with me.

Hands-on Activities for Peter Calls Jesus the Christ

Play a fun game of “Who am I?” with smaller kids. Let them take turns choosing a character and letting others guess who it is. If needed, you can write objects on index cards or tape pictures to cards for each person to use.

Ask the kids to make a picture telling who Jesus is to them. Each person can draw a picture of what they think of Jesus, or they can write words that describe who Jesus is to them.

Sing the song “We Have Come into His House, and gathered in His name to worship Him.” The second verse says, “So forget about yourself, and concentrate on Him, and worship Him.” Remind students that this is what Jesus told us to do.

Give everyone a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to draw a picture of who they are, not necessarily what they look like, but WHO they are (their interests, likes, etc.) Compliment each person on their work of art.

Take a picture of each person with a camera. Assemble 4 craft sticks into a square to use as a picture frame. Glue fun things around the sticks like puzzle pieces or little objects that describe the person. Promise to bring developed film next week so that the kids can put their pictures in the frames. (Teachers: if you make double prints, you have a set of pictures for yourself to pray for each child daily.)

**“You must
take up your
cross and
follow me.”**

Mark 8:34



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Word Search

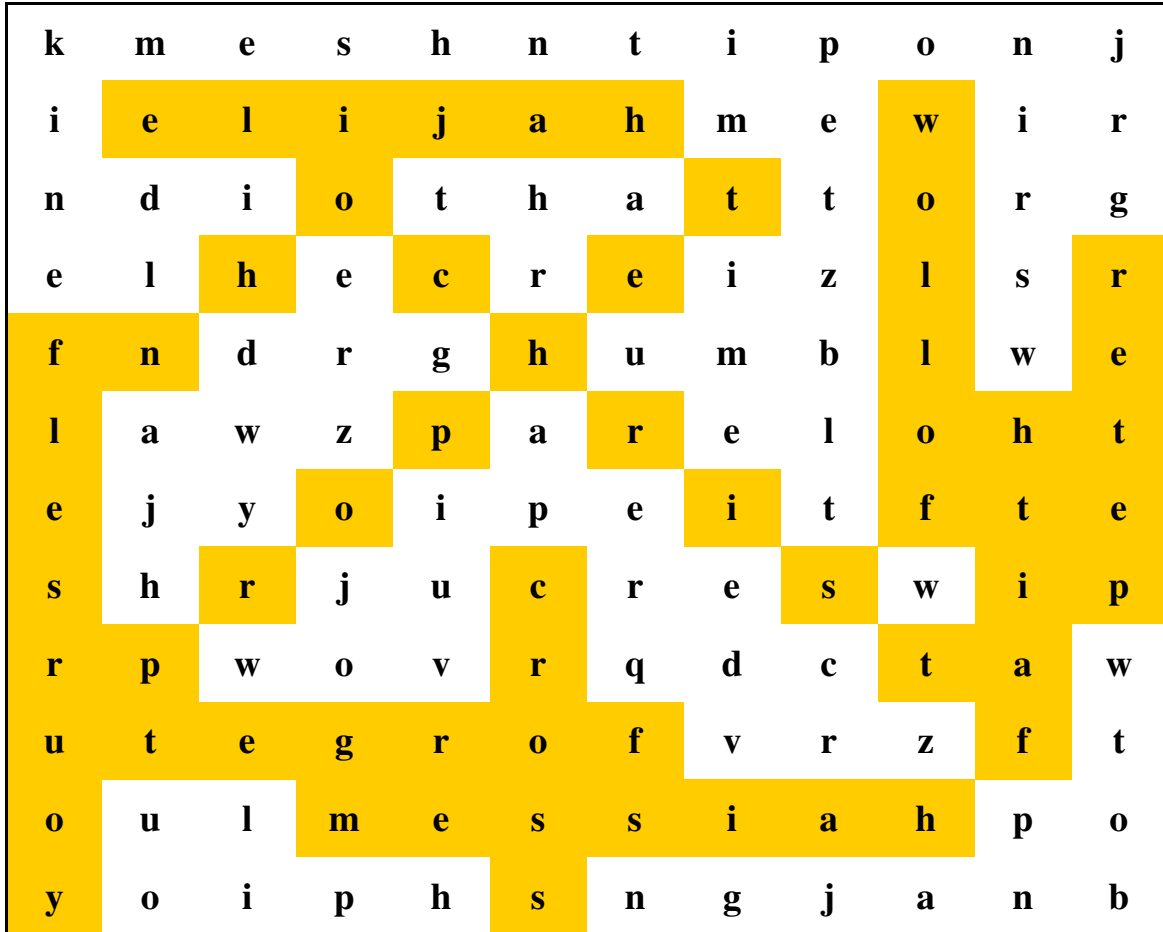
Peter Calls Jesus the Christ

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o	u	l	m	e	s	s	i	a	h	p	o
y	o	i	p	h	s	n	g	j	a	n	b

Peter	prophet	Elijah
John	Christ	Messiah
forget	yourself	cross
faith	follow	

Word Search

Peter Calls Jesus the Christ



Peter	prophet	Elijah
John	Christ	Messiah
forget	yourself	cross
faith	follow	

Jesus said we must
take up our

CROSS

And f__ll__w Him.

