

Virtual Sunday School Lesson

Jesus Foretold Easter (Mark 8)



Bible Verses (NIV):

Mark 8: 31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Activity: The Game of Life

Theme: Living a life of service to others.

Supplies: Game of Life, Monopoly, or a similar board game

Lesson:

Do you like to play board games? Some of the most popular board games are Checkers, Chess, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, and Clue just to name a few. One of the most popular board games of all time is called "The Game of Life." It was first introduced in 1860. Wow! That's more than 150 years ago!

The "Game of Life" is played very much like real life. At the beginning of the game, each player must choose what path he or she is going to take in their journey through life. They choose whether they are going to go to college or go out and get a job. As the game goes on, each player spins the wheel and moves his car the number of spaces on which the spinner stops. The space where your car lands gives you directions on what to do. On some spaces, you MUST follow the directions. On other spaces you only have to follow the directions if you want to. Just as in real life, you have many choices along the way, but what happens to you in the "Game of Life" depends on the choices you make. At the end of the game, the player with the most money wins. Is that true in real life? Do you think that when life is over, the one with the most money wins? Today we will see what Jesus had to say about that.

In our Bible reading today, Jesus was teaching his followers about life. He said to them, "If you want to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel, you will save it. After all, what good is it if you gain the whole world, but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your own soul?"

Some people live as if the most important thing in life is getting more stuff—big houses, fancy cars, and pretty clothes. Others live as if the most important thing in life is following Jesus and serving him. How do they do that? By loving other people and doing good things for them. When Jesus lived on earth, everything he did was for others. If we follow his example, he promised that we will be the winners in "The Game of Life."

How about you? Do you want to be a winner in the "Game of Life?" Then stop thinking about yourself and start thinking about others.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Father, we want to follow the example that Jesus set. We want to give up our selfish ways and give our lives in love and service to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Thanks to www.sermons4kids.com

Video: Jesus Predicts His Death: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWYKYqCFro>

Wild Bible Animations: Jesus predicts his death from Mark 8: 31-38

Duration: 1:09

Video: On the Way to Calvary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8A9wP03NokE>

Gracelink: Simon learns what it means to take up your cross when he is called upon to carry Jesus' cross for him.

Duration: 5:24

Video: Lenten Pretzels: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsEdTMutt1k>

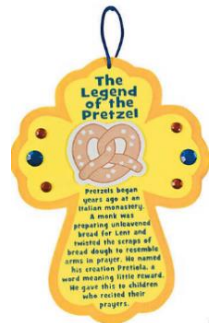
Holyheroes.com; Children tell the history of the Lenten Pretzel.

Duration: 2:14

Craft: Pretzel Cross (Preschool)

Supplies: "Pretzel Cross" page, twisted pretzels, crayons/markers, scissors, hole punch, ribbon, decorating gems (sticky back)

Directions: Print off a "Pretzel Cross" page on cardstock for each child to color and cut out. Glue a pretzel in the middle and decorate with stickers and gems. Punch a hole at the top and string a piece of ribbon to hang.



Craft: Easter Wreath

Supplies: "Easter Wreath" pages, thin paper plates, scissors, colored cardstock, glue, crayons/markers.

Directions: Before class, print off the "Easter Wreath" leave page on green cardstock, and the Easter banner/lilies & blanket page on white cardstock. Be sure to print enough pages so each child has one banner, five lilies and three blankets to color. Cut out leaves.

In class, have children cut out the middle of the paper plate and glue the leaves around to cover. Color the blankets and banner, cut out, and glue banner, blankets and lillies over the leaves.



