



Junior Soldier Renewal Day 2025

God's Big Story and me –
Walking with Jesus

Teaching outline



Equipment and preparation:

- Create a pathway on the floor or wall (chalk, painter's tape or butcher's paper roll)
- Markers/pens — enough for one per person
- Tape or blu-tack
- Print the seven signposts and stick them along the pathway during the meeting (page 15 - 21)
- As a fun element, you might like to invite people to bring/wear their favourite, unusual or meaningful shoes. As a countdown to the beginning of the meeting, choose five people and ask them to briefly explain their choice of footwear, e.g.
 - Hiking boots — because I love bushwalking
 - Dancing shoes — because I used to dance for a living
 - Baby shoes — my first pair of shoes
 - Teddy slippers — because they are super warm and comfortable
 - Flip flops/thongs — because I wear them to the beach

Equipment for Part 1:

- Printed copies of the group discussion questions (page 7)
- Print and cut out enough footprints for one per person plus a few spares (page 22)

Equipment for Part 2:

- Paper stepping stones — enough for one per person plus a few spares (page 23)
- Markers/pens — enough for one per person
- PPT — Kindness.pptx

Equipment for Part 3:

- A variety of shoes (e.g. running shoes, boots, slippers, etc.)— about 8–10 pairs
- Print and cut out Good News postcards with simple scenarios that match the shoes you have chosen — you can use the suggestions provided below or add your own options (page 24 - 27)

Equipment for Renewal and Commitment:

- Renewal cards
- Pens
- Print and cut out enough footprints for one per person plus a few spares (page 22)

Key Scripture



And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness



Colossians 2:6–7 (NLT).

Consider and prepare

The theme for Junior Soldier Renewal 2025 is **‘God’s Big Story and me — Walking with Jesus’**. This year we will focus on how and where we are walking with Jesus, as we reflect on the example he set for us. Specifically, we will be looking at the ways that Jesus:

- Engaged in prayer and worship
- Showed kindness and helped others
- Shared the Good News

We start from the perspective that, as followers of Jesus, we are already doing these things. As Paul says in Colossians 2:5, “...I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong”. Together we continue to walk the path, following Jesus, growing in authentic relationship with him and with others.

Take time to pray for your Junior Soldiers and the other children in your corps, and to reflect on these Scriptures:

“Your desire to tell the good news about peace should be like shoes on your feet”

– EPHESIANS 6:15 (CEV).

 [Read Ephesians 6:10–20](#)

“Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk”

– PSALM 119:99–105 (CEV).

 [Read Psalm 119:99–105](#)

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness”

– COLOSSIANS 2:6–7 (NLT).

 [Read Colossians 2:1–10](#)

This meeting is a great opportunity for Junior Soldiers and other children in your corps to use their gifts and talents to serve and lead. Include them in the planning and decision-making for the meeting and make space for them to participate in the ways they feel confident and comfortable to do so.

If they are not already routinely involved in all aspects of corps mission and ministry, highlight their involvement and encourage your corps members to make this a regular aspect of worship.

Ask everyone to reflect on how we are listening to and learning from our Junior Soldiers as they follow Jesus with us. Are we giving them real ways to lead, serve and shape our corps now and in the future?

This meeting is designed to be intergenerational. This means that people of all ages can worship, learn and grow together. Encourage everyone to get involved, to share their wisdom and to listen carefully to each other.

There are several different sections and options in this resource pack. Ask the children to help you choose the pieces that will work best in your setting. Note that each section contains a piece of the overall message. A document is also included that has the message in its entirety, if this is preferred.

Note:

The handout this year is printed shoelaces. Here are some suggestions for how they might be used in ways other than to fasten shoes!

- DIY gift bag straps
- Bookmark — add beads to one end
- Suitcase identifier
- Knot it into a keyring
- Use two shoelaces to make a braided bracelet.
- Coil the shoelaces into a coaster and use fabric glue to secure

Call to worship

Choose people from different generations to read each line of the call to worship.

Option 1

As babies, we learn to walk, taking our first steps with the help of others.

As children, we learn to run, jump and hop, but we have to walk where others tell us to walk.

As teenagers, we begin to choose the paths we will take, making decisions about whether to follow the signs and directions along the way.

