

## LESSON NO. 2 TITLE: FOLLOWING JESUS BY TAKING UP YOUR CROSS

### Achievement Objective

Children will be able to: recognise Lent as a time of spiritual growth and renewal in the risen life of Christ both for individuals and the Church community.

### Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 explain what Luke 9:23 means
- 2 identify the virtues people require to take up their crosses

### Preparation for the Lesson:

- Scripture Reading Luke 9:23
- Caption of the text of Luke 9:23
- Art materials for mural
- Children's Home Activity, page 22 - copy for each child

### Teacher's Notes:

During *Lent* there are three special ways that help people renew their commitment to follow Jesus. These special ways are through prayer - karakia, penance and sharing - manaaki.

The Gospel reading at the celebration of the Eucharist on the Thursday after *Ash Wednesday* recalls what Jesus said about following him. He said that if anyone wanted to be a follower of his they were to deny themselves, take up their cross every day and follow him. During *Lent* people's prayer, penance and sharing can be about taking up the crosses in their lives. What does this mean? The cross that Jesus picked up at the end of his life was a very hard one for him to carry. But he carried it with love - aroha and gave up his life on it to bring forgiveness and love to all people.

When Jesus tells people to pick up their cross and follow him he is talking about the hard things that cannot be avoided which are part of people's lives. Maybe there is someone they work with or someone in their class who annoys them. It can be hard to be kind and caring towards people who annoy us. But this is what Jesus asks. He says do the hard thing and be kind and loving for that is what following him is about.

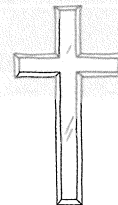
Sometimes difficult things can be avoided or lightened by asking for help but sometimes they cannot. The crosses in people's lives can be different for different people. For one it may be learning to overcome a disability like stuttering. For another it may be they cannot have the latest gear that their friends have. It may be that sharing a bedroom with a younger brother or sister is difficult. The crosses in people's lives are everyday things that make life difficult. To take them up as Jesus asks means to accept them with patience, kindness and love, with courage or without complaining. This takes great spiritual strength and character.

Jesus knows it is hard to take up one's crosses in life because he has already done it. Jesus gives strength to all those who ask for his help to take up their cross so they can follow him every day.

To choose to take up one's cross every day with love - aroha can help people renew their commitment to follow Jesus.

**We have not to carry the cross of others, but our own.**

**St Francis de Sales**



### Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Children listen to Luke 9:23 and talk about what they think Jesus means when he tells people that if they want to follow him they must take up their cross every day.
- Children work in small groups to talk about the kinds of crosses people have in their lives. Include crosses children their age may carry and the crosses adults may have to carry.
- Children make a mural with Jesus carrying his cross in the centre. Around this illustrate situations that show people carrying their crosses. Display with a caption of Luke 9:23.
- Children look at the mural and name the virtue or Gospel attitude people would need to carry the cross illustrated such as courage, patience, kindness, love - aroha, tolerance, care, mercy, forgiveness, self-discipline, faithfulness - pono, gentleness, generosity. If children name only a few virtues they may need to brainstorm a wide range of Gospel attitudes before they are able to identify them on the mural. Make a small cross to be added to each illustration on the mural with the appropriate virtue written on it.

### Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Children's Home Activity

### Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1 & 2** Refer to Children's Home Activity

