

The Black Nazarene

Jesus Who Walks With Us When Life Is Hard

Ages about 7-11 | Video 2:42 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth The procession in Manila introduces a devotion to Jesus carrying the Cross. The film moves from a wooden image to the real person it represents, then from a crowded street to our own hard days.

Learning goals Children will identify whom the image represents, distinguish devotion from magic, and connect prayer with a practical act of support.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: How can a picture remind you of someone you love? Watch for whom the statue represents and why people gather around it.

Watch and notice

Watch the short film once without interruption. Recall the image, the reaching hands, and the people moving slowly together.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Who is the Black Nazarene?

The name refers here to an image of Jesus carrying the Cross, kept at Quiapo Church in Manila. It is not a different Jesus.

2. Are people asking the wood to help them?

No. The image directs their prayer and trust to Jesus. Touching it is an expression of devotion, not magic or a requirement for God to hear.

3. What does the slow procession help us imagine?

People can journey together through difficulty. Following Jesus includes patient trust and caring for one another.

4. How might we help someone through a hard day?

Listen, offer company, help with a suitable task, pray, or ask a trusted adult for help. We do not have to solve everything alone.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Children draw the image of Jesus described in the film and a scene of someone receiving practical help. A simple, non-graphic cross is enough.

Read & Write Children explain image and person, interpret walking together, and compose a prayer paired with an action.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use a family picture to distinguish a person from an image. Offer a made-up hard-day example.

Ages 9-11: discuss how a gesture can express faith without controlling God's response. Compare prayer and practical care.

A prayer and a helping step | Optional 4 minutes

Offer this scenario: a classmate is discouraged after a difficult day. Children suggest a short prayer, then a small helpful action. Pair the two aloud: Jesus, stay close; I can sit and listen. No personal disclosure is required.

Look for understanding Look for prayer directed to Jesus and a helpful, realistic response. Touching the image should not be described as necessary for receiving care.

Closing prayer Jesus, you carried the Cross for love of us. Stay close when life is hard. Help us receive support and walk beside others with kindness. Amen.

At home With an adult, pray before a familiar image of Jesus. Name the person it represents and choose one act of care for someone having a hard week.

Handout answer notes The image represents Jesus carrying the Cross; help comes from God, not magical wood. Accept patient company and a realistic act of care paired with prayer.

Teach with care

Locate Manila in the Philippines on a map if available. Invite respectful curiosity about a Catholic tradition that may be new to some children. The film presents uncertainty about why the image is dark; do not turn a possible explanation into a proven fact. Carrying a cross does not mean accepting abuse or avoiding help. Do not imitate crowded processions or barefoot walking as a classroom challenge.

Words to explain Nazarene: a name for Jesus, who grew up in Nazareth. Devotion: a practice that helps express and deepen faith. Procession: people moving together in prayer or worship.

Sources for the leader

Prayer at the shrine: [Quiapo Church: The Novena](#)

Help in carrying the Cross: [Luke 23:26](#)

We do not walk alone

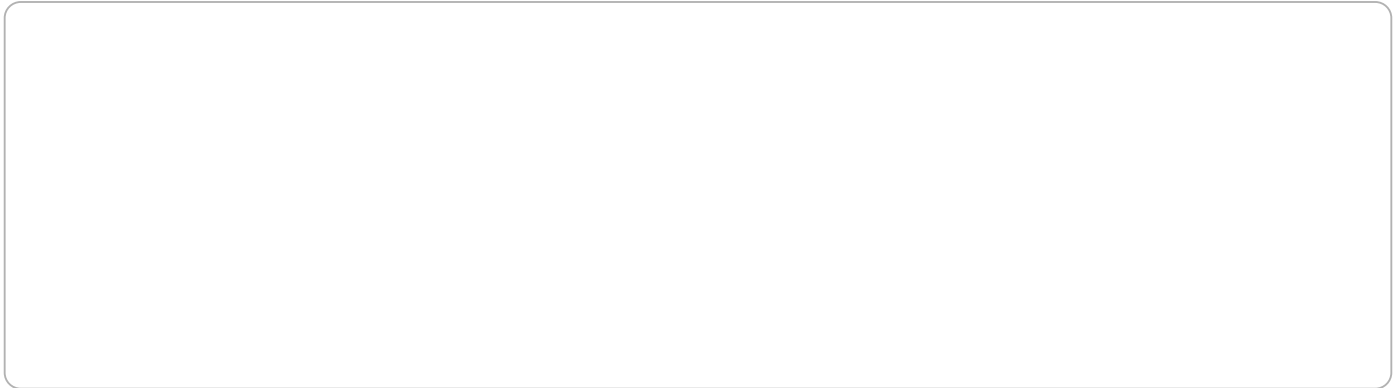
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The image reminds people to trust Jesus and care for one another.

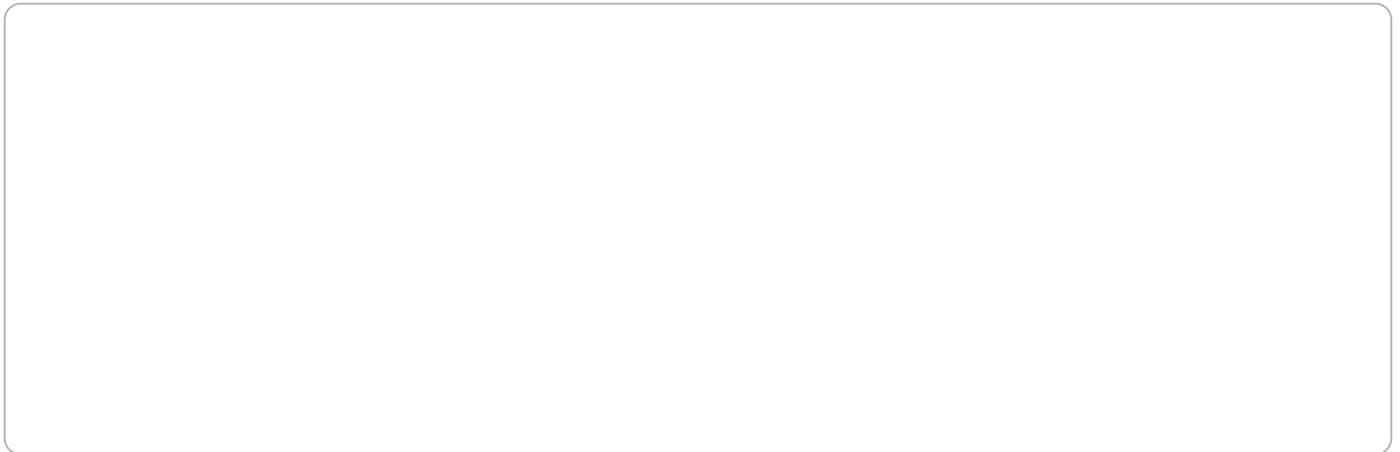
Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw the image of Jesus carrying the Cross from the video.



2 Draw someone helping a person through a hard day.



Tell Who hears our prayer? What helpful step is in your picture?

Pray Jesus, stay close to us and help us care for one another. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

An image, a prayer, a helping step

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Think about the people praying and walking together.

Name _____

1 Name the person

Whom does the statue represent? Why is the wood not magic?

The image shows ...

2 Walk together

What can the slow procession teach us about helping one another?

Walking together ...

3 Pray and help

Write a prayer for someone having a hard day and one action you could take.

Jesus, please ...

Pray Jesus, stay close to us and help us care for one another. Amen.

Go deeper Can Jesus hear someone who cannot visit or touch the image? Why?