As adults, we make our own roads, taking responsibility for the paths we choose.

As we grow older, we reflect on the paths we have taken, sometimes relying on others again to help us make each step.

Today, let's join together to walk with Jesus.

Option 2 — adapted from Psalm 119

I praise you, Lord, and pay careful attention as you lead me.

I study your teachings and follow your footsteps.

I obey your word instead of following a way that leads to trouble.

I can live a clean life by obeying your word.

I am eager to learn all that you want me to do; help me to understand more.

You remain faithful in every generation.

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.





Introduction

I wonder if you have ever tried to follow someone? Maybe you were trying to sneak up on them. Some of you might have tried to follow another driver through heavy traffic or on winding roads. Or, you might have tried to follow how someone acted or how they dressed? Colossians 2:6 tells us that when we have accepted Jesus as our Lord, we need to follow him.

Let's try a little experiment...

Activity — follow the path

Choose two volunteers — a child to be the 'leader' and an adult to be the 'follower'.

Ask the 'follower' to leave the room for a couple of minutes.

Ask the 'leader' to pick a windy (but not too complicated) path around the room and walk it.

Bring the 'follower' back and ask them to walk the path that the leader walked.

We can't follow someone unless we know where they have gone or what they have done.

Repeat the activity but allow the 'follower' to watch the path the 'leader' takes.

Ask the 'follower' what difference it made to be able to see where the 'leader' went.

It makes it much easier to follow someone if we can see where they go and what they do, but let's try this one more time.

Repeat the activity again but ask the 'follower' to walk with the 'leader'.

Jesus asks us to follow him, so today we are going to discover some of the places that Jesus walked and why he walked there. We are going to explore how these Bible stories help us to follow Jesus. But Jesus also walks with us as we follow his example. He is alongside us every step of the way!

Part 1 — Walking with Jesus to pray and worship

Equipment:

- Four signposts (page 15 - 18)
- Enough footprints for one per person plus a few spares (page 22)
- Tape or blu-tack
- Markers/pens — enough for one per person

Did you know that there are lots of stories in the Bible about how Jesus prayed and worshipped? Even when he was a boy, Jesus went to the Temple to learn, to worship and to pray (Luke 2:41-46).

Let's read about a couple of these times...

Scripture readings:

"News about Jesus kept spreading. Large crowds came to listen to him teach and to be healed of their diseases. ¹⁶ But Jesus would often go to some place where he could be alone and pray"
– LUKE 5:15-16 (CEV).

"Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. And as he was walking through the temple, the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses came over to him. ²⁸ They asked, 'What right do you have to do these things? Who gave you this authority?'"
– MARK 11:27-28 (CEV).

Let's take some time to see what we can learn from some of these stories.

Activity — group discussion

Divide everyone into four groups. (Note — if you have a large congregation, divide into more groups and ask several groups to look at the same Scripture.)

- Ask each group to look at one of these Scriptures:
 - Praying on your own (Luke 5:15-16)
 - Praying in church (Luke 2:41-43, 46)
 - Teaching/leading others in prayer (Matthew 6:5-8)
 - Praying with family and friends (Luke 9:28-29)
- Ask the groups to read the Scripture and discuss



“When you pray, don’t be like those show-offs who love to stand up and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners. They do this just to look good. I can assure you that they already have their reward. ⁶ When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private and will reward you. ⁷ When you pray, don’t talk on and on as people do who don’t know God. They think God likes to hear long prayers. ⁸ Don’t be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask”

– MATTHEW 6:5–8 (CEV).

1. Read the Scripture
2. Share – what does this Scripture tell us about how Jesus prayed and worshipped?



“News about Jesus kept spreading. Large crowds came to listen to him teach and to be healed of their diseases. ¹⁶ But Jesus would often go to some place where he could be alone and pray”

– LUKE 5:15–16 (CEV).

1. Read the Scripture
2. Share – what does this Scripture tell us about how Jesus prayed and worshipped?



“Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for Passover. ⁴² And when Jesus was twelve years old, they all went there as usual for the celebration. ⁴³ After Passover his parents left, but they did not know that Jesus had stayed on in the city.

⁴⁶ Three days later they found Jesus sitting in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions”

– LUKE 2:41–43, 46 (CEV).