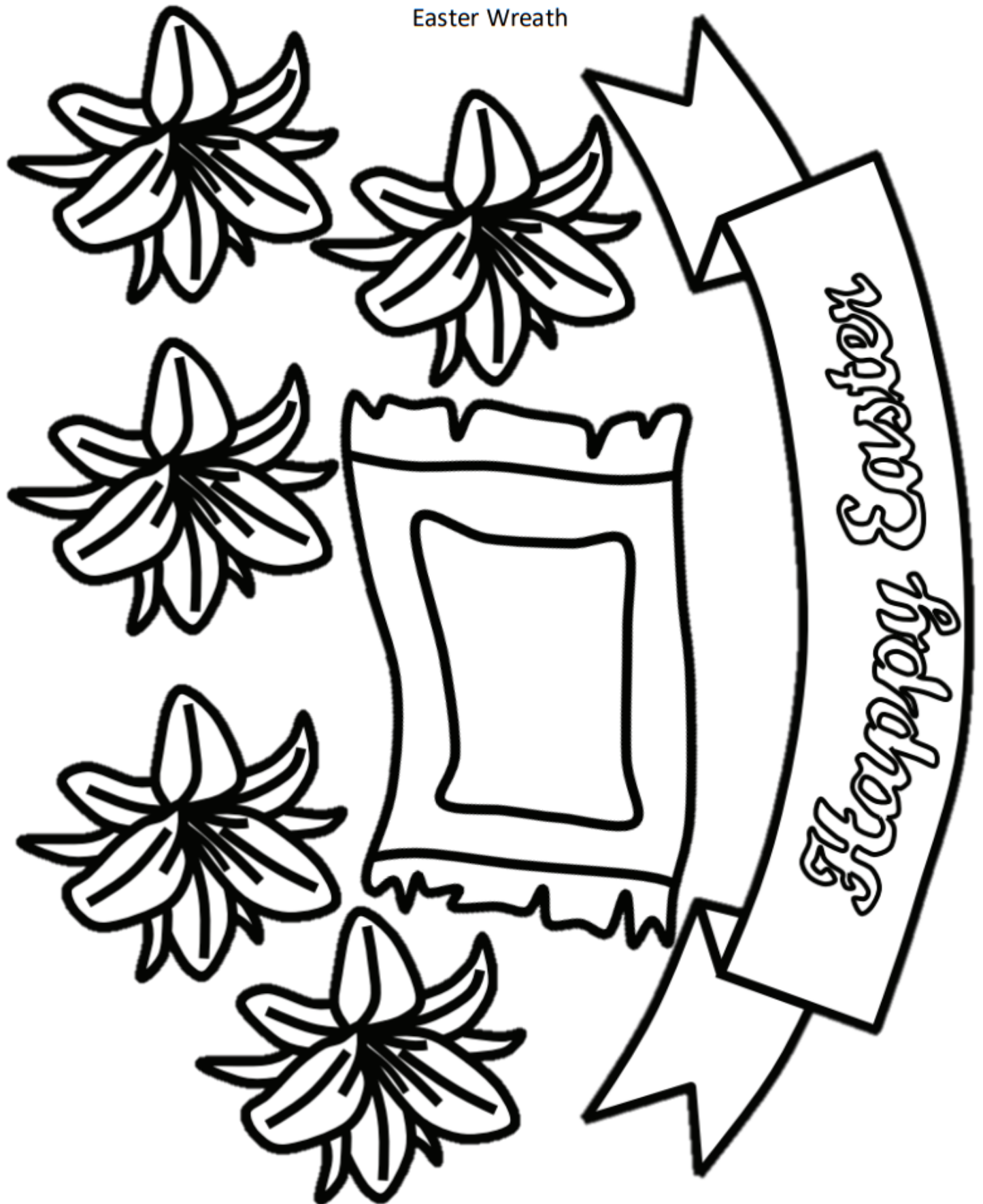
Pretzel Cross

Legend of the Pretzel

Pretzels began years ago at an Italian monastery. A monk was preparing unleavened bread for Lent and twisted the scraps of bread dough to resemble arms in prayer. He named his creation Pretiola, a word meaning "little reward". He gave this to children who recited their prayers.

