

# The Dividing Line

## Theme

Choosing to follow Jesus.

## Object

A piece of tape to put down on the floor as a dividing line.

## Scripture

Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. Luke 12:51-52 (NIV)

In many places, it is back-to-school time again. Are you ready for school to start? I always liked school, do you? What is your favorite subject? Math? Reading? History? When I was in school, my favorite subject was recess. That was when we got to go outside and play! Many times we played a game that required that we divide the class into two teams. There were different ways to divide into teams. Sometimes we would line up and number off, "1-2-1-2-1-2" and the "ones" would be on one team and the "twos" on the other.

In our every day life, we are often divided into different groups. We may be divided by size, by age, by the color of our hair, or by our likes and dislikes. I have put a piece of tape down on the floor and we are going to try several different ways of dividing into two different groups. (You may adapt the following choices to fit your own situation.)

What flavor of ice cream do you like better, vanilla or chocolate? If you like vanilla ice cream better, stand on this side of the line (Point to one side.) and if you like chocolate better, stand on this side. (Point to the other side.) Very good! We are just about evenly divided on that question.

Do you like football or baseball better? If you like football better, stand on this side of the line (Point.) and if you like baseball better, stand on this side. (Point.)

What kind of music do you like? Rock-and-roll or hip-hop? If you like rock-and-roll music better, stand on this side of the line and if you like hip-hop better, stand on this side.

As you see, we don't all think the same way or like the same things, do we? One time Jesus said that he was going to be the cause of division among the people. What did he mean? He meant that even though he came to die on the cross to save the whole world, there would be some who would not believe. He wanted everyone to follow his teachings and be on his team, but he knew it wasn't going to be that way. There would be some who would follow, and others who would not.

If I were to say to you, "Everyone who wants to follow Jesus, come stand on this side of the line," I'm sure that everyone here would come and stand on this side of the line. That would make Jesus happy, but sadly, it doesn't always happen that way. There are some who follow Jesus, and there are some who do not. That makes Jesus very sad and it makes us sad too. That is why we should tell others the good news that Jesus loves them and pray that they will choose to follow him too.

Jesus, we love you and we want to follow you day by day. Help us to tell others that you love them too, and that you died for them, so that they might choose to follow you too. Amen.

Sermon Title: "The Dividing Line"

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:49-53

### DIVIDING LINES:

The teacher will have 2 lines made with colored tape on the floor that will be stuck too far away from each other for children to be able to jump from one to the other. After children have attempted to make the JUMP, the teacher can lay a large poster-board-made CROSS with the words on it (JESUS PAID FOR MY SIN... or CROSS OF CALVARY, etc) and will lay the cross between the 2 taped lines to connect them, explain to the children that they can cross the "GREAT DIVIDE", because of Jesus!

### FOLLOW JESUS:

The teacher can make two different colors of foot prints. One set of foot prints will lead the children that chose that particular color to a pile of THINGS. The other colored set of foot prints will lead those children to a CROSS and a BIBLE. Have a discussion about what following Jesus means in our lives. At the conclusion, each child then can CHOOSE which set of foot prints they want to FOLLOW. If they follow the BIBLE "path", each child can turn around and SMILE. If they choose the wrong path to the pile of "things", they can put on a sad face. Discuss what makes Jesus happy!

### OBSTACLE COURSE:

The teacher will set up an obstacle course for the children to attempt to go through. The first attempt will be made with blindfolds on. This will demonstrate the struggles of getting through life in a dark world. The second attempt will be made by the children with their eyes OPEN and they will see how much easier it is to go through our lives with JESUS who is our LIGHT.

### FOLLOW THE LEADER POSTER:

Allow each child to take turns putting something about the story on the main classroom poster for today, titled "CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS!" The rest of the children will FOLLOW THE LEADER and put that picture drawing or sticker, etc, on their own poster. This will reinforce the things they have learned today in our lesson and they'll be excited to add something to the classroom poster for other's to imitate" or FOLLOW! (The teacher should have stickers available such as hearts, crosses, feet, happy or sad faces, etc). Markers can be available for any words or drawings that the children may want to add!

### CHOICES RELAY:

Before classtime, the teacher will write CHOICES on colored index cards and tape on the walls and chairs in a large designated area. The CHOICES can be in various categories for each RELAY round, such as telling the children to run to find a card with their favorite color on it, or another round could be to run to find the card with their favorite number on it, or their favorite class in school, etc.

### FOLLOW JESUS LETTERS:

Have the children cut out large traced letters FOLLOW JESUS and color and decorate them and hang on a wall to FOLLOW JESUS.