1. Read the Scripture
2. Share – what does this Scripture tell us about how Jesus prayed and worshipped?



“About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up on a mountain to pray. ²⁹ While he was praying, his face changed, and his clothes became shining white”

– LUKE 9:28–29 (CEV).

1. Read the Scripture
2. Share – what does this Scripture tell us about how Jesus prayed and worshipped?



After a few minutes, ask each group to share briefly about what they learnt.

Give each person a footprint and marker/pen.

All of these are equally important ways for us to pray and worship.

On your footprint, write your name or draw a picture of yourself.

Think for a minute about how you like to pray and worship.

Choose one of these and stick your footprint near the one you have chosen.

Mini message

Jesus set an example for us to follow about how we can pray and worship God.

The Bible has lots of stories about how Jesus took time out to pray and worship. Going to the Temple and praying were regular parts of his week. Sometimes, he prayed on his own, and at other times he prayed with his family or friends. He also taught his friends about how to pray, how to talk to God about the things they were grateful for or worried about and to ask for the things they needed.

We can follow the example of Jesus and walk with him to pray and worship.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul says “...follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ”. Did you know that we can also follow the example of other followers of Jesus? What have you learnt about how to pray and worship from other followers of Jesus?

Let's pause and ask ourselves:

- *What do you see or hear from other followers of Jesus about how to pray and worship? Maybe it is a friend who prays before meals or someone who sings worship songs when they are feeling down. Maybe it is a person who reads the Bible each morning or someone who brings you to church.*
- *Share something with someone who is sitting near you.*

We can also set an example for others and invite them to follow and walk with Jesus, to pray and worship.

Think about where you will walk this week — when will you pray and worship God?

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for showing us how to pray.

You took time to be with God, to listen, to speak and to worship.

Help us to walk with you this week —
when we are alone, when we are with our friends,
when we are at church and when we lead others.

Teach us to talk to God like you did

— with honesty, trust and love.

Let our footsteps follow yours as we grow
in prayer and worship.

Amen.



Part 2 — Walking with Jesus to help and show kindness

Equipment:

- Paper stepping stones — enough for one per person with some spares (page 23)
- Markers/pens — enough for one per person
- Images of kindness from Unsplash

Wherever he walked, Jesus also showed us ways that we can be kind and help people.

When was the last time someone showed you kindness? How did it feel?

Kindness is powerful. And when we walk with Jesus, we learn to see the people around us who need help — just like he did.

Let's listen to some other stories of kindness.

Generational Voices — Kindness stories

- Choose three people from different age groups (e.g. child, young adult/parent, senior)
- Each shares a 1–2-minute story about how they have helped someone or shown kindness, or how someone helped them

Prompts

- Tell us about a time you helped someone in need
- What is one way you show kindness in your everyday life?
- Who has set a good example of kindness for you?

Tip: Make this conversational. Have someone briefly introduce and thank each speaker.

Activity

Option 1: Kindness stones

We have just heard some wonderful stories about kindness. I wonder what acts of kindness you have seen, received or plan to do this week. For example, you might want to help your neighbour carry groceries; you might have received a message from someone when you were sick or seen someone invite a kid to play with them at school.

Take a moment to think and chat about it then you can write or draw your answer on a stepping stone.

When you are ready, you can bring your stepping stone up and stick it along the pathway.

As followers of Jesus, we choose the path of kindness. We look out for ways to be kind to others. When we are kind, we are following in Jesus' footsteps. These stones remind us that following Jesus means being kind to others.

(Continue onto the next page for option 2)

Option 2: Kindness in pictures — heads or tails?

We have just heard some wonderful stories about kindness. Now we are going to look at some pictures. I want you to look very carefully at each one and see if you can see kindness in it.

As each image is displayed, ask the group: Can you see kindness in this picture? If yes, put your hands on your head. If no, hands on your tail!

For each image, ask someone why they gave their answer. (Choose people of different ages.)

What does kindness look like in action? Sometimes we only think about big acts of kindness. Can you think of some very small ways that we can show kindness?