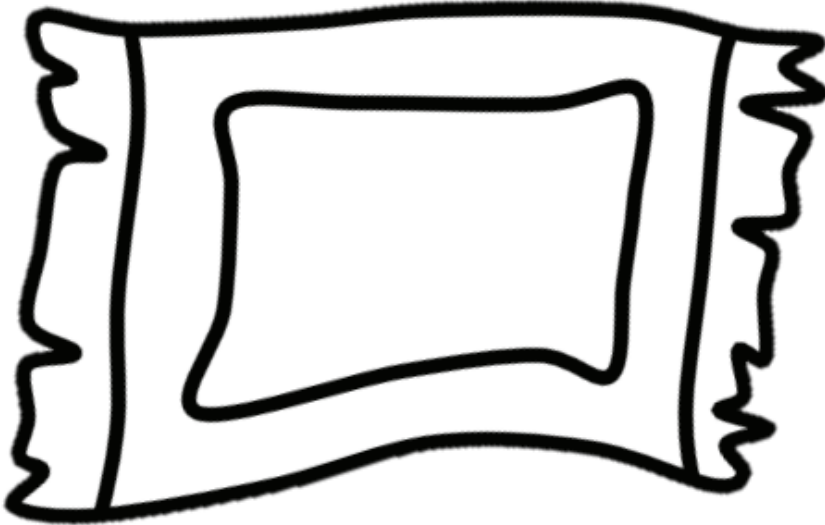
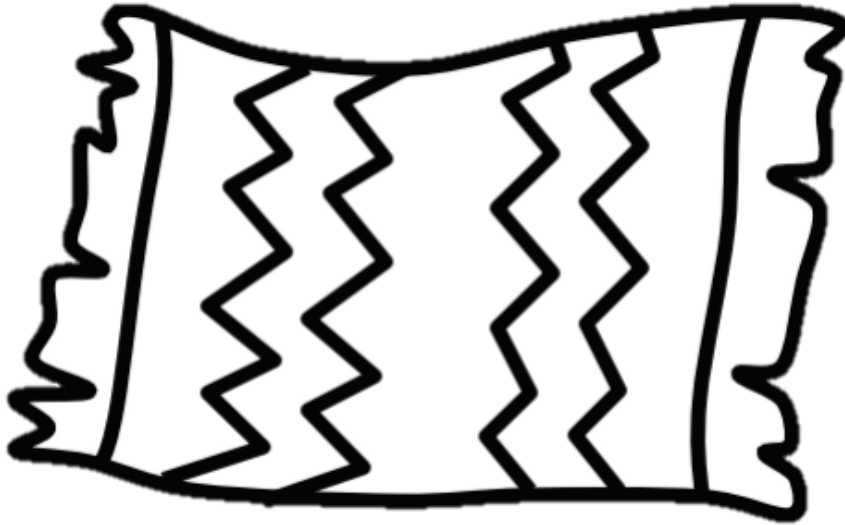
