

# It isn't easy

23rd Sunday  
Year C



Sign of the Cross. Let's pray. (See p. 170.)



*quietly by yourselves*

Have you ever been determined to

- get something right,
- learn to ride a bike,
- learn to swim,
- learn a dance?



*when each child has had time to think*

Did you manage it in the end?

Was it really difficult?

When was it hardest?

How long did it take you?

When we are determined to tackle something we keep working at it until we have it right. It can take up a lot of our time, but if we are really determined we think about little else, nothing else seems important.



Jesus is telling us this week that following him isn't easy, but if we are really determined nothing else seems to matter.

*welcome the Gospel. Sing Alleluia. (See p. 220)*



*all stand (adapted from Luke 14:25-33)*

Crowds of people followed Jesus as he went from place to place.

He said to them, "Following me isn't easy there are plenty of hard times ahead.

If you're really determined

then you will put everything else into second place.

Think about this.

Are you sure you want to try?

If you do, you must put me first."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



*all sit (some suggestions)*

Jesus is not kidding is he?

It certainly is hard. Most of the time we can't do what he has asked of us.

What's the hardest to do?

Let's try one thing only this week. Let's really try to share.

It will be tough but as a song says, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going'.

# BE MY FRIENDS

## VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of climbers, builders, soldiers.
- > Cross shape cut-outs.

## WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

*Say/sing together:*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, teach us to do what you want us to do.  
Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News given to us by Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus turned to the great crowd that was following him and said 'Following me is not easy. You must know what it will involve.'

Suppose you want to build a big tower. You must first sit down and

## DISCUSSION

Jesus gives two examples of people working hard to make preparations. What were they?  
- building a tower  
- going to war.

Why did Jesus tell these stories? - so that those who want to follow him know what is expected of them.

Jesus says it will not always be easy. When/what do the children find hard?

## SHARING

Show the children the pictures and encourage them to identify the activity in each picture.

Divide the children into three groups, one for each picture, and have them pretend they have to do what their picture shows: they have to decide what preparations they need to make. Time permitting, gather everyone

back together and share what preparations they each think they need.

- Often we want to do something, - but cannot be bothered to make the necessary preparations
  - or start out and get bored
  - or we cannot be bothered trying any more.
- God made us and loves us. He never gets bored of loving and looking after us.

That would be very silly.

So too if you want to follow me, you must know what it will mean. You must be prepared to follow me all the way to the end!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

work out what you will need, and how much it will cost. Otherwise, you might be half way through, and run out of money. Then people would think you very silly.

Or suppose you were a king marching to war. You must first find out if the other king is much stronger, has a much bigger army than yours. No one goes to battle if they know they will be defeated.

## ACTIVITIES

- > Give out the cross shape cut-outs.
- > On them have the children write or draw the way in which they will help Jesus in the week ahead.