Mini message

 **Read this passage from John 5:1–9**

“Later, Jesus went to Jerusalem for another Jewish festival. ²In the city near the sheep gate was a pool with five porches, and its name in Hebrew was Bethzatha. ³⁻⁴Many sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed people were lying close to the pool. ⁵Beside the pool was a man who had been sick for 38 years. ⁶When Jesus saw the man and realized that he had been crippled for a long time, he asked him, ‘Do you want to be healed?’ ⁷The man answered, ‘Sir, I don’t have anyone to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up. I try to get in, but someone else always gets there first.’

⁸Jesus told him, ‘Pick up your mat and walk!’ ⁹Right then the man was healed. He picked up his mat and started walking around.”

In John 5:1–9, we hear the story of a man who had been sick for 38 years. He waited by a pool where people believed they could be healed, but he had no one to help him in. Others always got there first.

But then, Jesus saw him. Jesus didn’t walk past. He stopped. He noticed. He asked, “Do you want to be healed?”

And then Jesus said something simple but powerful: “Pick up your mat and walk”. And just like that — he was healed!

This story reminds us of something amazing: wherever Jesus walked, he made time to help people and show kindness. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He talked to the lonely. He comforted the hurting. He answered questions.

We are called to walk with Jesus. That means we don’t just talk about kindness — we live it out.

Ask yourself:

- *Who do you see helping others like Jesus did?*
- *How do your friends, your family or your church show kindness?*
- *What kind of example are you setting for others?*

When we follow Jesus, we can become the kind of people who stop, notice and act with compassion — just like he did.



And here is the good news: We don't have to figure this out on our own. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would help us — to guide us and open our eyes to those around us who might need a hand, a hug, a prayer or just someone to listen.

So, here is a challenge: Where will you walk this week? Who might need kindness along the way?

Maybe it is someone sitting alone at lunch.

Maybe it is a neighbour who is feeling lonely.

Maybe it is a sibling who is having a hard time.

Maybe it is someone who needs to know they matter.

God uses even quiet kindness to make a big difference. Even small acts, done in love, can change someone's day. Sometimes, they can even change someone's life.

So, let's walk with Jesus. Let's be people who help, care and love — every step of the way.

Part 3 – Walking with Jesus to share the Good News

When was the last time you had good news to share? Maybe it was a great test result, a fun event coming up or something exciting that happened in your family. When we hear good news, we can't wait to tell someone about it!

The Bible tells us in Matthew 4:23 that:

“Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news about God's kingdom”.

Jesus' mission was to help people understand how much God loves each of us. That is the best news! And we are invited to walk with Him and share that Good News with others.

Let's have some fun exploring!

Activity — What shoes go with the Good News?

Equipment:

- A variety of shoes (e.g. running shoes, boots, slippers, etc.) — about 8–10 pairs
- Print and cut out Good News postcards with simple scenarios that match the shoes you have chosen — you can use the suggestions provided below or come up with your own options (page 24 - 27)

Place the shoes in a pile in the middle of your space.

Divide everyone into two teams and ask each team to nominate a 'runner'.

Ask the two runners to stand an equal distance from the shoes.

Explain that you will read out a good news message.

Everyone can call out the type of shoes that might match. For example, “It is finally raining!” would match with gumboots. Or “It is snowing!” might match with snow boots.

The runners must then run and grab the matching shoes.

The runner who returns to their spot with the correct shoes gets two points for their team. One point per team if the runners get one shoe each.

Mini message

Let's take a moment to look at a verse from the Bible — Ephesians 6:15:

"Your desire to tell the good news about peace should be like shoes on your feet".

Think about that for a minute. Why do we wear shoes?

Because we are going somewhere! Shoes get us ready to move — to walk, to run, to travel. The Bible tells us that sharing the Good News of Jesus should be just like that — something we are always ready for, something we take with us everywhere we go. What is the Good News? The Good News is that God loves us; that he sent his son, Jesus, to walk with us, to help us to understand and connect with God.

When we walk with Jesus, we do not just stay still. We go places. We meet people. We listen, we help, we pray and we love. The Good News is not just a message to keep in our hearts — it is a message meant to be lived out loud.

Jesus went from town to town, meeting people where they were — healing, teaching, listening and showing God's love. And now, he invites us to do the same.