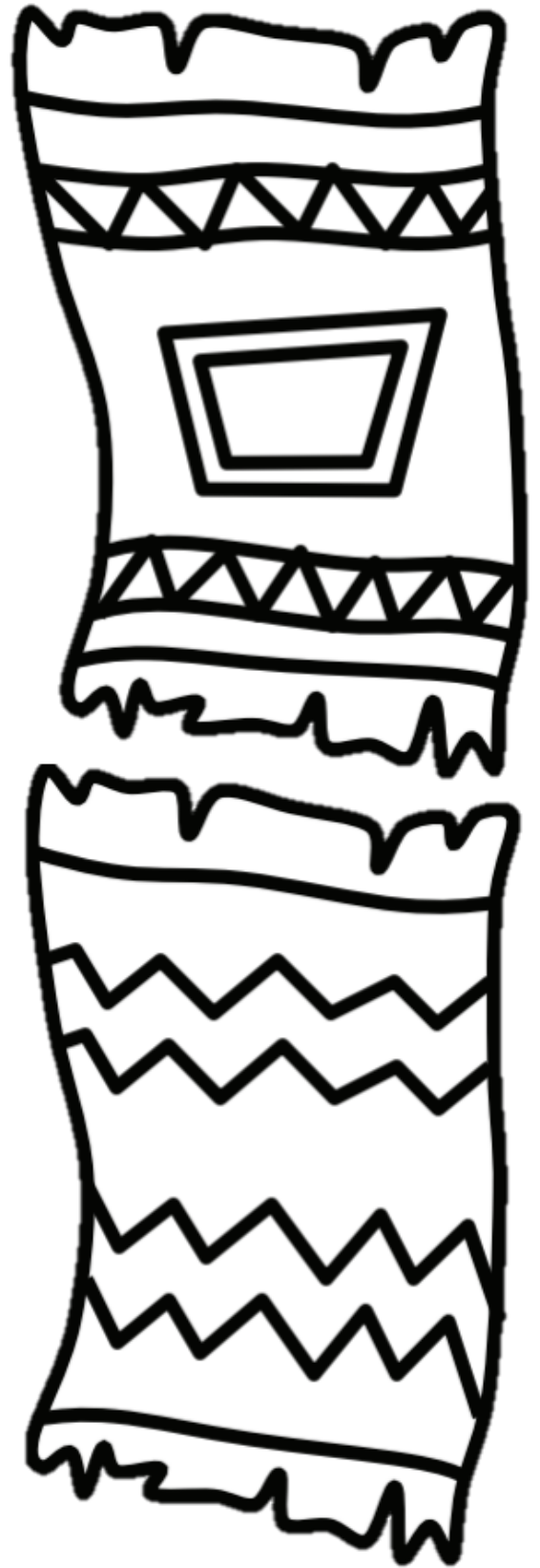
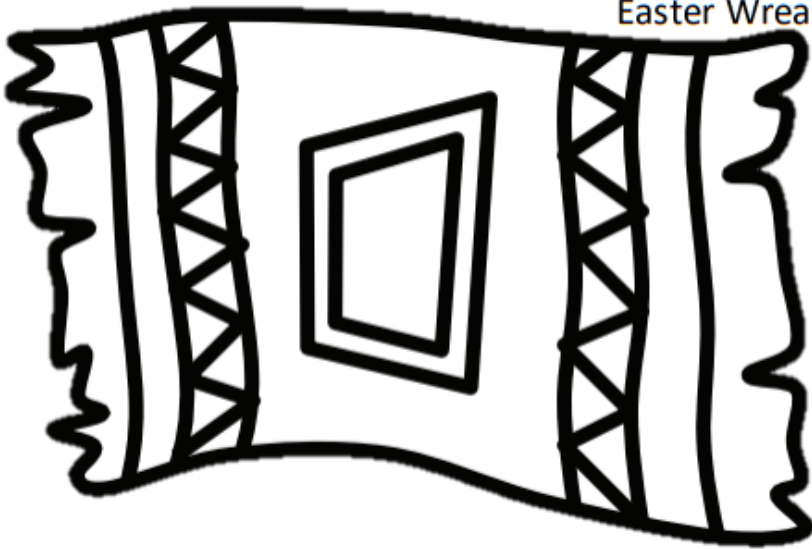
Jesus Foretells Easter

