

PROPER 18

YEAR C

Choose life





www.growministries.org.au

Sunday between September 4 and September 10



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

- 1. What is the best thing about being a follower of Jesus?
- 2. What is the most difficult thing?
- 3. Jesus said that we must "give up everything" to be his disciples. How do you understand his words? What has Jesus given up for you?



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
М	Matthew 10:34-42	The cost of discipleship
Т	Matthew 16:21-26	Taking up our cross
W	Deut 30: 15-20	Choose life
Т	Philemon 1: 1-21	Paul's plea for Onesimus
F	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as Christians
S	Psalm 101	Choosing God's law

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

DEUTERONOMY 30: 19B-20A





CREATIVE RESPONSE

Jesus said: Anyone who does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)

This means that we sometimes have to do things that we don't want to do or that are hard. Think of one 'hard thing' you could attempt this week as a follower of Jesus.

For example: be friendly to someone who has no friends, make peace with someone you may not get along with very well, work on a bad habit.

Make a small cross out of wire (or some other type of material) and carry it in your pocket as a reminder of Jesus' words.



ACTION RESPONSE

St Paul gave his love, care and support to a young man called Onesimus whom he met in prison.

Who in your community is experiencing hard times due to illness, loss of work or separation from family? Choose people who will be for you the 'ONES I MUSt serve' this week. Make them a meal, do an act of service for them (e.g. mow the lawn, clean their home) or offer friendship to them.



MEALTIME PRAYER

For the food we share, for loved ones who care, and for days so fair - we thank you, God.

Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, teach us to put you ahead of everything else. Please give us the real life that only you can give. Amen.



BLESSING

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.