

Following Jesus, the Servant Leader

Written by followers of Jesus (over the past 2000 years)

Illustrated by YOU!

Jesus' disciples got into an argument about which one of them was most important.

"My friends, please!" said Jesus.

"That's the way people argue when they don't know about living in God's way. But that's not the way you should be. In God's Shalom, things are different. The one who is weakest is more important than the one who is strongest. The one who is poorest is loved more than the one who is rich.

"I am your servant. I want to be your friend."

On Tuesday morning, near the temple, as Jesus sat in a tree's shade, he thanked it for protection from the hot sun. Soon, women were bringing their children to Jesus, hoping he would bless them. But right away, the disciples were bullying, "Buzz off, eh! This isn't kiddies time! Hey you, take a hike! You're bothering the Prince of Peace!" Before they said one more word, Jesus stopped his would-be followers with a sad shake of his head and happily became a holy hill with children crawling and climbing all over him. A hill and a little tree that talked: "To these little ones, your kin, belongs the kindom of God. And when you big ones become as children, it will belong to you."

Later that day, Jesus led his followers out of the city to a little park called Gethsemane. Had you been there, sitting under an olive tree, you might have heard Jesus say, "The times we live in are troubled. You know this. But this, you don't seem to know. Because things are serious, you must start playing-around. So like children, play. Play among what is, and unhide the good that is hidden in plain sight and the good that is yet to be." As Jesus said this he stood up, bowed to the earth, and then continued the somersault. One, two, three, seven and a half world turning somersaults. Until dizzy, he lay on the earth, laughing. "Now it's your turn."

After Jesus shared bread and drink with his friends at their last supper together, he reminded them to always hold onto God's promises.

Do you remember the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah and to all the Hebrew people? It was God's covenant. God promised to love us always. To be with us forever. And God gave us a rainbow so we would remember that covenant. I am giving you God's promise again. Live in God's way. Live the way I showed you.

Jesus kept teaching the same things, right to the end of his life.

“I have come to show people how to live in God’s way. Remember to love God and love your neighbour as yourself!

Even though we call the day that Jesus died “Good Friday” it was of course a very sad day for his friends and family. None of them knew what would happen next. They didn’t know that Easter was just around the corner. Some of them stayed close to him even though they were scared. Others were so scared they had to hide themselves away. They would be very surprised by Easter!!

No matter how sad or scared or confused we feel, God is always with us. This hymn imagines the lullaby God sings to us to remind us that we are always within the reach of Jesus’ love and held by God’s promises.

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.*

(More Voices 161)

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