

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Feb. 12, 2024-  
Feb. 18, 2024

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 8:35-39

**THEME:** Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations

**SONG:** CW21 831/CW93 428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me, st. 1-3

**VISUAL:** Picture of Jesus with a red construction paper heart attached to it; large piece of cardboard

## OBJECT LESSON

Show the picture of Jesus. Ask, "Who is this? I have a heart attached to the picture. Do you know what a heart stands for? Whom does Jesus love?" Point out that Jesus showed how much he loves us by dying on a cross to save us!

Have a volunteer stand near the Jesus picture, explaining that Jesus loves that volunteer. Use the poster board or cardboard to separate the volunteer from the picture. Ask, "Does this stop Jesus from loving (the volunteer)?" Have the volunteer sit. Explain that in today's Bible verses we're going to see if anything can separate us, or keep us away, from Jesus' love.

## BIBLE TRUTH

Read Romans 8:35. Explain that each of the words listed is a problem we could have in our lives. The writer, the Apostle Paul, wants to know if any of those things can keep Jesus from loving us. The writer answers his own question in verse 37. Read verse 37, and ask if any of those problems can keep Jesus from loving us.

Read verses 38-39. Ask if anything in this whole world can stop Jesus from loving us.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Face the picture of Jesus with the heart toward the class. Ask about things listed in the passage one-by-one: "Can (name an item from the passage) separate us from Jesus' love?" Put the piece of cardboard in-between the picture of Jesus and the children for each item, and remove it each time as the children say no.

Explain that bad things will happen sometimes, but that doesn't mean that Jesus stopped loving us. Often, troubles and temptations force us back to God's Word where we receive comfort and hope from passages just like this one. No matter what happens, Jesus always loves us.

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, even when bad things happen, you love us. Help us always remember this. Thank you for loving us all the time, no matter what happens. Amen.



# HEART IMPRINTS

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Feb. 19, 2024 -  
Feb. 25, 2024

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 8:34-38

**THEME:** Rethinking Suffering Under the Cross

**SONG:** CW21 702/ CW93 453 - Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

**VISUAL:** Large cross cut from poster board; marker; picture of Jesus on the cross

### OBJECT LESSON

Show the poster board cross. Explain that besides being what Jesus died on, a cross can also refer to troubles we have in life. Have children list examples of troubles, and write them on the cross.

### BIBLE TRUTH

Read Mark 8:34. Explain that these are Jesus' words. He says that we need to take up our crosses (point to the troubles written on the poster board cross) and follow him. We are going to have problems in this world, but we keep following Jesus.

Read Mark 8:35. Explain that Jesus is asking which is more important: having a nice life, or following Jesus. Ask the children what the answer to Jesus' question is.

Read Mark 8:36,37. Point out that this time Jesus is asking which is more important: the whole world, or our souls. Again, ask the children the answer to this question.

Read Mark 8:38. Discuss how we might act as if we were ashamed of Jesus. Encourage the children to boldly show their faith as they take up their crosses and follow Jesus.

### DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Say, "Let's play follow the leader," and have a volunteer follow you. Explain that Jesus tells us to follow him. But he also tells us that we need to take up our crosses to do so. Have the volunteer follow while holding the poster board cross. Explain that Jesus uses our crosses—our problems—to teach us to lean on him and trust him. Jesus uses them to help us realize that we need him. We need his Word to strengthen us and we need his cross. Ask how and why Jesus actually took up a cross for us.

Encourage the children to show their love for Jesus by boldly following him, even when they have troubles.

### PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for using our crosses to teach us to lean on you and trust in you. Thank you most of all for dying on a cross to save us! Help us always follow you, putting you ahead of everything in this world. Amen.



# HEART IMPRINTS

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Feb. 26, 2024 -  
March 3, 2024

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

**THEME:** Rethinking the Worth of Worship

**SONG:** CW21 558/ CW93 390 - Salvation unto Us Has  
Come st. 1,6,7

**VISUAL:** Building blocks and a table

## OBJECT LESSON

Dump the blocks randomly on the table. As, "If I leave them on the table, will they build themselves into something amazing, like a car that drives, or a robot? What if I take away all but one block?" Remove all but one block. "Will that block change itself and grow until it's a living thing that can walk and talk and clean your room and do your schoolwork? That would be foolish to believe!

