

Hi Everyone! We are in the season of Lent. This is when we remember all the amazing things Jesus did in the 3 years of His ministry and the events leading up to His sacrifice on the cross. The craft for today is a game called "Following Jesus". (ages 4 to adult) I encourage you to help your children to make the game and learn from the question and answer cards. I just played it with my 5 year old granddaughter and was amazed at her memory and knowledge!

I also want to remind you about the GALLERY WALL our children are creating before the Easter Week Service. There are 13 Events and the children are asked to contact me with the one they choose to create. Instructions have been sent out and are included in this email as well. The Gallery Wall document can be accessed at the same link as this Activities document - <http://stthomasstittsville.ca/Merilee's%20Activities.html>

Six of the 13 have already been chosen; These are the ones we still need pictures for; palm leaves, the rooster, 30 pieces of silver in a bag, The Crucifixion Cross, sour wine on a sponge at the end of a long stick, and the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus ascending to heaven. Interpretation is wide open. Use markers, paints, collage, etc. on a half piece of bristol board in any shape you want. (rectangle, circle, cloud, zig zag....) Due date to the church or my home is March 27th.

Enjoy this week's activities together.

Blessings to all of you

Merilee Clarke



Sermon Title: "[Playing for Keeps](#)" Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-38

Scripture; *Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:34-36*

Theme; *What does it profit if a man gains the whole world and loses his soul? **Object;** A bag of marbles*

When I was a child, one of my favorite games was the game of marbles. I don't see children playing marbles any more. Some of you may not even know how to play marbles. Let me explain how we used to play marbles.

First, you draw a big ring in the dirt. Then each player puts the same number of his own marbles into the ring. The players then take turns shooting a marble, like this, (demonstrate) trying to knock the other marbles out of the ring. When a shooter knocks a marble out of the ring, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. If his shooting marble stays inside the ring, he was allowed to keep shooting. If not, the next shooter takes his turn. When all the marbles have been knocked out of the ring, they are counted and the one with the most marbles is the winner.

Before a game of marbles begins, one player will sometimes ask the other players, "Are we playing for fun, or are we playing for keeps?" If you just play for fun, when the game is over, the winner gives the marbles back. But if you play for keeps, the winner gets to keep all of the marbles he has won.

Some people live their life as if it were a game of marbles. They spend their whole life trying to be the one with the most marbles. They think that the one with the biggest house, the fanciest car, and the most money in the bank is the winner. They think they are playing "for keeps," but when they come to the end of their life, do you know how many of their marbles they get to take with them? None of them! They spend their whole life trying to win all of the marbles, but in the end, they are left with nothing! They can't take it when they die.

Jesus said that if we want to be real winners we must be willing to give up everything and follow him. When we follow Jesus, we may not have a lot of the things that some people think are important. We may not live in a big house or drive a fancy car, but we will have something that is much better than that, we will have treasures laid up for us in heaven. When we get to heaven, God will shine like the sun in perfect beauty, there will be peace, love, joy, and community. There will be living waters and God will wipe every tear away. Best of all, we will have everlasting life with Jesus. You see, when we give our lives to Jesus, HE "plays for keeps."

Some people will give anything to get more marbles, but Jesus asked "What good will it do them if they gain the whole world, but lose their soul?"

Dear Father, help us to realize that the only life that lasts is a life lived for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Group Activities

Sermon Title: "[Playing for Keeps](#)" Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-38

SHOOTING MARBLES:

Children can take turns playing any type of marble game that the teacher thinks there is time for and space for, depending whether the game would be played indoors or outside.

MARBLE SCRAMBLE:

The teacher will scatter many marbles in one room in a designated area. The children will scramble to get as many marbles as they can in the time allowed. Ask children if they want to play for fun or for keeps. Then the teacher will let them put all of their marbles in a sandwich baggy and will begin telling children what each color marble is worth; ex.. children can see how many red marbles they found (which could be 20 points) and how many blue marbles (worth 30 points) or how many green or yellow or specialized marbles and all worth a certain number of points. Point out to the children after they realize that each marble has a certain worth, that if they were playing for keeps, they might have lost to another player with more points, but if they're just playing for fun, they won't lose anything.

