

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of the Jesus predicting his own death.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Mark 8 v 31–38

Read the passage together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus predicting his own death which reminds us that everything Jesus did on the earth was part of your big plan.

Help us to remember that we are part of your big plan too and to choose each day to follow you and live for you. Show us the areas in our hearts and lives where you want to see change. Help us to grow more like you and to draw closer to you.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Jesus told Peter to stop when they spoke together?

Jesus knew that what he was saying to his followers was true, his time on earth and death on the cross were all part of God’s plan, but that didn’t mean it was easy for Jesus. Jesus had been tempted in the wilderness to take a different path and not be part of God’s plan. Here Peter was encouraging the same thing, tell Jesus not to talk about dying. Jesus knew that God was calling him to remain faithful and to walk the path God had prepared for him, even though it led to death on a cross.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you gave something up or chose a difficult path because of your faith?

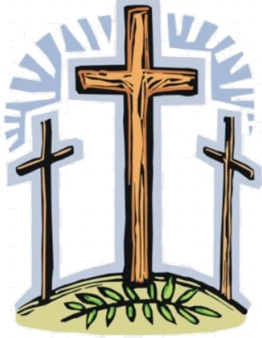
Family Activity 1

Jesus said that those who choose to follow him should be prepared to give things up and to trust in God. Set up a simple course in your home to complete two at a time. One person is the leader and the other the follower.

The follower should follow the instructions given by the leader and trust them as they complete the course. To make it harder and to increase trust why not wear a blindfold or complete the course with your hands behind your back.

You could talk together about some of the things that make it hard to trust and follow, what lessons can we learn from this about our own faith?





A verse to remember

Romans 4 v 25

Jesus was given to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Family Activity 2

Cross art - Spend some time being creative and decorate or make a cross shape. Here are some different ideas for how you could make your cross.

Use masking tape or overlay a stencil to create a cross shape on a piece of paper. Use crayons or paints to decorate the whole sheet then remove the stencil/tape to reveal a cross.



Collect leaves, plants or stones and lay them out to create a natural cross shape.



Get creative with whatever craft /construction resources you have. If you have some pipe cleaners and beads at home you could use them to make a cross like the one in this picture, or why not build a cross from lego or recyclables.



Active Prayer

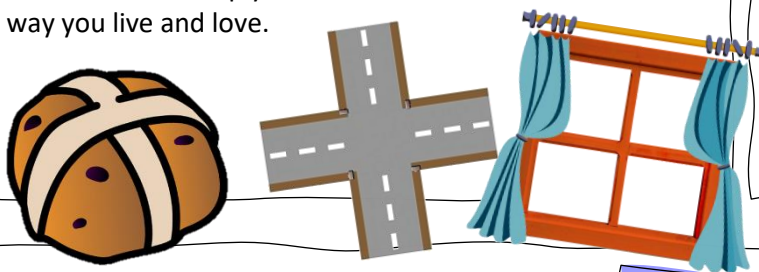
In the passage Jesus says that we should be willing to take up our own cross and sacrifice things to live for God and follow Jesus' example. Travel around your home together or go for a walk and look for crosses around you. You might find them in the architecture of your house, or at the meeting of two roads.

Each time you find a cross pause and think of a way that Jesus lived his life or shared God's love with others. Pause and ask God to help you become more like Jesus in the way you live and love.

Helping older children

In today's passage Jesus invites those listening to follow him, recognising the personal sacrifice involved. If your child has never made their own personal decision to follow Jesus or you are uncertain if they have why not talk about it with them today. Remind that nobody else can make the decision for them.

Talk with them about what it means to be a follower of Jesus and if they are ready help them to pray a simple prayer acknowledging Jesus's death on the cross, thanking God for his forgiveness and committing to living for and following Him.