### MUSIC LINE:

Divide the children into two groups and have each group stand behind one of the lines that was mentioned in the first activity. Let the children choose the type of music they would like to perform and each group will perform for the other group.

### PAINTED FEET:

Provide children with paint for their feet and the children will step onto a piece of paper to make their foot prints. A colorful marker can write FOLLOW JESUS under the feet and hang to dry.

### SING A SONG:

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS; FOLLOW ON

### ICE CREAM TREAT:

If the facility has a freezer near by, children could be offered a choice of chocolate or vanilla ice cream cones for a snack. Have those who choose the chocolate cones stand on one side of the taped line mentioned above and those who choose the vanilla cones will stand behind the other taped line. Questions and answers can complete the lesson about CHOOSING to follow Jesus and telling OTHERS that Jesus died for them too!

Song: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

[Sheet Music \(PDF\)](#)

[Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#) Right click and save to your computer.

Song: "Follow On" (chorus) by Robert Lowry

[Sheet Music \(PDF\)](#)

[Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#) Two measures introduction 2x through. Right click and save to your computer.

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# The Dividing Line

Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. Luke 12:51 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

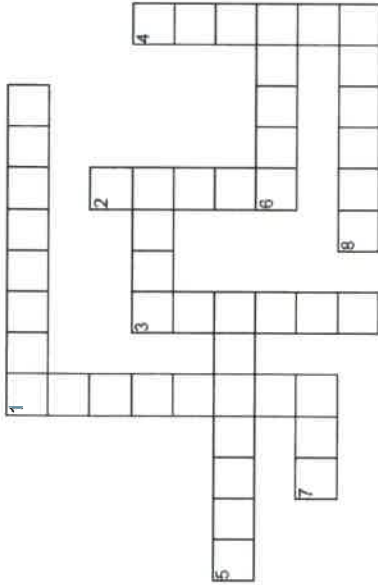
earth  
peace

division  
mother

family  
son

father  
daughter

# Crossword Puzzle



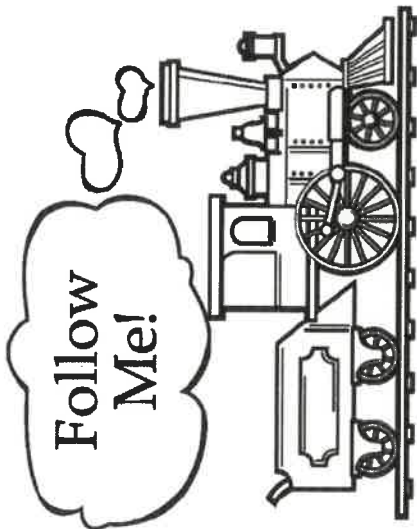
## ACROSS

1. A female child of human parents
3. A chemical change that releases heat and light and is accompanied by flame
5. To be immersed in water
6. The third planet from the sun
7. A male child of human parents
8. The male parent

## DOWN

1. Separating into parts or pieces
2. The absence of war
3. Members of a household usually consisting of parents and their children
4. The female parent

FIRE	BAPTISM	MOTHER	DAUGHTER	FAMILY
EARTH	FATHER	PEACE	DIVISION	SON



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# Children's Worship Bulletin

