

JESUS TELLS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM

New Testament Lesson #254

Jesus was traveling with his closest disciples. He was discussing with them, who the people said He was. Jesus then questions his disciples as to whom they think he is.

It is Peter who speaks up and declares: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). Because of his statement, Jesus commends Peter, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah,” says Jesus, “for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 16:17).

Jesus now tells his disciples about an important aspect of his role as Messiah: it involves his death. “From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (Matthew 16:21).

The disciples couldn’t understand this. It didn’t make sense. Peter is so concerned he takes Jesus aside and rebukes him. “‘Never Lord!’ he said. ‘This shall never happen to you!’” To which Jesus replies to Peter: “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men” (Matthew 16:22-23).

Peter was not looking at things correctly. God’s plan required Jesus to die as an offering for sin. The suffering was going to come before Jesus would be elevated to King. Because of this, Jesus needed his disciples to be able to follow his example now and live a life devoted to service and minister to others, even if it meant they might suffer as a result of it.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?’” (Matthew 16:24-26).

It is important for Jesus’ disciples to be servants and to follow his example. Jesus will reward his disciples who followed in his example accordingly. Jesus says, “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done” (Matthew 16:27).

Jesus concludes his discussion by informing his disciples that there will be some of them who will get a glimpse of what it will be like in the time of the kingdom when Jesus is King. He says, “I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom” (Matthew 16:28).

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

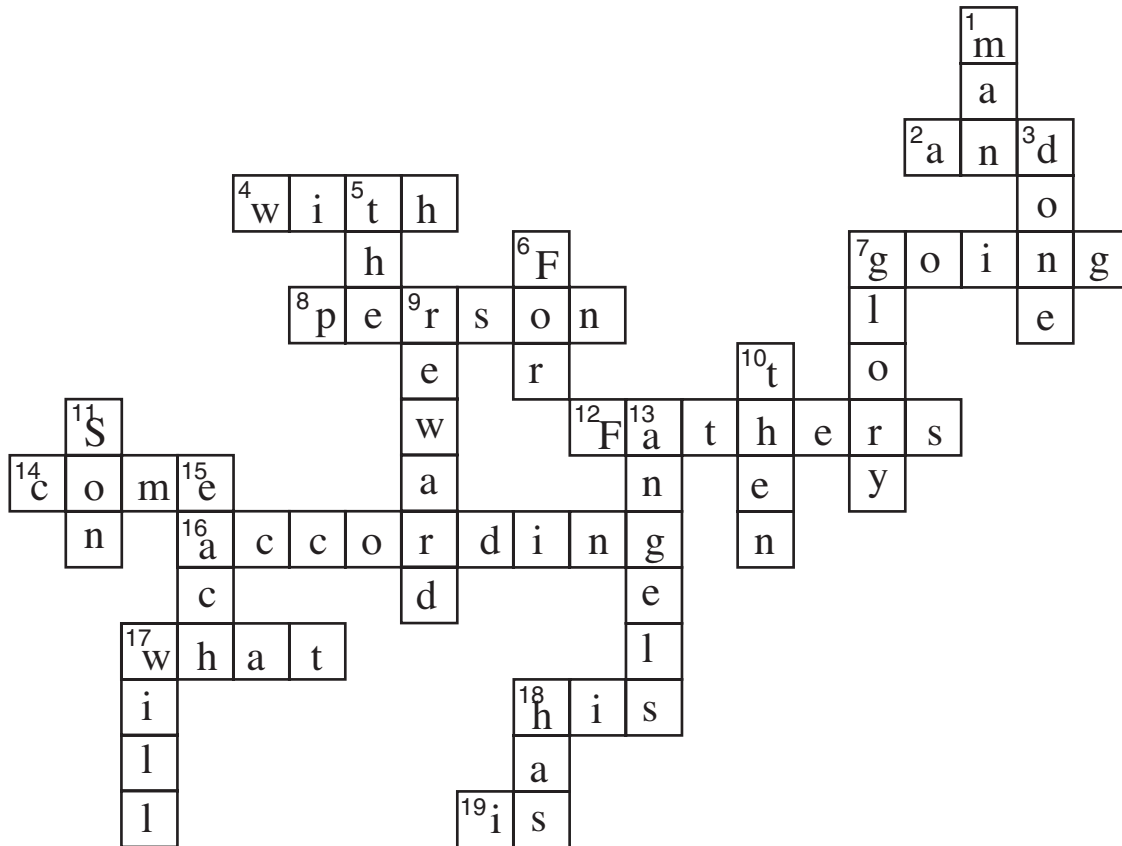
- The content of the verses in Matthew 16:21-28 are also covered in the parallel accounts found in Mark and Luke. These are found in Mark 8:31-9:1 and Luke 9:22-27.
- Though Jesus is telling them plainly that he was going to die and be resurrected, his disciples did not understand it. This confusion lasted all the way until Jesus died and immediately afterwards. It wasn’t until after Jesus was resurrected that they came to understand things. They were so focused on the present and all they could think about was Jesus going to Jerusalem and becoming king. In fact, shortly before Jesus is arrested in Jerusalem, Jesus focused his teaching on a parable about a king who was leaving to be appointed king and would later return. The parable was to teach his disciples what they needed to do while he was away. It gives the reason for giving this parable as: “While they were listening to this, he (Jesus) went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once” (Luke 19:11).
- Matthew 16:28 is a troubling verse since Jesus has not yet come into his kingdom. Yet Jesus said some standing there would not die before they do. What did he mean? Matthew 17 contains the key. About a week later, Jesus experiences the transfiguration, where he is witnessed by Peter, James and John being transformed and seen in the glory that will be associated with his kingdom. Specifically, Matthew 17:2 says, “There he (Jesus) was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.”

