



# Growing FAITH at home

3 September 2023

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 17

## TAKING UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOWING JESUS



Grow Ministries  
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



### CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. What is something you find difficult to do? What makes it so?
2. Why do people wear crosses?



### BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

1st reading

**Exodus 3:1-15**  
Moses and the burning bush

2nd reading

**Romans 12:9-21**  
Love in action

Gospel reading

**Matthew 16:21-28**  
Take up your cross and follow

### DISCUSS

Jesus says, "if you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it" (Matthew 16:25). What do you think he means by this?



### ACTION RESPONSE

Work together as a household to make small crosses out of card or popsicle sticks. Write the words 'Take up your cross and follow me' on each cross. Commit to carrying your crosses with you this week as a reminder of Jesus' call to follow him in all things.



### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to never give up on you. Keep us excited about serving God. Amen.



### MEALTIME PRAYER

Thank you for all we eat and all we wear, for daily bread and nightly care. Amen.



### BLESSING

May God keep your faith in Jesus alive and strong.

THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES,  
"IF ANY OF YOU WANTS TO BE MY FOLLOWER,  
YOU MUST TURN FROM YOUR SELFISH WAYS,  
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME."

MATTHEW 16:24

VERSE OF THE WEEK

