

Joining Worship and Learning

MAKING the CONNECTIONS

This section of *Joining the Feast* includes the stories on the focus scriptures from the multi-age course. These stories can be used in the children’s time during worship. During these final weeks of the church year and Ordinary Time, several focus passages of Scripture are taken from letters in the New Testament. Notice that some songs are used by several age levels but not in the same session. If you are interested in including a prayer, poetry, or artwork from an age level, speak with the leader in advance. May your congregational worship be enlivened by these suggestions to join worship and learning.

Carol A. Wehrheim

September 4, 2016

Luke 14:25–33

Proper 18

| Connections | | Age-Level Source |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Worship | Signs for <i>glory</i> and <i>God</i> on Color Pack 27 | multi-age |
| | Pray for people who are persecuted. | tween |
| | Closing charge from 1 Timothy 4:12 (NRSV) | tween |
| Music | “Do Lord, O Do Lord” | (K)1–2, 3–4 , multi-age |
| | “Glory to God” | multi-age |
| | “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” or “Here I Am, Lord” | adult |
| Presentation of the Focus Scripture | Focus scripture read from CEV | (K)1–2 |
| | Focus scripture read from CEV with group response | 3–4 |
| | Story from multi-age is on the next page. | multi-age |
| | Focus scripture read from <i>CEB</i> | youth |
| Sermon | “Jesus’ love for us is deeper than the ocean, higher than the mountains, bigger than the earth, and brighter than the sun.” | (K)1–2 |
| | www.persecution.org for stories | tween |
| | “A parable is a story of comparison that teaches a religious truth.” | multi-age |
| | “Hating family” in this context refers to making family and other things secondary to following Christ. | youth |
| | Story of Perpetua, Christian martyr of the third century (Resource Sheet 2) | adult |
| Visual | Green cloth/paraments | (K)1–2, 3–4, tween, multi-age |
| | Unfinished tower of building blocks | 3–4 |

TIME with CHILDREN

Follow Me

based on Luke 14:25–33

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. But along the way he had dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees. He taught people about God's love by telling them stories called parables. He visited his friends, Mary and Martha, in a town called Bethany. He told people not to worry because God was always with them.

As Jesus and the 12 disciples walked from village to village, crowds of people, large crowds, walked with them. Some could go only a short way, but others walked longer distances with Jesus.

On this day, Jesus turned to the large crowd following him. "If you want to follow me," he said, "you must give up everything. You must follow my example."

Perhaps Jesus wasn't sure the people in that large crowd understood what he was saying, so he told them two stories, two parables.

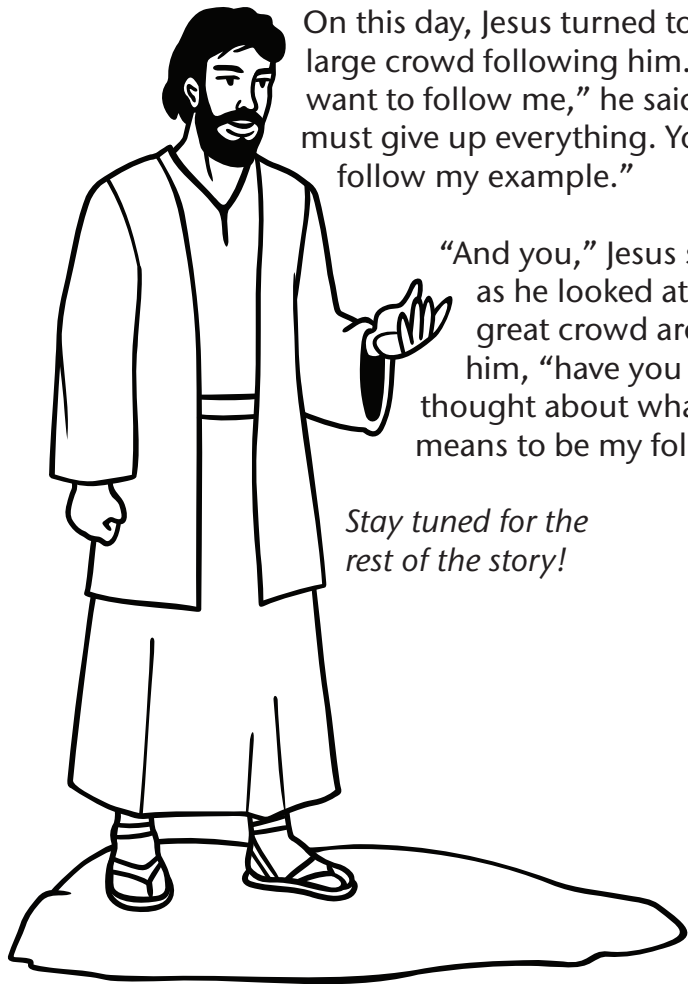
"If you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first think about what you would need and how much it would cost? If you didn't, you might start to build the tower and then run out of materials or of money. Then your neighbors would laugh at you because you hadn't planned and now you couldn't finish the tower."

After a moment for the people to think about that story, Jesus said, "Or what king would go out to fight without thinking whether his army was large enough to defeat the enemy's army? If the king didn't think he would win, wouldn't he send one of his trusted people to take terms of peace to the enemy? And you," Jesus said as he looked at the great crowd around him, "have you really thought about what it means to be my follower?"

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Stay tuned for the rest of the story!

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|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| A 📷 | E ↻ | F 🌀 | H 🔑 | K ✍️ |
| L ❤️ | M 🏠 | O 🌟 | S 📖 | W 👁️ |

Use the key to decode the message Jesus had for the crowd.