GIVING UP EVERYTHING:

The teacher will give each child several slips of paper with a word on each slip of paper (such as giving up games, money, friends, toys, home, bike, books, etc). The children will start to follow the leader and as the leader stops the children and asks for the children to give up "something". The children will hand the leader one of the slips of paper and continue to follow the leader... the children will continue to follow the leader but stopping now and then to give up "something" until they have given up everything (all the slips of paper) and then lead the children to a BIBLE and sit in a circle and talk about today's lesson.

BIBLE VERSE BANNER:

Give children heavy card stock paper, markers, stickers and glitter, etc, to make a banner with today's Bible verse or words from today's lesson. Punch a hole in the top of the banner and let the children hang their banners around their neck and march around the room, singing I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS, or another song of the teacher's choice.

PLAYING FOR KEEPS SUN VISOR:

Each child can be given a moon shaped piece of colorful foam or a paper plate cut in a crescent shape. Children can write words from today's lesson and PLAYING FOR KEEPS, etc. The teacher can hold punch each end and add an elastic string to put the visor on the child's head.

GOOD NEWS CROSS:

Provide children with a piece of construction paper and a section of the news paper. Have them find some Good News in the paper and then they can trace and then cut out a CROSS out of the news print and glue onto the construction paper. Write GOOD NEWS -- TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME, etc.

SING A SONG: TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS and/or I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS.

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus.
I have decided to follow Jesus.
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.

The cross before me, the world behind me.
The cross before me, the world behind me.
The cross before me, the world behind me,
No turning back, no turning back.

Though no-one join me, still I will follow.
Though no-one join me, still I will follow.
Though no-one join me, still I will follow.
No turning back, no turning back.

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BibleWise

Following Jesus

The Twelve
—Matthew 9;
Luke 6; John 1

The apostles are ready to follow Jesus. They want to learn from him and help him in his ministry. Can you help them find the right path? Mark the route. There's only one right way to go!

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TO ALL YOUNG ARTISTS IN THE DIOCESE OF OTTAWA!!!! See page 8 for a chance to have your ORIGINAL ART PUBLISHED courtesy of PWRDF.

11 Mary Follows Jesus

Your mother and relatives are outside



Anyone who believes in me is a mother or relative to me
Lk 3:35

Mary believed in Jesus and followed Him. She always loved and trusted Him. Play the game on this page to think about ways you can follow Jesus every day. Roll a die. Move the number of spaces on the die. When you land on a space with words, follow the directions there. What does the game teach you about how to follow Jesus?

START

You pray each morning. Go ahead 1 space.

You do your job at home without being asked. Go ahead 2 spaces.

You complain about the food. Lose a turn.

You remember to bring food for the food shelf. Go ahead 2 spaces.

You don't go to bed on time. Go back 2 spaces.

You pick up litter on your street. Go ahead 1 space.

You help a neighbor with yard work. Go ahead 1 space.

You ask a question in religion class. Extra turn.

You make a treat for your family. Go ahead 1 space.

You pray for people who are suffering. Go ahead 2 spaces.

You listen to the readings at Mass. Go ahead 1 space.

You are like Jesus' mother.

You hide your sister's piano music so she can't practice. Lose a turn.

You tell your parents you love them. Go ahead 2 spaces.

FINISH



Draw a similar board as above with lots of footprints. There must be 6 red foot prints. These are the EVENTS in Jesus life that you must answer questions about. The path can criss cross each other in any direction. Use your imagination.

Roll the die. At every red footstep, you must stop and answer a question (no matter what you rolled). Each event has 4 questions. An easiest, easy, hard and harder question. You may choose with level question you want to try. If you get it correct you may move ahead that number of spaces. For instance if you answer the 'older' question you may move head three spaces. If you cannot answer , the answer is read out loud and you stay there until your next turn. Roll the dice and continue. To win the game you must get one question from each of the six events correct. (For really younger children, there are several acceptable answers.) OR Continue travelling around until you can answer all the questions correctly. (Make up some of your own questions)

Cut out the following events and glue each to a separate card.