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ANSWER KEY:

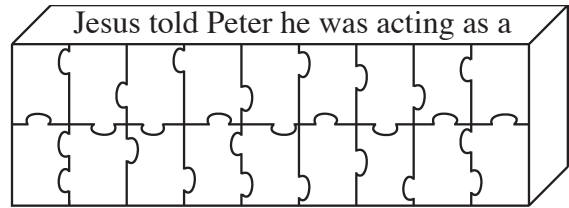
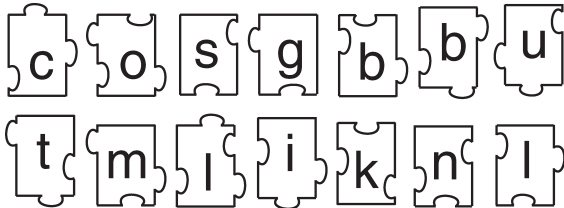
stumbling block



“For the Son of man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done.”

Jesus explained to His disciples what was going to happen to Him.

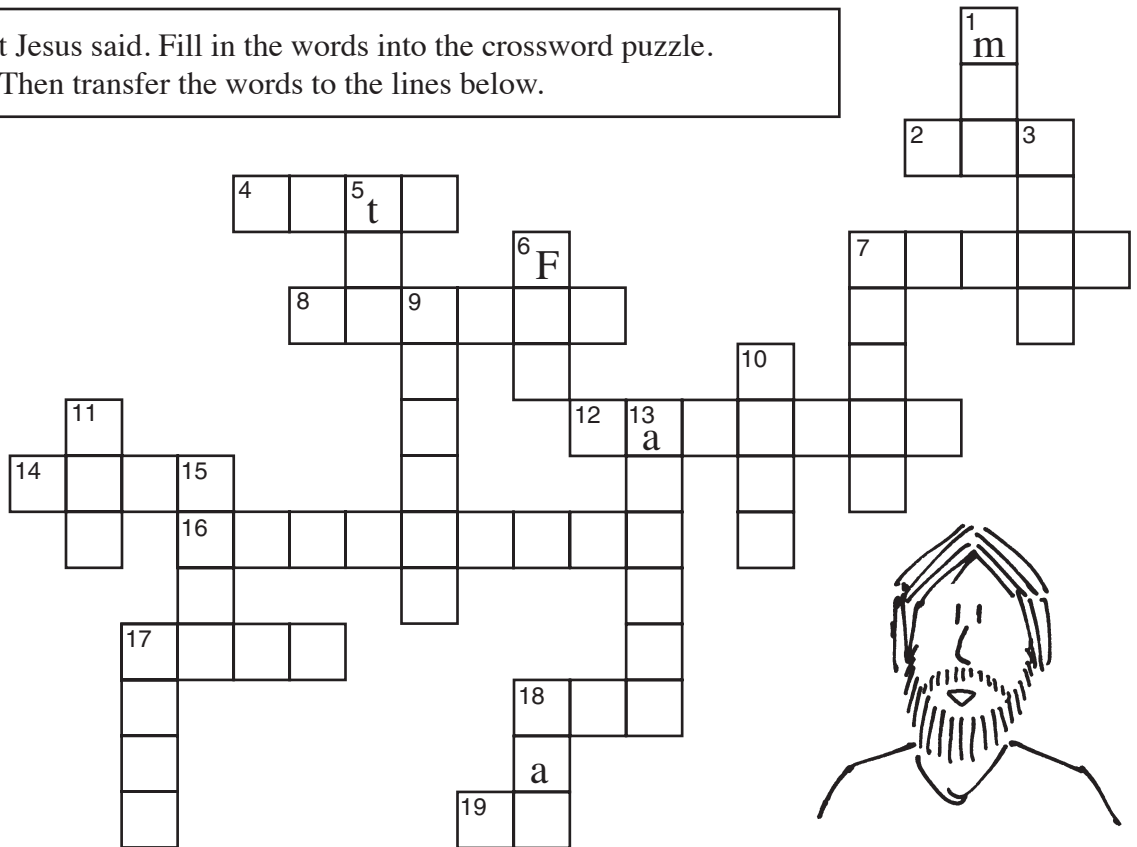
Jesus began to explain to His disciples what was going to happen to Him. But Peter loved Jesus. He didn't want Jesus to suffer as Jesus said He was going to. What did Jesus tell Peter? Fit the puzzle pieces to complete.



to the things of God.

Find out what Jesus said. Fill in the words into the crossword puzzle. Then transfer the words to the lines below.

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|------|-----------|
| is | each |
| For | what |
| his | will |
| has | with |
| and | glory |
| man | going |
| Son | person |
| the | reward |
| then | angels |
| done | Father's |
| come | according |



“ _____ of _____ to _____
 6 5 11 1 19 7 across 14
 in _____,
 18 across 12 7 down 4 18 across 13
 _____ He _____
 2 10 17 down 9 15 8
 _____ to _____ he _____.”
 16 17 across 18 down 3

