Growing FAITH at home

PROPER 17

YEAR A

Taking up your cross and following Jesus

GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

www.growministries.org.au

Sunday between August 28 and September 3

CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. What is something you find difficult to do? What makes it so?
2. Jesus says "if you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it" (Matthew 16:25). What do you think he means by this?

BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	**Matthew 16:21-28**	Take up your cross and follow
M	**Matthew 10:32-39**	Losing life to find it
T	**Matthew 20:17-28**	Jesus again predicts his death
W	**Luke 9:57-62**	The cost of following Jesus
T	**Exodus 3:1-15**	Moses and the burning bush
F	**Romans 12:9-21**	Love in action
S	**Psalm 26:1-8**	Vindicate me, Lord

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Then Jesus said to 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."

MATTHEW 16:24

CREATIVE RESPONSE

Look together at Romans 12:9-21.

Brainstorm a list of all the things these verses encourage Christians to do (e.g. love others, honour others, be joyful, pray, bless).

Record these in your personal or family journal and ask God to show you how you can live these things this week.

ACTION RESPONSE

Work together as a household to make small crosses out of card or popsicle sticks.

Write the words 'Take up your cross and follow me' on each cross.

Commit to carrying your crosses with you this week as a reminder of Jesus' call to follow him in all things.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Thank you for all we eat and all we wear, for daily bread and nightly care. Amen.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to never give up on you. Keep us excited about serving God. Amen.

BLESSING

May God keep your faith in Jesus alive and strong.