



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2023

BIBLE LESSON: MATTHEW 16:21-28

In the first half of the Gospel reading from Matthew, Peter is surprised when Jesus shares what will happen to Him on earth and makes bold statements to Jesus. Peter's concern for Jesus seems to be coming from the right place, he is like us and is afraid and protective of Jesus when he learns about how Jesus will suffer and be killed. Those feelings aren't wrong, but they are human feelings that don't line up with God's plan.

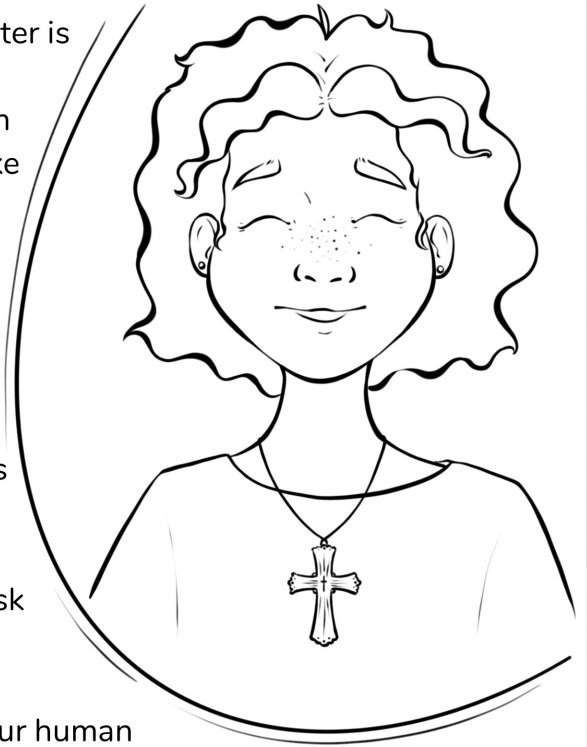
It is difficult for us to understand why anyone would have to suffer, especially Jesus who could remove people's pain and suffering and even raise people from the dead. When we learn about people hurting and struggling, it is natural for us to want that suffering to stop and even to ask God in prayer to remove their pain.

Peter takes one for the team again, putting a voice to our human thoughts and Jesus quickly puts him back in his place in verse 23.

When Jesus came to earth, He took on the body of a man and experienced suffering and pain as a human. He felt sadness and experienced death of a close friend, and then went on to suffer and die in our place. When He told the disciples that He was going to suffer, be killed, and then be raised, Peter was so focused on the human aspects of that suffering that he missed the point.

Jesus doesn't leave Peter hanging but provides further explanation to all the disciples about those who seem to be having a good life that appears to be easy. He shares words of comfort for those who may experience suffering and feel like they are coming in "last" in life. Jesus asks pointed, yet rhetorical questions about those who would give up their soul to have a life on earth free from suffering.

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(Continued)



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

Finally, in verse 27 Jesus explains how after the suffering and pain that is endured on earth that He will return to earth and that all those who have suffered in the name of Jesus will be saved. Peter, the disciples and all believers will be raised up just like Jesus!



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to be like me, to know what it feels like to be me and to die for me so that I can be forgiven. Please help me to feel your comfort and peace when I am suffering so that I can share the message about you with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Notes: