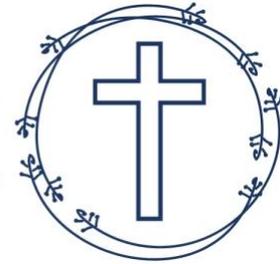


LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Second Sunday of Lent – 28th February 2021

Read Mark 8.31-38

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Sometimes it's hard to accept bad news. None of us likes to hear that things are going to be difficult. Have you ever had to accept some bad news? How did you feel? How did you react?

In today's gospel story Jesus tells his friends that he is going to suffer and die. Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, finds it hard to accept this. He gets very upset and tries to argue with Jesus about this. How would you have reacted if you were Peter?



Jesus tells the people who are nearby that they will have to "take up their cross" if they want to follow him. What do you think he meant?

In daily life we use crosses as marks on paper, to show that the answer to a sum is wrong, or to chose a person when we are voting. A road sign with a cross on it means that there is a road junction ahead and we have to choose which way to go. Crosses are also used in jewellery as a form of decoration. For Christians the cross is the sign of Jesus and reminds us that Jesus died and rose from the dead for us; so, it's a sign of life not death. There are lots of different designs of crosses. Christians in different countries often have their own versions of the cross. Look for some designs on the internet and find out the stories behind them.

If we are standing at a crossroads we have to decide which way to go. When we see the cross of Jesus we have to decide whether to follow him or not. Without road signs how would we know which way to go? In the same way the life of Jesus is like a sign pointing us to God. When we try to live like Jesus we are taking up the cross; we are following him.

Activity

- Look at the heart template on the next page. Write an open-hearted message to a friend or family member, e.g. 'Thank you that I can tell you anything' or, 'I'll always be there for you', in the rectangle on the centre of the heart. Decorate the heart and cut it out. Fold it along the dotted lines to turn the heart into an envelope. Seal it with a sticker or sticky jewel and then give it to your friend or family member.
- Make a cross from whatever you have to hand. You could glue or tie lolly sticks, garden canes or other found objects together; or you could fold and cut paper to the right shape; or perhaps you have the skills to crochet or cross stich a cross.

Prayer

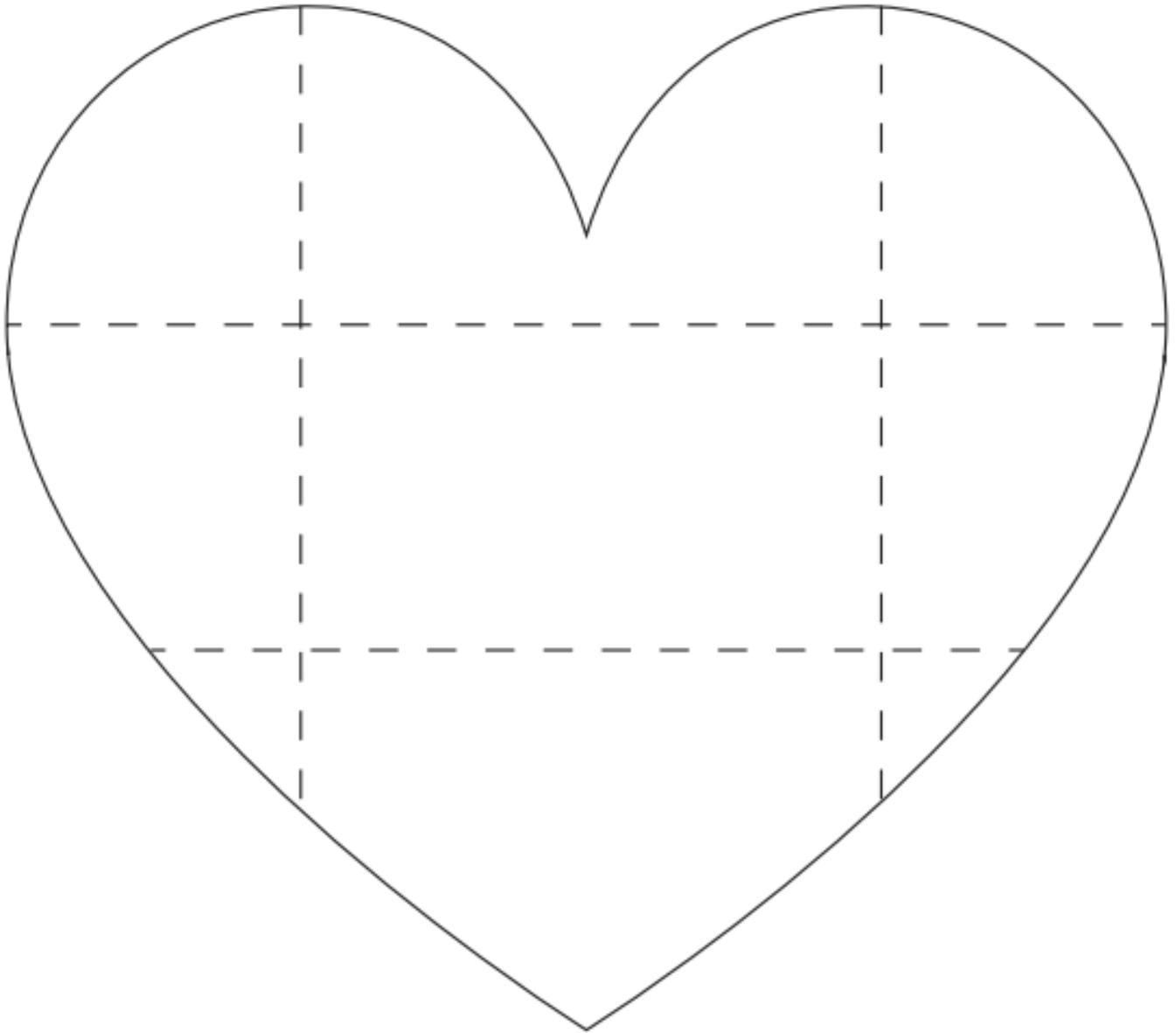
Holy God, we come from our busy lives to walk with you.

Help us to be more aware of who you are.

Give us the courage to follow the signs of your son, Jesus,

so that we grow more like him in all that we say and do. **Amen.**

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Cut it out



Fold in the two sides



Fold down the top



Fold up the bottom



Turn it round and seal with a sticker