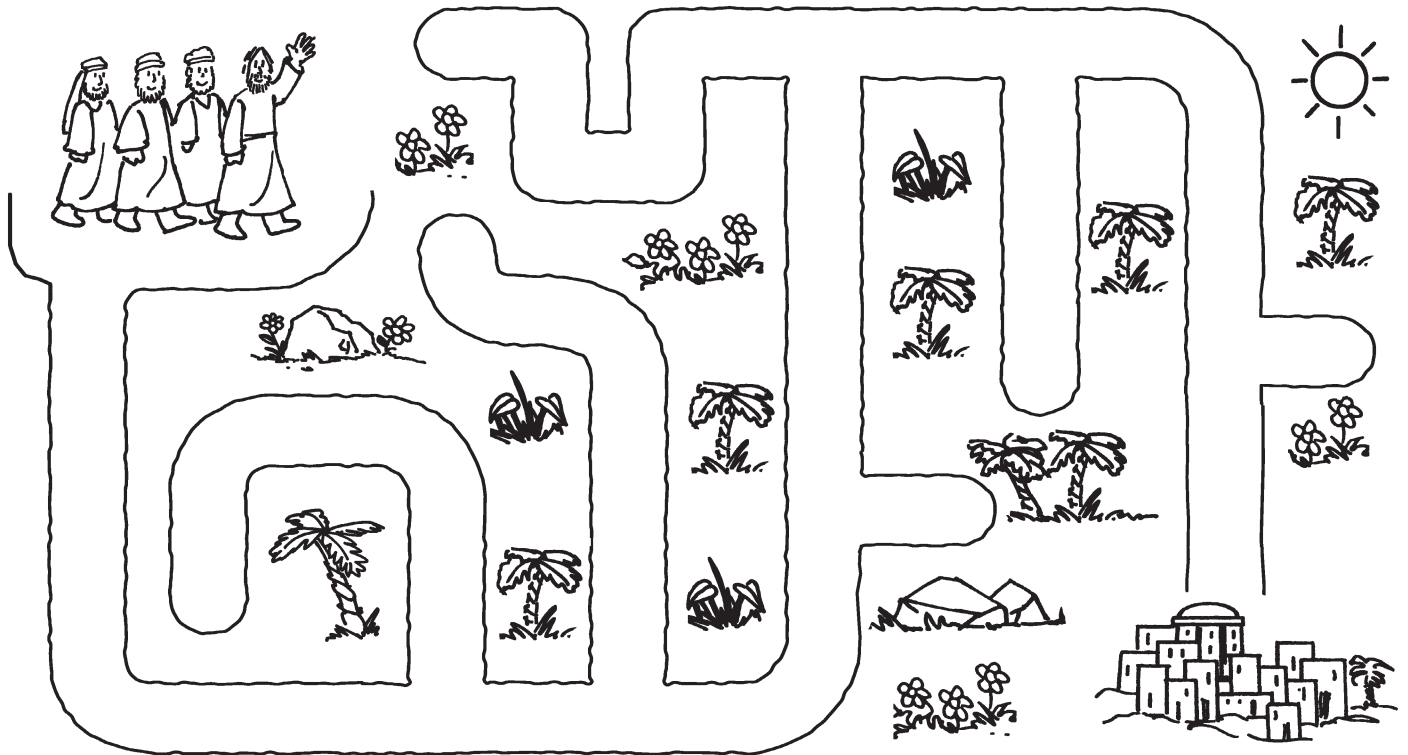
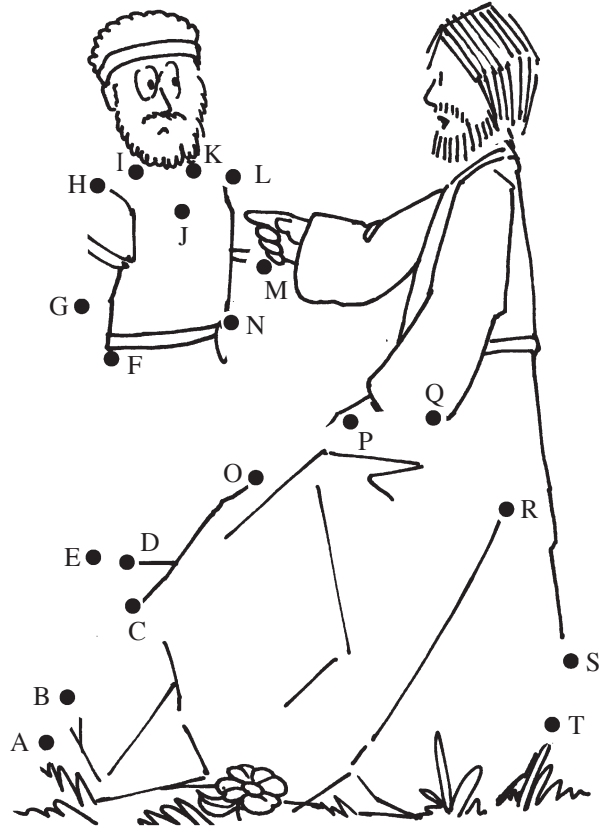
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Jesus explained to His disciples what was going to happen to Him.

Jesus told Peter, "You are a stumbling block to me."
Connect the dots.
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T



Jesus said, "If you want to be my follower, deny yourself, and take up your cross, and follow me."
Help Jesus and the disciples get to Jerusalem.



Name _____