"Did you know that some people who are considered the smartest people in this world believe that something like this can happen? They think that this whole, amazing world, and each of us, started in this way—just growing and changing all by itself from one little thing into something amazing! This is called the *theory of evolution*, and it's believed by people like scientists and college professors who are considered very intelligent. And these same people think we are foolish to say that God made the world!

"When we go to church and hear what the pastor preaches, we are hearing something that a lot of people in this world think is foolish. Listen to find out what they think is foolish."

## BIBLE TRUTH

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. Ask what the passage says people think is foolish. Explain that "the message of the cross" is the news that Jesus died on a cross to take away our sins.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:19-20. Explain that this passage says that God has done amazing things that people who think they have wisdom and intelligence don't believe. The last verse in this passage tells us whom God has saved. Ask the children to listen to find out who is saved.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:21. Ask who is saved—everyone who is considered wise, or everyone who believes the message of the cross.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Ask, "What is the *message of the cross* that we hear about whenever we go to church?" Point out that this is what some "smart" people think is foolish! Ask what most people think is the way to heaven? Point out that most religions teach that the way to go to heaven is by being good. That's easier for most people to believe than the truth that God sent his only Son to die for us.

Explain that we need to hear what Jesus did for us often. The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to "feed our faith"; if our faith isn't fed regularly, it will weaken and eventually die. Ask why we go to worship services in church. Point out that it's not only so that we can praise God and pray to him together. It's also so that we can hear the message of the cross and have our faith fed. Whenever we hear in church about Jesus and how he saved us, we are getting power from God. We are being saved! Encourage the children to worship God in church whenever they can so that they can keep hearing about Jesus.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the message of the cross. Help us remember that it is not a foolish message—it is the good news that you died on a cross to take away our sins. Teach us to be eager to worship you whenever we can so that we can keep hearing this wonderful news! Amen.



# HEART IMPRINTS

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2024 -  
March 10, 2024

**SCRIPTURE:** Numbers 21:4-9

**THEME:** Rethinking the Solution to Sin

**SONG:** CW21 583 God Loves Me Dearly

**VISUAL:** Rubber snake; picture of bronze snake on a pole

## OBJECT LESSON

Explain that some snakes are very safe and won't hurt us. But some snakes are poisonous—if they bite you, you could become very sick or die.

Ask, "If you had a poisonous snake bite you, what do you think your parents would do to save you?" After hearing their responses, show a rubber snake. "Would they tell you to look at this pretend snake, and then you'll be all better? That sounds silly, doesn't it?"

## BIBLE TRUTH

Tell the children that today's Bible reading is about God's people, the Israelites, who were living in a wilderness on their way to the land of Canaan. Read Numbers 21:4-6. Ask what happened when the Israelites complained against God and his servant, Moses. Ask what happened to a lot of the people who were bitten.

Read Numbers 21:7-9. Ask how the Israelites showed they were sorry for what they had done, and how God answered their prayers.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Show a picture of the bronze snake. Ask, "Was this a real snake?" Point out that God told the people to look at this pretend snake. Ask, "When they obeyed God and trusted that they would get better doing what he said, what happened?"

Point out that the Israelites were saved from death in a special way, by looking in faith at a bronze snake. The bronze snake is what we call a type of Christ. It was a picture in the Old Testament that pointed ahead to Jesus, our Savior. Ask the children to name ways that the story of the bronze snake pointed ahead to Jesus.

Possibilities include the following:

- The Israelites sinned against God, and so have we. They deserved to die, and so do we.
- The bronze snake was raised up on a pole. Jesus was raised up on a cross.
- The Israelites who believed God and looked at the snake were saved. Those of us who look at Jesus on the cross and believe that he is our Savior are saved.

Point out that God used a bronze snake to save the Israelites, and he used his own dear Son to save us. We thank God for loving us so much that he came up with an amazing solution to save us from the punishment for our sins.

## PRAYER

Dear God, we are sorry for our sins. Thank you for thinking of an unexpected and very loving solution to save us. We praise you for sending Jesus to die on a cross to take away our sins. We pray in his name. Amen.



