



FOLLOWING in the FOOTSTEPS of JESUS

A Lenten Children's Sermon
to Accompany the Distribution
of the MLJ Magnet

You will need a camping backpack filled with the following items: a compass, a flashlight, a water bottle, trail mix, tent stakes and a cross.

Good morning, boys and girls. I want to tell you about a journey we'll be taking over the next few weeks, a trip that will lead us to the open tomb of Easter. We're going on a *Lenten* journey for these six weeks, following in Jesus' steps on his faithful journey to the cross.

I've packed my hiking bag and I'm wearing good travel shoes for the journey. Let me show you what I've packed.

First I packed a compass. It's necessary to have good direction when you embark on a hike or you might get lost. On this Lenten journey, Jesus is our compass. "I am the way," Jesus tells us. If we follow him faithfully, he promises to lead us to eternal life.

Next I packed a flashlight. If it gets dark along the journey, we'll need a good light for the path. This flashlight reminds me of what Jesus said. "I am the light of the world," Jesus tells us. "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

It's always wise to bring food and water on a hiking trip, isn't it? The food gives us energy, and staying hydrated is essential. Jesus has given us the gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion. Through the water of Baptism, he claims us as his own, and through our Lord's Supper, he offers us forgiveness and fills us with grace overflowing.

I packed some tent stakes in my bag. We'll need a safe place to rest at our journey's end. These stakes look a little bit like the nails that held Jesus to the cross. Upon that cross Jesus promised us all a home in paradise.

I also packed a cross of my own. I carry this with me every day, not just in Lent. It reminds me that Jesus is the one I should follow throughout my life's journey. I have a magnet with a cross for each of you. These can be your Lenten reminders as we follow Jesus to the cross. Let's pray.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for journeying to the cross to win our salvation. Help me to follow where you lead me each day of my life. Amen.