Ask these questions and allow for a couple of responses:

- *Can you name some of the people who have told you the Good News about God's love?*
- *I wonder if you can remember the very first person who spoke to you about Jesus?*
- *Who have you helped to understand God and to get to know him?*

When we follow Jesus — in the way we talk, the way we treat others and the way we spend our time, we are showing others what it looks like to belong to him. And just like footprints in the sand, we leave a path that others can follow.

As we walk with Jesus, we set an example for others. And we get to invite them to walk with him too.

This week, as you put on your actual shoes each day — for school, work or play — let them remind you that you are also wearing the Good News. Be ready to go, to love, to speak and to share.

This week, think about where your feet will take you: your school, your job, your home, your neighbourhood.

Ask yourself:

- *Who can I share the Good News with this week?*
- *How can I be ready — like having my shoes on — to share God's love?*

Let's be people who walk with Jesus, and help others do the same. Because when we share the Good News, it brings hope. It is hope revealed.



Renewal and commitment:

How will you continue to walk with Jesus?

Equipment:

- 3 signposts (page 19 - 20)
- Enough footprints for one per person plus a few spares (page 22)
- Tape or blu-tack
- Markers/pens — enough for one per person
- Renewal cards

On the pathway, place several new signposts:

1. Walking with Jesus to pray and worship
2. Walking with Jesus to help others and show kindness
3. Walking with Jesus to share the Good News

Today we have explored some of the ways we can follow and walk with Jesus. Remember that we are on a journey, and we can keep on moving to new things.

Give everyone another footprint and marker/pen and invite them to write their name or draw a picture of themselves on it.

I want you to take a minute to think about how you will keep on following Jesus.

You might like to make more space to pray or worship, or try praying in a different way. You might like to find a new way to show kindness to someone. Or you might want to share the Good News with someone. There might be other ways you want to move forward in your journey too.

When you are ready, you can come and stick your footprint on the pathway.

Invite the Junior Soldiers to come forward with their Big Buds.

Our Junior Soldiers have made a commitment to walk with Jesus. They are going to share with us the promise they have made.

Invite the Junior Soldiers to say their promise together.

Today, they are going to take a moment to pray with their Big Buds and sign their promise, focusing on and remembering how they will walk with Jesus.

Pray for the Junior Soldiers as they kneel with their Big Buds and sign their renewal cards.

Conclusion

No matter how young or old we are, we are all invited to walk with Jesus. We can all learn from his life, follow his steps and help others do the same. As we walk with him — through prayer, worship, kindness and sharing the Good News — our faith grows stronger, our lives become more rooted in him and thankfulness overflows.

Colossians 2:6–7 reminds us: “You’ve learnt it – now do it”.

Today, our children have been leading us in worship. Let's continue to make sure that we make space for everyone's voice, gifts and ideas to be expressed — especially when we gather to worship and learn. Because walking with Jesus is something we do together.

In our church, we have this amazing gift of doing life together and walking the same path, even if we are at different points on the journey. That is one of the most beautiful parts of being in God's family. Let's be a people who walk in his ways — side by side, generation by generation.

Let's not forget — children are not just the future of the church; they are a vital part of it right now. They are not waiting to join the mission someday; they are already living it out in the way they love, serve and point others to Jesus.

So, let's keep walking together. Keep learning. Keep growing. And let's keep inviting one another — every age, every stage — to join the journey.

Benediction

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it!"

– COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (THE MESSAGE).

Home and beyond

Footprint prayer path

On separate sheets of paper, trace around the feet of different family members to create seven footprints (you can have the same foot multiple times).

Talk together about some of the ways we can walk with Jesus to pray and worship, help and show kindness and share the Good News. Write one suggestion on each footprint.

Lay the footprints out to form a path and invite each family member to walk along the path, asking God to help them to walk with Jesus to do these things.

Challenge each other to try to do some of these activities this week. Check in at the end of the week to see how everyone went and encourage each other.





Praying alone

A hand-drawn signpost with a blue outline. The signpost has a rectangular body with a pointed right side and a vertical rectangular base. The top of the signpost has a semi-circular loop. The text "Praying alone" is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font in the center of the sign. The signpost is decorated with small, colorful segments (yellow, orange, and grey) along its edges.