Easter Wreath

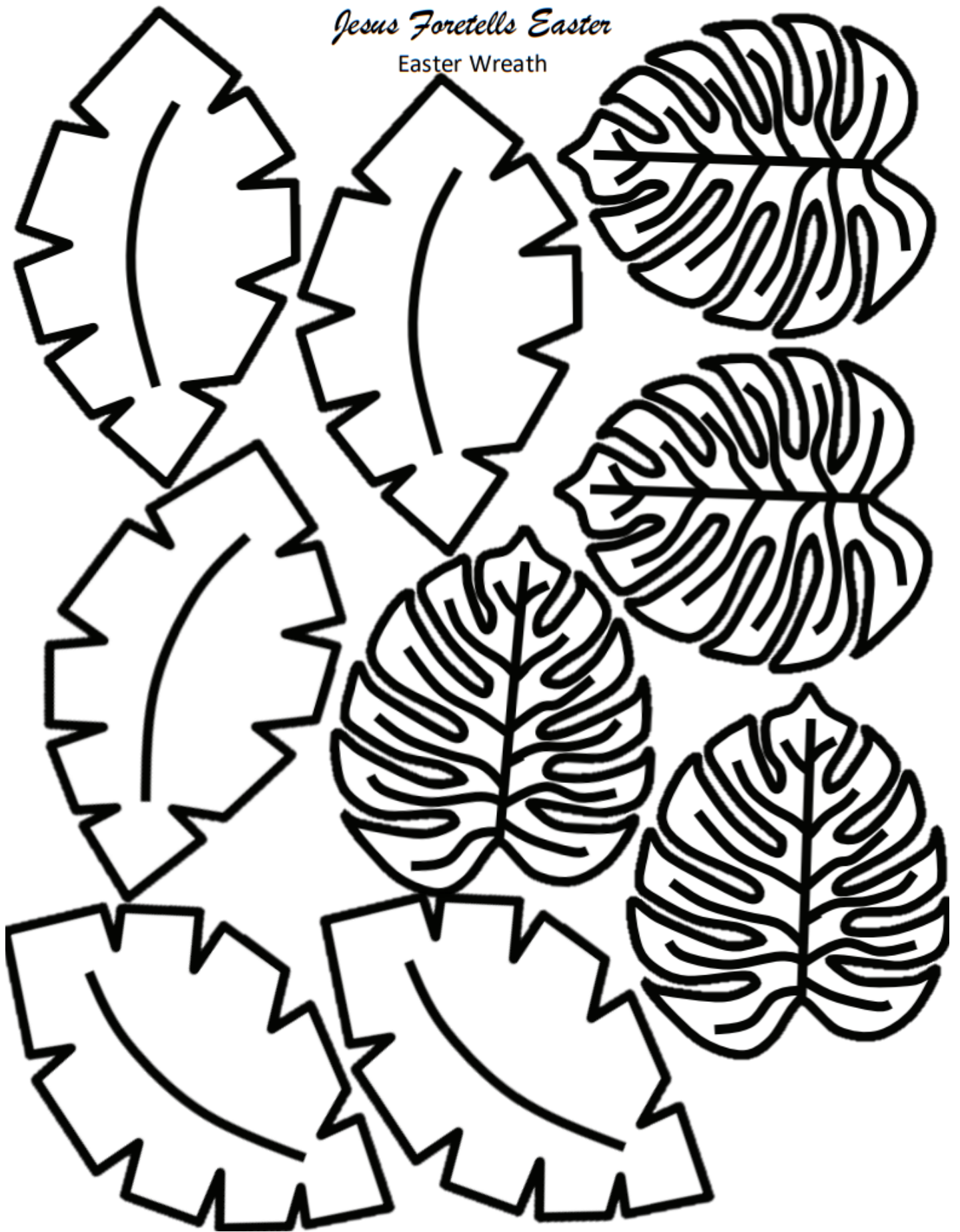


Jesus Foretells Easter

Easter Wreath



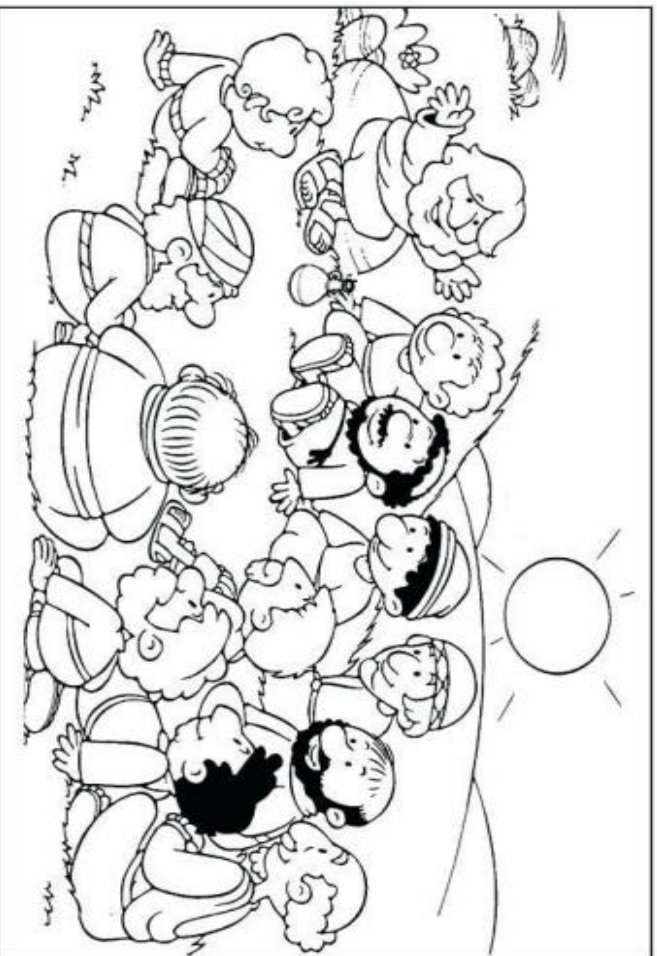
Jesus Foretells Easter
Easter Wreath





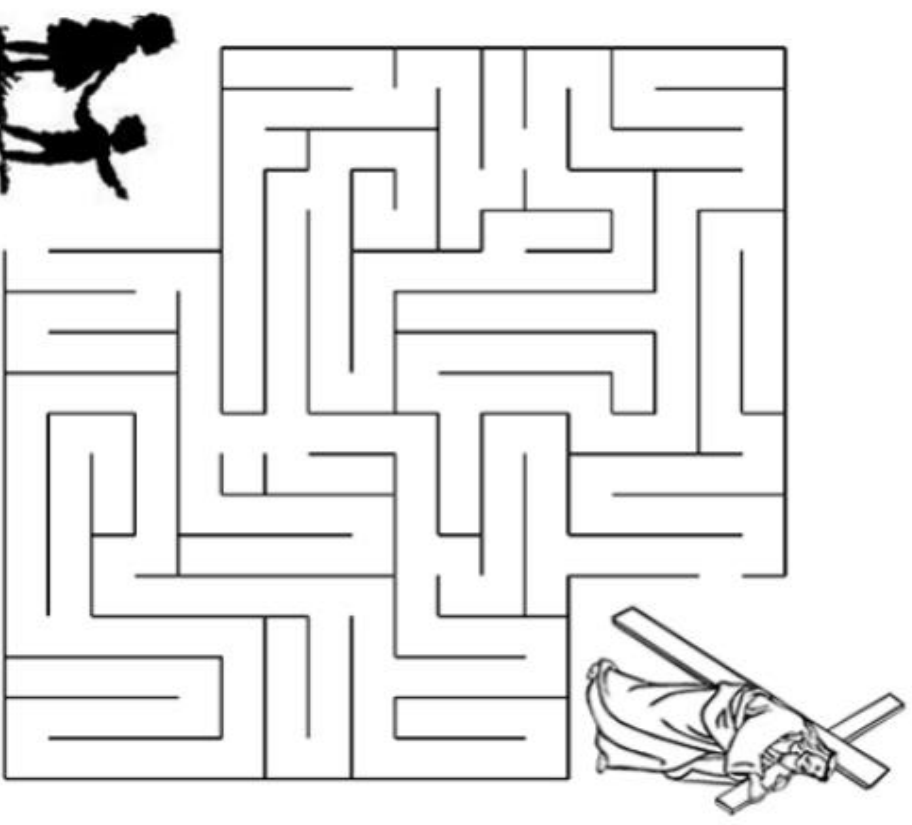
I will follow Jesus, our leader.

Find six things different in these two pictures.



Take up your cross and follow Jesus!

Can you find the path to Jesus?



"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34b