Lent Connections Challenge

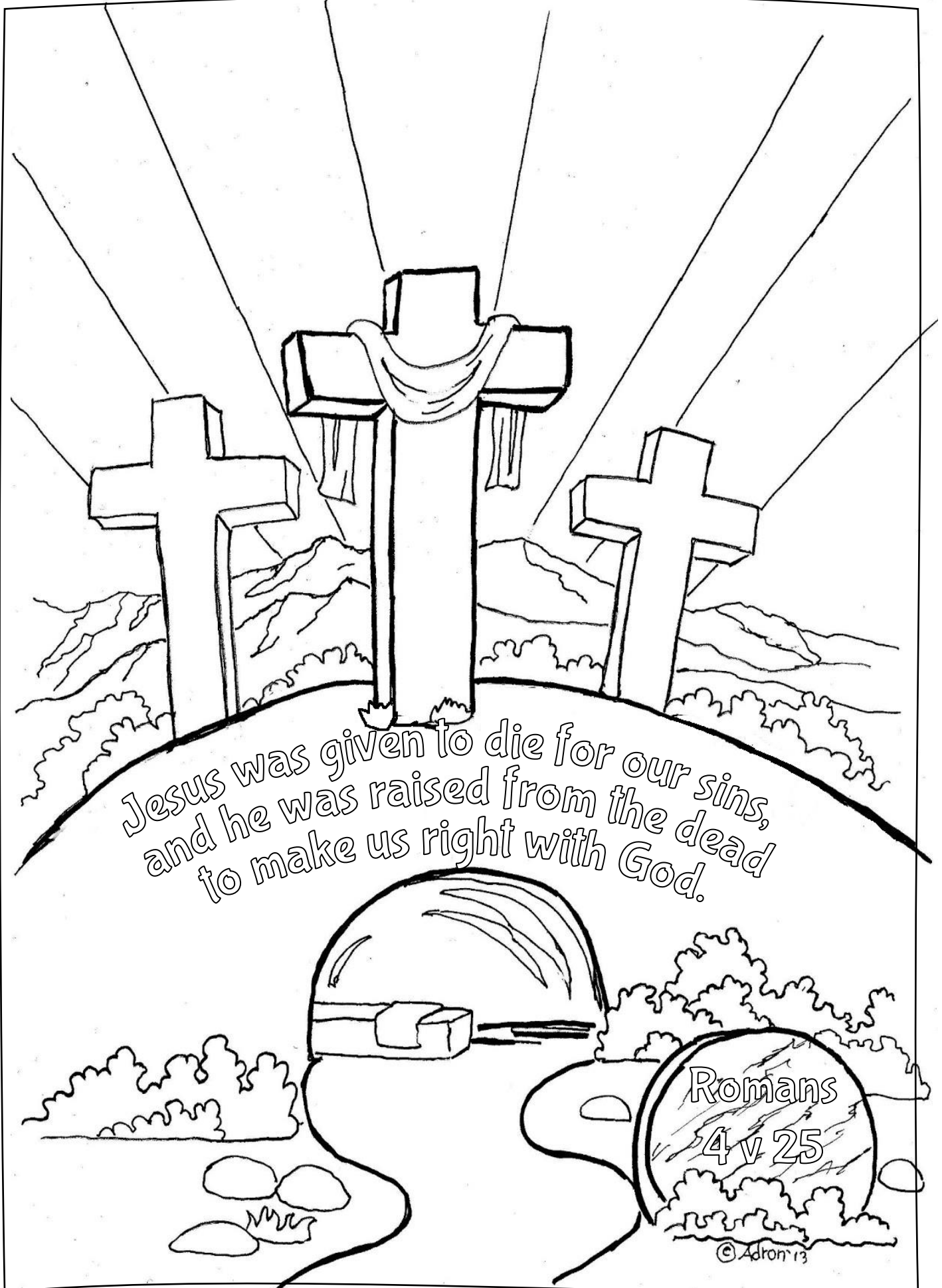
Why not make time to connect with God in new ways during this Lent. Here are some ideas inspired by today's story.

Journey to the Cross Challenge

Look out for crosses during the week just like in the 'active prayer' activity. Use them as a reminder to pause and check in with God and to think about how you are living for Him and sharing His love with others.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Drawing provided by www.coloringpagesbymradron.blogspot.com