## The Dividing Line

Luke 12:49-56

## Word Search

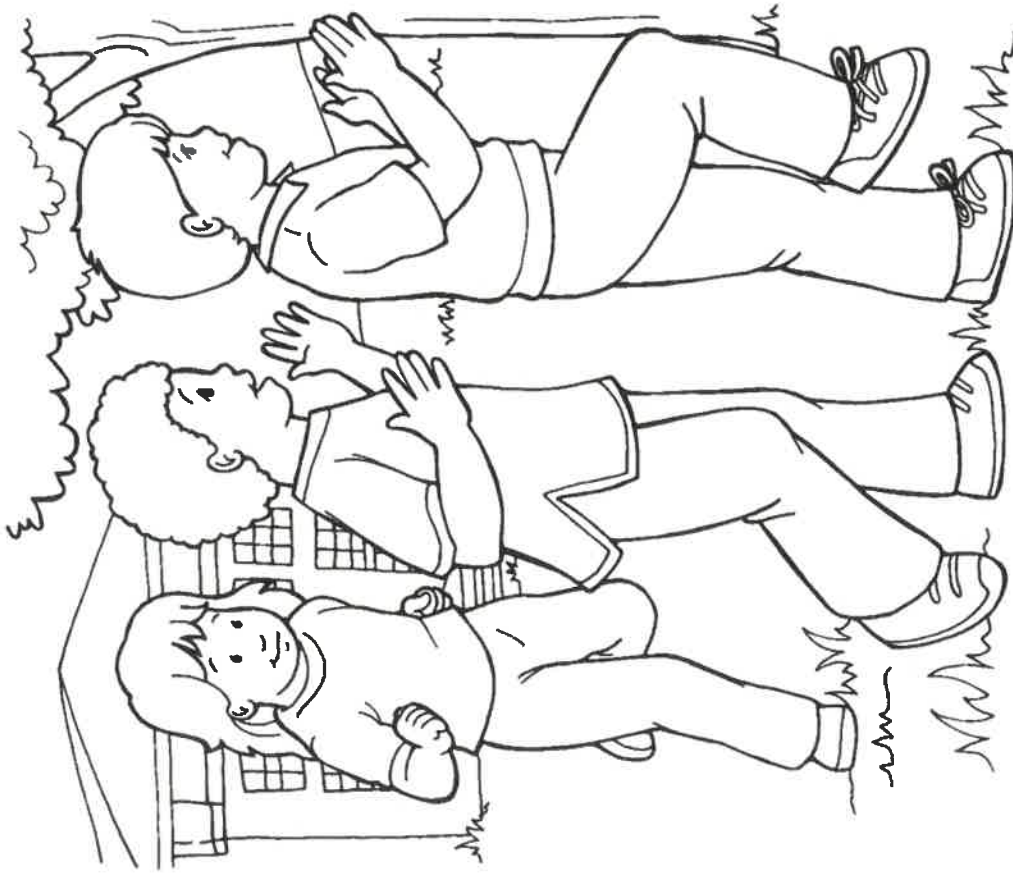
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 W R D A U G H T E R F E I D X  
 C O M C B R T I M E I Q G F  
 D W Q F D I V I D E D O R T B  
 M D E A R T H L I D A X K E B  
 K G E F K L C E U B S X Z C K  
 S O E A F R S O U S O U T H I  
 K S L M J A L M V H F X T U J  
 Y L Y I W C T S E T O P Z C E  
 F A X L H A P H J J O T N C A  
 Z X Y X B P Q E G Q O A K I  
 H X C F C A L F U R S E M N R  
 D P W E S T X O E Q P I I M  
 K B A P T I S M W G Y A T L W  
 M O T H E R H G O S R W N F Q

WEST	HOT	CROWD	BAPTISM	CLOUD
TIME	PEACE	FATHER	RAIN	FIRE
WIND	SON	MOTHER	BLOWS	DAUGHTER
DIVIDED	SOUTH	SKY	EARTH	FAMILY

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Killeen, Texas



# Coloring Page



**I will follow Jesus, our leader.**

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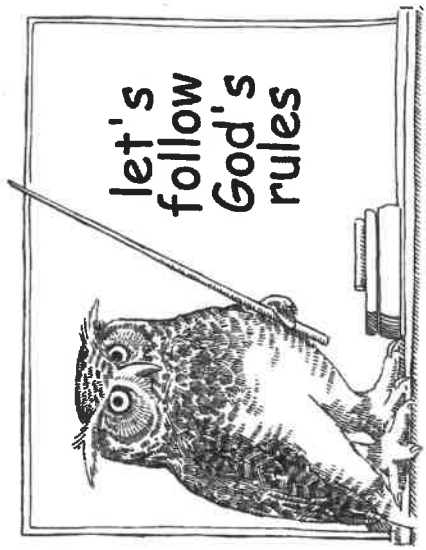
# Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	E	V	M	C	Z	J	H	L	X	U	D	A	R	G	N	S	W	B	F	I	Y	O	Q	P	K

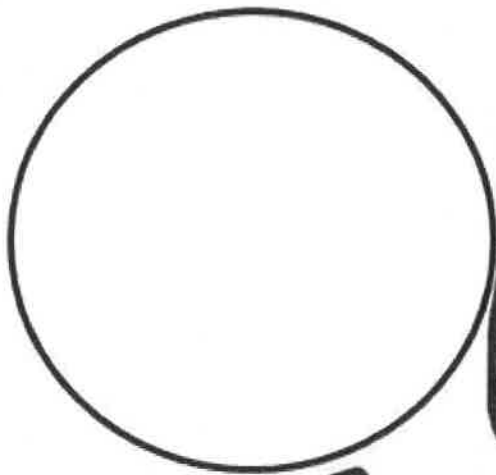
- 20-13-1-8-2-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-13-14-1-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-13-4-21-9-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 25-2-13-5-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-23-1-8-2-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12-21-3-21-17-21-23-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12-13-11-15-8-1-2-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 17-23-16 \_\_\_\_\_