Praying with others



Praying at church



**Teaching
others to pray**



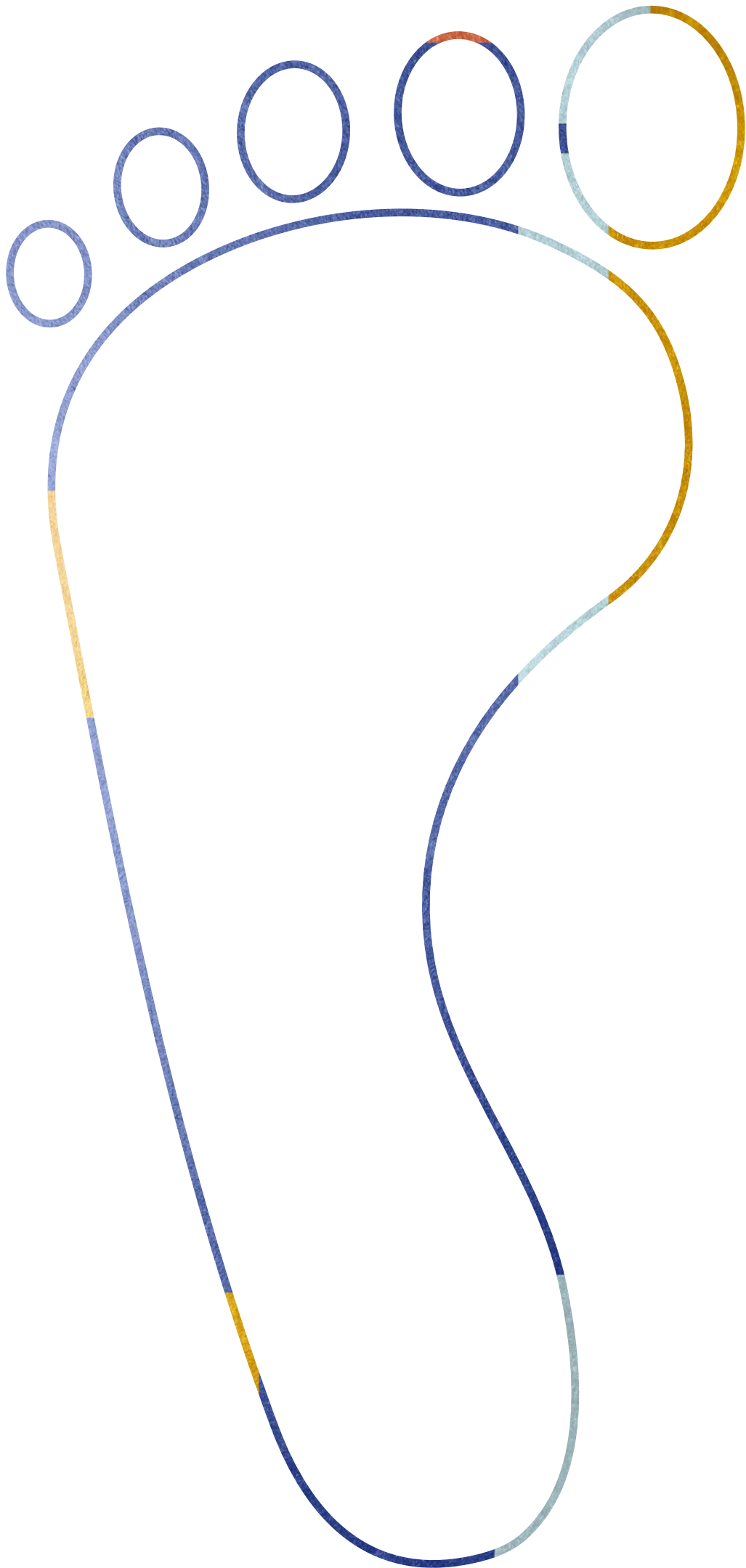
**Walking with
Jesus to pray
and worship**