Event 1	Christmas	Event 2	Ephiphany
1 Easiest	Jesus was born in a ?	1 Easiest	The wise men followed a ?
2 Easy	Who told the shepherds to come?	2 Easy	Name one gift.
3 Hard	What town was Jesus born in?	3 Hard	Name all three gifts.
4 Harder	Why did Joseph need to go to Bethlehem?	4 Harder	What did an angel tell the wise men in a dream?
Event 3	First trip to Jerusalem	Event 4	Baptism
1 Easiest	Where was Jesus family taking Him?	1 Easiest	What is used to Baptize someone?
2 Easy	How old was Jesus?	2 Easy	What river was Jesus baptised in?
3 Hard	What was the celebration?	3 Hard	Who was Jesus cousin?
4 Harder	Where did they find him 3 days later?	4 Harder	What descended from the heaven?
Event 5	Ministry	Event 6	Easter
1 Easiest	What was Jesus like?	1 Easiest	What happened to Jesus at the first Easter?
2 Easy	What did He do to help people?	2 Easy	Why did He have to die?
3 Hard	What was His main message?	3 Hard	What tradition started at His last supper?
4 Harder	How did He teach God's love?	4 Harder	Where did He go after he rose from the dead?

Give these answers to an adult to be the Answer Captain

ANSWERS

Category 1	Christmas	Category 2	Ephiphany
1 Younger	Jesus was born in a ? stable, manger	1 Younger	The wise men followed a ? star
2 Young	Who told the shepherds to come? angels	2 Young	Name one gift. Gold,
3 Older	What town was Jesus born in? Bethlehem	3 Older	Name all three gifts. gold frankincense, myrrh
4 Old	Why did Joseph need to go to Bethlehem? To pay taxes and be counted.	4 Old	What did an angel tell the wise men in a dream? To go home another way. Do not tell King Herod.
Category 3	First trip to Jerusalem	Category 4	Baptism
1 Younger	Where was Jesus family taking Him? Jerusalem	1 Younger	What is used to Baptise someone? water
2 Young	How old was Jesus? 13	2 Young	What river was Jesus baptised in? Jordan River
3 Older	What was the celebration? Passover	3 Older	Who was Jesus cousin? John
4 Old	Where did they find him 3 days later? In the temple talking with the priests	4 Old	What descended from heaven? A dove / Holy Spirit/God's voice saying "This is my son. I love Him."
Category 5	Ministry	Category 6	Easter
1 Younger	What was Jesus like? (any answer eg. Kind loving gentle etc.)	1 Younger	What did Jesus do at the first Easter? He died, on the cross. (or similar)
2 Young	What did He do to help people? Gave them hope and/or healing.	2 Young	Why did He have to die? To make a place for us in heaven.
3 Older	What was His main message? Love God and love one another.	3 Older	What tradition started at His last supper? Communion with bread and wine.
4 Old	How did He teach God's love? Through His own example on how to treat everyone.	4 Old	Where did He go after he rose from the dead? He went to heaven so He could be with us always until we go to heaven too. (or similar)

Every trip around the board takes 33 years!

'PLAYING FOR KEEPS on God's Team' SUN VISOR

Using the sports analogy "Playing for Keeps" we remember that Jesus is the only one that can promise life forever in heaven where God will shine like the sun in perfect beauty, there will be peace, love, joy, and community. There will be living waters and God will wipe every tear away. FOR KEEPS!

Best of all, we will have everlasting life with Jesus.

You will need; a paper plate or foam craft hat (found at the dollar store) a piece of elastic, scissors, and markers, stapler.



Write the words : Playing for Keeps with Jesus: on your smiling sun visor. (You may or may not use the eyes as part of the hat, your choice,) Decorate any way you wish.



DEADLINE May 1st, 2021



**To All Young Artists
in our Diocese of Ottawa:**

YOU ARE INVITED TO CREATE

**ORIGINAL
ARTWORK**

**INSPIRED BY PWRDF'S
"ALL MOTHERS AND
CHILDREN COUNT"!**

Please email a Scan or Picture of your Artwork--
and your (1) Name, (2) Age, (3) Parish, (4) Mailing Address,
(5) Permission to Publish the Artwork and First Name
to: pwrdf@ottawa.anglican.ca
The deadline for submissions is May 1st, 2021.