

## Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

### God's way

#### INTRODUCTION

No one likes to do something difficult when there is an easier way! Sometimes it is hard to do what we know is right, but today Jesus tells us that we should not try to take the easy way out but follow his way.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light the candles today, say together:  
May the light of Jesus fill our lives.

#### SORRY

Each one of us is filled with God's spirit. If we have acted selfishly or unkindly towards someone else, we have done the same to God. As we sing our song together, we ask God to forgive us and to fill our hearts and our lives with his love. Sing Sorry Song 4.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

#### GOSPEL (MATTHEW 16:21-23)

Jesus began to tell his disciples that he would be brought before the high priests and be put to death before rising to life again.

"Lord, this cannot be allowed to happen!" exclaimed Peter, who was deeply upset by what Jesus had told them.

But Jesus said, "Peter, your way is not God's way. If you follow me, sometimes things will be difficult, but you must accept them and try not to take the easy way out."

#### DISCUSSION

What made Peter feel so upset? Jesus had told the disciples that he was going to die.

What did Peter want Jesus to do? Peter knew that if they kept out of harm's way Jesus would be safe, and could not be put to death. He did not

want Jesus to go to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.

Jesus said to Peter, "Your way is not God's way." What do you think he meant? Peter wanted to take the easy way out because he did not want Jesus to suffer and die. Jesus chose to follow God's way, to give up his life so that God could save all of us.

He had been sent by God the Father to suffer and die and bring everlasting life to the world. He showed how much he really loved us by following God's way. Like Peter, sometimes we do not fully understand God's way of doing things, but we should trust the father as Jesus did.

When we find it difficult trying to live as Jesus taught us, should we give up easily?

As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane he felt afraid to die. He did not run away and hide, but instead he asked God to give him the courage to do what he knew was right. With the help of Jesus, we, too, can face up to any difficulties in our lives and choose to show God how much we love him by following his way.

#### ACTIVITY

Make copies of the bookmark templates to give out and be colored by the children.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we pray for people  
who are suffering difficulties:  
the homeless and unemployed;  
the sick and the lonely;  
the hungry and the poor.

Share your courage and strength with them  
and surround them with your love.

