**Take Up Your Cross**

**Theme:** Take up your cross and follow Jesus.

**Object:** A variety of crosses

**Scripture:** Mark 8:27-38

I have something to show you. (Hold up one of the crosses.) You know what this is, don't you? Of course you do, it’s a cross. (Show each cross, explain its function or uniqueness, and pass it around for kids to look at.)

Every day we see crosses all around us. People wear them as jewelry, hang them on the wall, use them as key chains, and sometimes even tattoo them on their bodies. When you pass by a church, you might see a cross on the steeple.

One day, as Jesus and His disciples were walking along a road, Jesus asked them, "Who do people say that I am?"

The disciples answered, "Some say John the Baptist or one of the prophets."

"And who do you say that I am?" Jesus asked.

Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Messiah."

Peter was right, but Jesus told him to keep it quiet for the time being. Jesus said, "It is necessary for me to suffer many terrible things. I will be arrested, tried, and killed. But after three days I will rise again."

Peter didn't like that! He took Jesus aside and told Him to stop talking like that.

But Jesus reprimanded Peter. He said, “You’re looking at things from a human point of view, not from God’s."

Then Jesus called the crowd of people who had gathered around to come and join Him and 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. If you try to hang onto your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

So, what does this mean for us? It means that we have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who was willing to give up everything so we can have everlasting life. It also means that those of us who want to be His followers must also be willing to take up our own crosses, give up everything, and follow Him.

The cross is so much more than a piece of jewelry, a work of art, or a decoration on a steeple. It’s a reminder of our Savior's great love for us and our call to follow Him!

God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son to die on a cross. As His disciples, help us to take up our crosses and follow Him. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Activities + Resources**

* [› Coloring Page](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_cross_colorpg.htm?fromSermonId=546)
* [› Coloring Page](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_your_cross_and_follow_me_coloring_page?fromSermonId=546)
* [› Crossword](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_your_cross_crossword.htm?fromSermonId=546)
* [› Decoder](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_your_cross_decoder.htm?fromSermonId=546)
* [› Fill in the Blank](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_your_cross_cloze.htm?fromSermonId=546)
* [› Maze](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_your_cross_maze.htm?fromSermonId=546)
* [› Jumble](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_your_cross_jumble.htm?fromSermonId=546)
* [› Word Search](https://sermons4kids.com/take_up_your_cross_wordsearch.htm?fromSermonId=546)

**Be Careful What You Say**

**Theme:** Be careful what you say. Words can hurt or encourage.

**Object:** Two paper pumpkins with cutout faces - One with a smile, the other with a frown. Sentence strips as shown below with double stick tape on the back.

**Scripture:** Psalms 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. (also Proverbs 13:3, Colossians 3:17, and James 3:3-6)

Sing the song “Oh Be Careful Little Eyes.”

This morning we sang the song “Oh Be Careful Little Eyes.” We also mentioned the ears, mouth, mind, hands and feet. Today I want to talk more about the mouth. (Turn over the easel board showing the “happy” and “grumpy” pumpkins.)

I am not good at drawing people, so I thought of pumpkins because it’s October and we sometimes put faces on pumpkins. These pumpkins represent people – you, me, and everyone. (Call up 8 students who were previously given sentence strips.)

Remember that I said we were going to talk about the verse, “Oh be careful little mouth what you say.” My helpers are going to read what we sometimes hear people say and then you decide which pumpkin said those words ~ the happy pumpkin or the grumpy pumpkin. (Children read the sentences and put them next to the appropriate pumpkin as called out by the audience.)

1. Where did you get that weird old-looking sweater? (grumpy)

2. You look nice today. Is that a new sweater? (happy)

3. You have an ugly old bike. Don’t you just hate it? (grumpy)

4. I know your bike belonged to your older brother, but it’s still in good condition. I bet you’re glad you have it. (happy)

5. That job you’re doing is so easy. You’re must be a wimp if you can’t do it. (grumpy)

6. May I help you with that job. It’s always easier when two people work together. (happy)

7. Go away and leave me alone. (grumpy)

8. May I please be alone for a while? We can talk later. (happy)

Thank you, helpers. You may sit down. I think my helpers have done a good job of showing how much nicer it is to say a kind word. I’m sure you would agree that having your feelings hurt is not the way you would want to be treated. You need to remember how you would feel when you say something hurtful to someone else.

Who was the only “Perfect Pumpkin” that God created? JESUS! That’s right. That means that you and I are not perfect pumpkins and sometimes happy and kind people say something they shouldn’t. (Move one of the unkind sentences from the grumpy pumpkin over to the happy pumpkin.)

When that happens, we should ask God to forgive us and apologize to the person we hurt.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for our wonderful bodies that You created. Help us to think of our bodies as a temple and to praise and glorify You. Help us to think before we speak and to not use our words to hurt others. Help us to use our tongues to encourage each other and to witness to others as children of God. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.