

13th Sunday after Pentecost

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:25-35

THEME: Count the Cost

SONG: CW21 694/ CW93 465 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

VISUAL: Building materials: 2x4, nails, screws, hammer, screwdriver, etc.

OBJECT LESSON

What would you need to build a house? How much do you think it would cost to build your own house? Have the children guess what they'll need and how much it will cost.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus talks about the cost of following him as one of his disciples. He compares the cost of following him to someone building a tower. Read Luke 14:27-30.

Jesus wants us to consider the cost of following him. It may cost us screen time. It may cost us soccer games or basketball tournaments. It may cost us money. It may cost us friends or family. It may cost us our job, our health, or our freedom. It may even cost us our lives. That's a big cost!

Jesus knows we may have to give up a lot in this life, but he gives us everything we need for the life to come. Jesus knows it may cost us our lives to be his disciples, but it cost Jesus his life on the cross to make us his disciples. So it's worth it!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What are some things you might have to give up as you are following Jesus? (Wait for responses.) There may come a time in your life when you may say, "O Lord, I give up. There's no way I can pay this price. It just costs too much!"

We might think the cost of building a house or a tower is too much. But if we really want to live in a house or own a cool tower, we will count the cost and build it.

Jesus wants us to learn that the cost of following him is too much for us to pay alone. His cross is too heavy for us to carry by ourselves. Following Jesus is too difficult apart from him. So Jesus pays the price for us to be his disciples. Jesus carries the weight of our cross. Jesus is with us every step of the way as we follow him.

Ask your parents to bring you to church. Have them read Bible stories and pray with you. You can put away your screen so you can spend more time with Jesus. These are ways you are showing you are counting the cost of following Jesus.

The cost of following Jesus to the cross is worth it. That's because Jesus has already paid the greater price of going to the cross for us.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, on our own we have nothing. With you, we have everything. Send your Holy Spirit to help us count the cost of following you. Remind us there is no cost that is too great when it comes to carrying our crosses for you. After all, you paid the price and carried your cross to your death for us. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

14th Sunday after Pentecost

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-10

THEME: Excited to Find the Lost

SONG: CW21 654/ CW93 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive

VISUAL: Phone, keys, and wallet

OBJECT LESSON

Show the children your phone, keys, and wallet. Explain that these are very important to you. Ask what would happen if you lost your keys? Your wallet? Your phone?

BIBLE TRUTH

We show how valuable something is to us by how hard we go looking for it when it's lost. The woman in Jesus' parable showed her coin was very important to her because she swept her whole house looking for the coin. Then she threw a party when it was found.

The shepherd showed how important the sheep was to him by leaving the other ninety nine sheep to go looking for his lost lamb. Then he gathered his friends together to celebrate when the sheep was found.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

When we sin, we lose our way and become lost. We focus more on what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do. Or we disobey God by disobeying those he has placed in our lives to help us. Or we hurt those God has placed around us to serve us. Or we simply wander away from God's Word. Sin causes us to go away from Jesus and those whom Jesus puts around us to keep us safe.

Have you ever been lost? How did it feel to be lost? Who was looking for you and found you?

When we've been lost, our parents, grandparents, older brothers and sisters, teachers, friends, neighbor, and pastor may all come looking for us. It shows how important you are to them.

Jesus went out of his way to find us. He came down from heaven to "seek and save the lost." He looks for you like you're a lost sheep. He looks for you like you're a lost coin. He looks for you because you're a lost child.

Jesus uses pastors, teachers, parents, friends, and others to find you. He calls you to him through his Word. He makes you his own through Baptism. He keeps you close to him by calling you to repentance and calling to you again with his forgiveness.

When Jesus finds you, he and his angels throw a party in your honor. That's how important you are to him! That's how excited he is to find you when you become lost.

PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for looking for us when we become lost in our sin. We are grateful that you find us and bring us home to our heavenly Father. We are excited that you and your angels are so excited at finding us. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

15th Sunday after Pentecost

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

THEME: Thankfully serve God with the wealth he has given us

SONG: CW21 807/ CW93 421 All Depends on Our Possessing

VISUAL: A wooden spoon, a hammer, and a laptop

OBJECT LESSON

A wooden spoon, a hammer, and a laptop. What kind of job might someone have if they are using a wooden spoon? What kind of job might someone have if they are using a hammer? What kind of job might someone have if they are using a computer? What kind of job do you want to have after you're done with school?