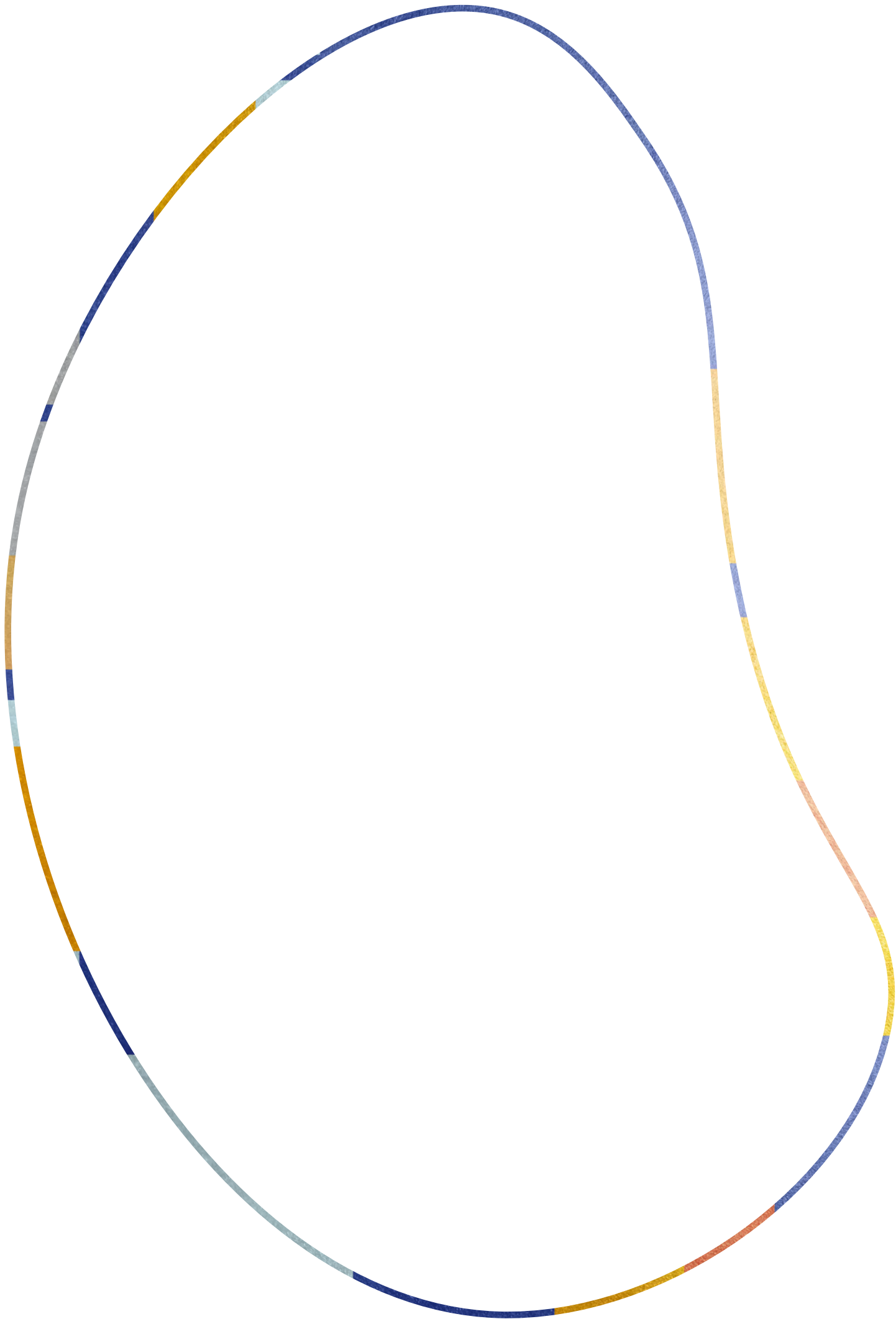


**Walking with Jesus
to help others and
show kindness**



**Walking with
Jesus to share
the Good News**





Baby booties

Soccer boots

Wedding shoes

Slippers

Work boots

Running shoes

**Thongs/
flip flops**

Dancing shoes

School shoes

Hiking boots

“It’s a boy!”

**“We won
the game!”**

**“I beat my
personal best!”**

**“We’re getting
married today!”**

**“Popcorn on
the couch!”**

**“I got the job at
the worksite!”**

**“The beach is
just beautiful; the
weather is perfect!”**

**“The dance
concert is
tomorrow!”**

**“I started
school
today!”**

**“I made it to the
top – the view
is amazing!”**