PEACE	FAMILY	MOTHER	DAUGHTER
FATHER	SON	DIVISION	EARTH



# Following Jesus

This week  
I will follow  
Jesus by  
doing this

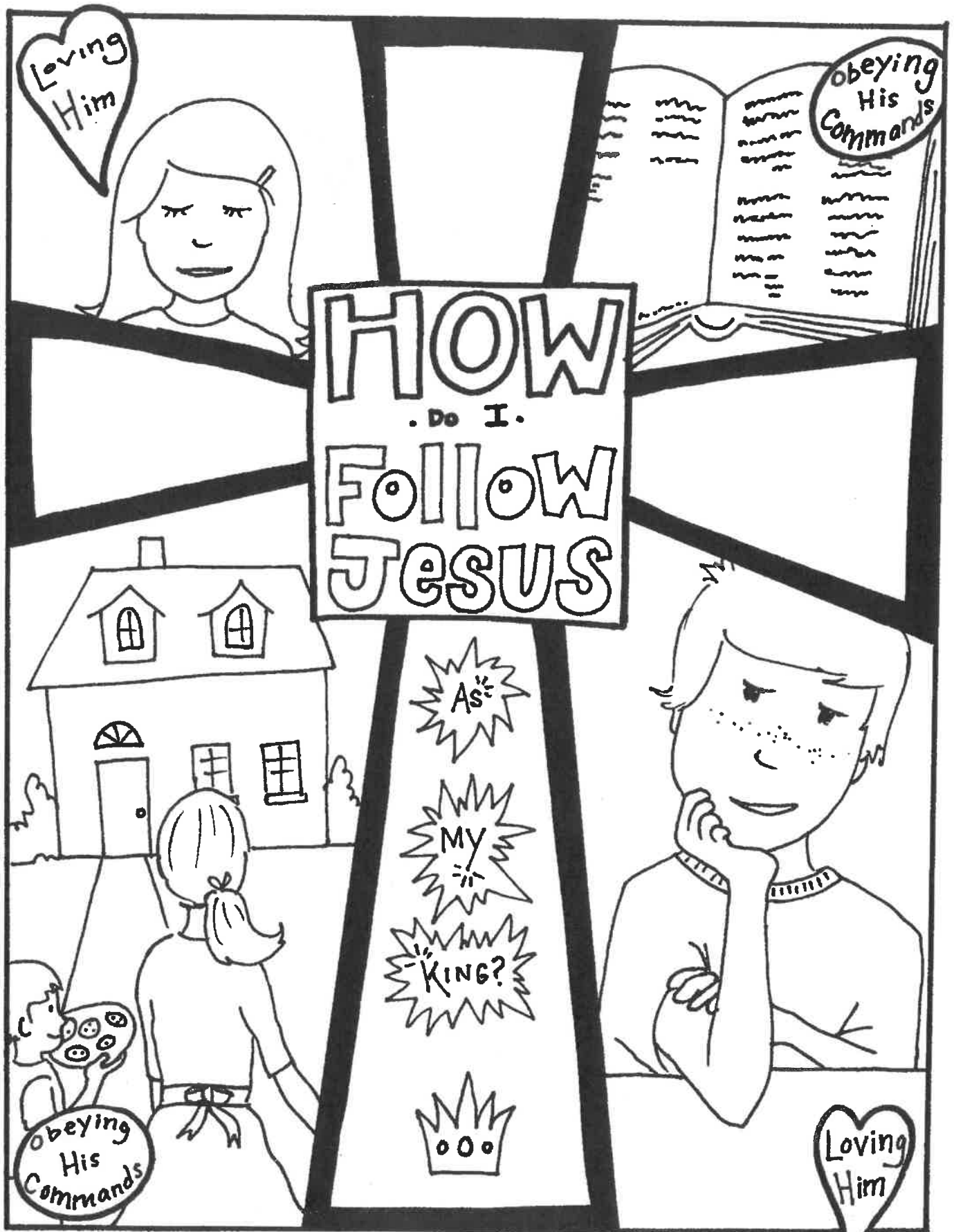


Color in the  
foot day by day  
as you follow  
Jesus!

Lord God  
help me to be a  
disciple this  
week.

Amen





Mandy Groce '10

ministry-to-children.com



I will follow Jesus, our leader.

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