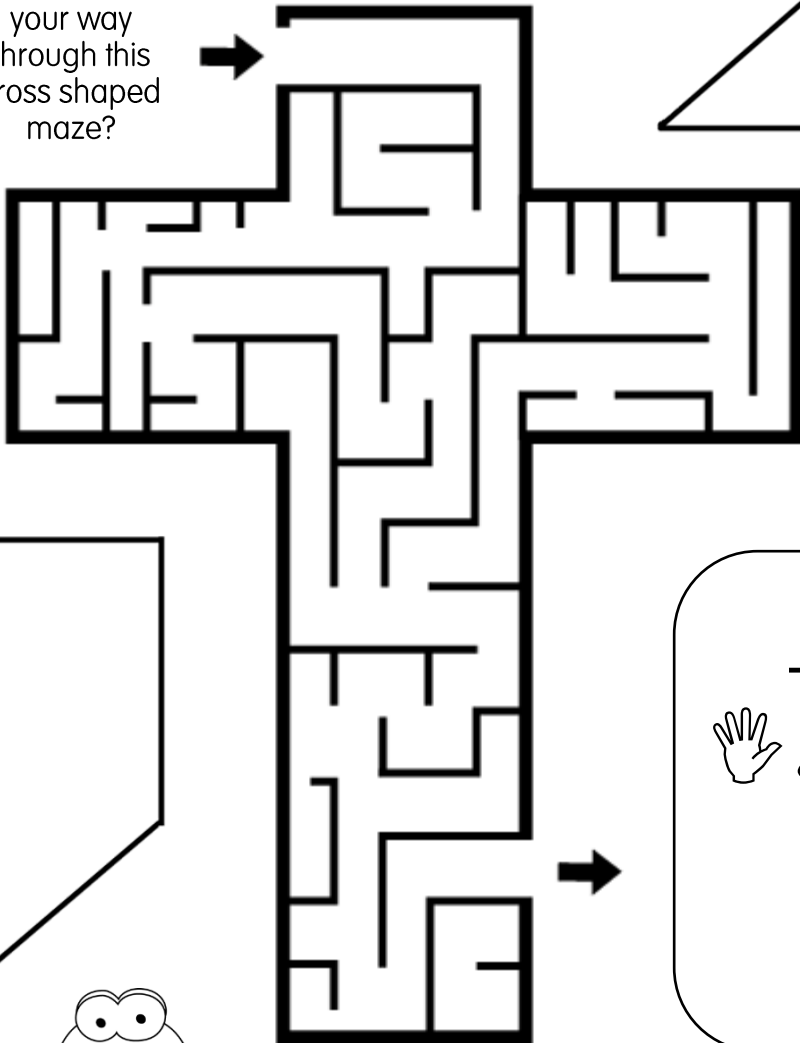
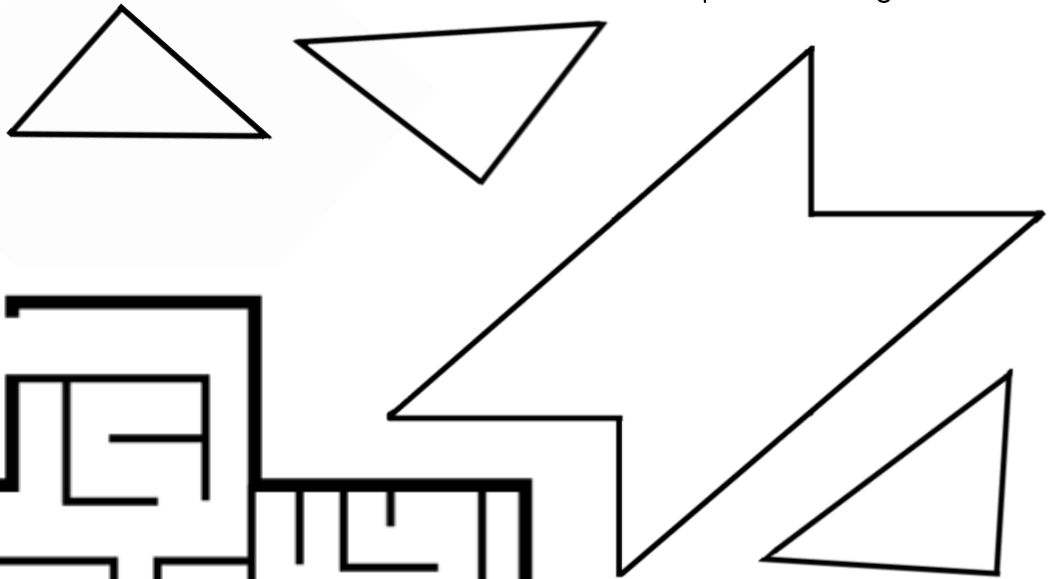
PUZZLE SHEET

Cut out the 5 shapes on this page, can you fit them together to make a cross?

Make sure you ask a grown up before using scissors.

Jesus told his followers to take up their own crosses and follow him.

Can you find your way through this cross shaped maze?



Crack the code to work out the hidden message.