BIBLE TRUTH

Lord willing, when you are older and working for a living, you will enjoy what you are doing. King Solomon is the author of our Bible verses. He was the richest man alive at his time. Still, he did not find his happiness in all his money. Instead, Solomon teaches that true happiness comes when we use our work and money in serving the Lord.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Do you ever wish you had more and better? More money? More clothes? Better video games? Better toys? Do you think those more and better things will make you happier?

Do you think that when you're older and able to afford more expensive toys, games, and clothes that you'll be happier? It won't happen. You will just focus even more on getting the money to buy all that stuff.

King Solomon reminds us that we don't need all that stuff. That's not where our happiness will come from. Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20. Solomon wants us as Christians to be happy and satisfied with what we already have been given by God through Jesus Christ. We've been given the riches of forgiveness of sins, the wealth of being

a child of God through faith, the possession of a home in heaven, the clothing of Christ's white robe of righteousness through Baptism, the food and water of salvation in God's Word, and so much more.

We ask God today to help us be thankful for these spiritual blessings. They are riches and wealth that are more important than money, toys, or any other stuff. They are riches like the Word of God, forgiveness of sins, faith in God, the promise of heaven and so much more. Solomon reminds us that we can be happy with whatever home we live in, whatever amount of money we make, or whatever kinds of toys or things we have. No matter how many or how few of these things God chooses to bless us with, we can be happy knowing God has given us absolutely everything we need ... and more! We can enjoy the gifts God HAS given us!

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for our parents and others who work hard to provide us with a home, clothing, food, and so much more. When we grow up to have jobs, we ask you to help us thank you for all you have given us. Help us be happy as we work for you, always thanking you for the gifts you give us. You give us absolutely everything we need...and more! Thank you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

16th Sunday after Pentecost

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31

THEME: A Happy Ending to our Story

SONG: CW21 817/ CW93 434 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

VISUAL: A drawing of a phone

OBJECT LESSON

I heard a sad story the other day. A teacher asked her students, "If you could be anything in the world, what would you want to be?" She then asked her students to each draw a picture of what they wanted to be. As the teacher went around the room she saw pictures of a farmer, a firefighter, and a teacher. She came to one little boy's picture and saw that it was a cell phone. She asked, "Why would you want to be a cell phone?" The little boy replied, "So my parents will see me as important and pay attention to me." Isn't that a very sad story?

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus tells a story about a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. Though Lazarus was very poor, he was spiritually rich because he was a believer in the Lord. Lazarus believed God's Word that told him about a Savior from his sin. God's Word and his Savior were very important to Lazarus. Through faith in Jesus, when Lazarus died, he went to heaven. Though the rich man was very rich with money, he was very poor spiritually. He did not believe in Jesus as his Savior. God's Word was not important to him at all. Because of his lack of faith, the rich man went to hell. Isn't that a sad story?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

God's Son, Jesus Christ, came from heaven down to earth. Here he lived perfectly in our place, died on the cross to pay for our sins so we don't go to hell, and rose from the dead, so we have a home in heaven.

Sadly, we can forget about Jesus. We can ignore what he has done for us. We can avoid reading God's Word. All because other things become

more important to us.

Jesus reminds us in the parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus what happens if our Bible is not important to us and we don't pay attention to what it tells us about our Savior Jesus. Then we can be like the rich man and end up in hell. That's a very sad story.

But when we do read our Bible and pay attention to what God's Word says about our Savior Jesus, then by the gift of faith through the Holy Spirit we will go to heaven when we die. We will be with Lazarus, Abraham, and Jesus. That's a very happy story!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, please forgive us when we don't pay attention to you and make you the most important thing in our lives. Send your Holy Spirit to make spending time with you in your Word the most important thing we do each day. All so we may end up in heaven with you and have a very happy ending to our stories. In your name we pray. Amen.