# HEART IMPRINTS

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2024 -  
March 17, 2024

**SCRIPTURE:** John 12:20-33

**THEME:** Rethinking Devoted Commitment

**SONG:** CW21 813 He Will Hold Me Fast

**VISUAL:** Diaper, fever thermometer, first aid supplies

## OBJECT LESSON

Show the diaper. Ask, "What do parents need to do for babies over and over and over again, every day? Do you think that changing messy diapers is always a fun job?"

Show the thermometer. Ask, "If you're feeling sick, what will your parents do for you? Is it fun to take care of someone who is sick? What if your parents are sick too?"

Show the first aid supplies. Ask, "What do parents do if you're hurt or bleeding? Do you think they enjoy doing that?" Point out that parents have a commitment to care for their children, even when it's hard.

## BIBLE TRUTH

Read John 12:20-26. Explain that Jesus is saying that sometimes it's hard to follow him. Ask which Jesus says to love more: our lives here on earth, or him? Jesus wants us to love him and follow him our whole lives.

Tell the children that next Jesus talked about what would happen to him. Read John 12:27-33. Explain that Jesus knew he was going to be put to death on a cross soon, and he said he was troubled. Guide the children to understand that this means he was sad, knowing what was going to happen to him. But he still was going to let it happen.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Guide the children through these questions:

- Why was Jesus' soul troubled about dying on a cross?" (As the perfect Son of God, he didn't sin so he didn't deserve to die.)
- Why did he do it? (He had come to earth to save us.)
- Does Jesus want us to follow him? (yes)

- Following Jesus means doing all he has told us to do. Do we always follow Jesus perfectly? (no)
- Did Jesus do everything perfectly to save us?

Point out that Jesus didn't deserve the pain of the cross or death. Such things were foreign to him as the perfect Son of God. Yet he willingly went to the cross because he had made a commitment - a promise to do something. His commitment was to carry out God's plan to save us. He kept this commitment because he loves us. And he still holds onto us, loving us, caring for us, and answering our prayers every day. Ask, "Is Jesus still committed to us?" Encourage the children to thank Jesus for all he has done by following him!

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we know you didn't want to have to suffer and die, but you did it anyway in order to save us. Thank you for loving us so much that you would commit your life to saving us! Help us remember that you are still committed to us, caring for us and answering our prayers. Teach us to thank you by following you and loving you most of all. Amen.



# HEART IMPRINTS

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2024-  
March 24, 2024

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 12:1-3

**THEME:** Rethinking Real Strength

**SONG:** CW21 402/ CW93 103 Glory Be to Jesus

**VISUAL:** A medal, such as from a race

## OBJECT LESSON

Tell the children that a marathon is a long race. Runners of a full marathon run over 26 miles! (Help the children understand how long that is by giving an example of two locations the children might know that would be about that far apart.) Explain that it takes most runners 4-5 months to train for a marathon. And running a full marathon takes 4-5 hours. Use these questions to lead a discussion:

- Would it be hard to train every day for five months?
- Would it be hard to run for 4-5 hours without stopping?
- Do you think the runners might get sore and tired?
- Why do they do it?
- Do you think that the runners are pretty strong for being able to run such a hard race?

Explain that runners get a medal for finishing the race (show a medal), but they also get a lot of joy from knowing they did it!

## BIBLE TRUTH

Read Hebrews 12:1. Ask what the writer is comparing our Christian lives to. (running a race) In the next verses the writer talks about someone who did something even harder than running a marathon.

Read Hebrews 12:2,3. Ask who did something even harder than running a race. Point out that by enduring the cross, Jesus did something much more painful than running any race.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Ask, "Does running a marathon show a lot of strength?" Remind the children that marathon runners go through all the hard work and muscle aches for the joy that they have when they finish the race.

Ask, "Do you think being put to death on a cross takes strength?" Point out that while being crucified doesn't need muscle strength for the victim, it definitely takes a lot of courage, or inner strength, to die for someone else. By letting himself be crucified and enduring the pain, Jesus showed real strength—much more than marathon runners show. Ask, "Why did he do it?" Jesus showed this strength because he wanted to save us. That's what brought him joy!

Encourage the children to always remember what Jesus did for them and to treasure the gift of being saved.

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you showed such incredible strength when you went to the cross for us! Thank you for being willing to do that for the joy of saving us. Lead us to always remember what you did for us and treasure the gift of being saved. Amen.



# HEART IMPRINTS