



**22nd SUN IN ORDINARY TIME A**  
**THEME: Take up your cross and follow me**  
**(High School)**



Aspect	Purpose of this session
Profession of faith (what we believe)	Jesus was faithful to his mission : Even to death on a cross.
Scripture	Matthew 16: 21-27
Church and the sacraments (how we worship)	
Christian living and morality (how we live)	Following Jesus may mean “sacrifice”
Prayer/worship (how we pray)	Prayer to follow Jesus

**Welcome and opening prayer:** As usual.

Introduction: **Look at some crosses** – cross on a chain, crucifix, and picture.

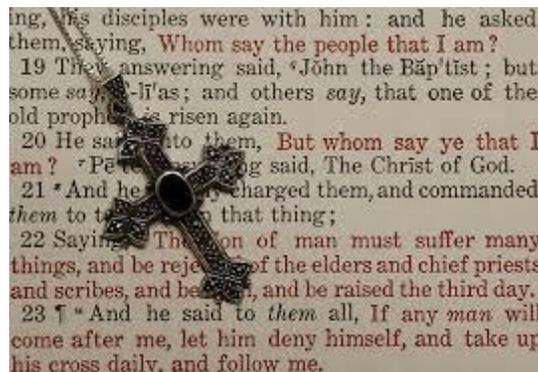
**Discuss what the cross means to us.**

*(For example: Reminder of Jesus’ sacrifice for us, Jesus took up his cross, symbol of what we believe....).*

**Jesus says in today’s gospel that we have to take up our crosses and follow him.**

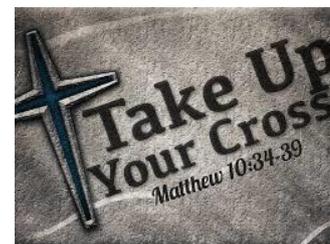
**Scripture reading and discussion:**

Read the gospel: Matthew 16: 21-27



Possible discussion points:

- Today’s reading again features Peter.** It continues from last week’s gospel. Revise briefly what happened in last week’s gospel where Peter made a profound statement of faith.
- Instead of praising him and saying he would build his Church on him, like Jesus did in last week’s reading, this time Peter is in trouble!**  
**Why did Jesus rebuke Peter so harshly?** *(Peter was going against the plan of God which was that Jesus would be crucified and rise again on the third day. Jesus wanted him to know that leaders (and all of us) must always follow God’s plan, not their own. Peter still had to learn this. But despite this, and his later denial of Jesus before the crucifixion, Peter went on to become a great leader. )*
- Why would we want to follow Jesus when he says “take up your cross...you might even lose your life for my sake?”**  
 (Jesus is warning us that sometimes it will be difficult, he is not making out that everything will be wonderful and easy.  
 Following Jesus means doing things the way he wants to do things.  
 People might mock us and laugh at us if we try to do things like Jesus wants us to. Jesus says that it is worth it.



**Link with previous readings about the kingdom being like treasure, his promise in today’s reading, “I will repay everyone according to his conduct”.**

Make sure the teens understand that Jesus is not saying we must go out looking for suffering. )

- Jesus also wants us to follow his example and offer our lives in service to others. Who are some people who offer that example to us today?** (Accept all reasonable answers.)

**Activity: Make/draw crosses.**

Let the teens write a sentence or word on the cross that represents a difficulty or burden they might be carrying OR a burden someone else is carrying OR a prayer of thanks to Jesus for carrying his cross OR a prayer to ask Jesus to help us carry our cross.....

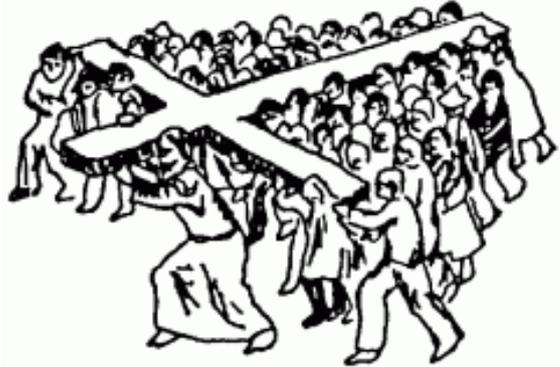
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Song: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77RHISYAD\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77RHISYAD_E)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Gae-n0Pb7Q>

**Chorus:**

Take up your cross and follow Jesus  
Take up your cross every day  
Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him  
Count the cost, take up your cross and follow Him.



What are you doing for the King  
Have you really given everything  
For the One who gave His all for you  
Don't be satisfied just to know  
That the Lord has saved your soul  
Have you forgotten what you need to do

**(Chorus)**

Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him  
Count the cost, take up your cross and follow Him  
I know sometimes the road is long  
And I know sometimes you feel like you can't go on  
But you can make it, you just

**(Chorus)**

Don't be ashamed to say that you know Him  
Count the cost, take up your cross  
Follow Him



**Prayer for Vocations**

**God, in baptism, you called me by name  
and made me a member of your people, the Church.  
Help all your people to know their vocation in life  
and to respond by living a life of holiness.  
For the greater glory and for the service of your people,  
raise up dedicated and generous leaders  
who will serve as sisters, brothers, priests,  
deacons and lay ministers.**

**Send your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen me  
that I may serve your people  
following the example of Jesus your Son  
in whose name I make this prayer.  
Amen.**

