



FOLLOW ME

Young Preschool • #NT7 • January 11, 2026

Concept

Follow the leader – Jesus!

Goal

Children will learn that while Jesus was on earth people who believed in Him chose to follow Him.

Passage

John 1:35-51

Key Verse: “Jesus said, ‘Follow Me.’” John 1:43

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bible</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laminated, magnetic-backed pictures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>Jesus</i>◦ <i>Andrew</i>◦ <i>Simon</i>◦ <i>Philip</i>◦ <i>Nathaniel (sitting, standing)</i>◦ <i>A fig tree</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The First Step Bible, Mack Thomas</i>	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed path from Nathaniel to Jesus, 1/child• Feet stickers printed on labels, 10/child• Crayons

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"... In presenting the two first disciples of Jesus as giving their allegiance to Him as the Lamb of God (36), ..., our evangelist [John] makes it clear at the outset of his Gospel that what differentiates discipleship of Jesus from discipleship of John, or discipleship of anyone else in the world, is the recognition that Jesus is what John could never be, the Saviour of men...

"The first recorded word of Jesus in this Gospel is of great interest and significance. It is a question put by Him to the two disciples who have been directed to Him as the Lamb of God; ... Jesus does not ask who they are looking for, but what they are looking for (38). It is almost as if He assumes that, like the rest of mankind, they are in pursuit of the thing which will satisfy their needs, give reality to their dreams and substance to their hopes. They are soon to discover that the thing is in fact a person, the very Person who now confronts them...

"It is of the nature of Christian experience that those who enjoy it, however partially, desire to share it with others. It is not therefore surprising that, as soon as the new day dawns, the first thing that Andrew does is to find his brother Simon, break the news to him that the Christ has appeared, and bring him to Jesus. Simon responds immediately, as he will always respond immediately, for good or evil, to every challenge presented to him. He is at once given a new name, a sign that he will become a new man in Christ Jesus. He who knows what is in a man, knows that Simon had the affection, the loyalty, and the enthusiasm which, after he has been disciplined by the salutary experience of failure and disappointment, will one day make him a man of granite..."

As with the first disciples and all the saints up to our day, we have the amazing privilege to follow Jesus as we build and deepen our relationship with Him each day. This week ask the Spirit to strengthen you to follow Jesus in areas of your life where you have resisted or been fearful. Pray that your life will be an example to the children of one who wholeheartedly follows Jesus.

[1] R.V.G. Tasker, The Gospel According to St. John, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Reprinted, February, 1988, by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., © The Tyndale Press, pp. 51-54.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

The day of class – Cut apart stickers, as needed.

Activity Station:

- **Game – Follow the Leader**
 - **Instructions:** As children arrive, gather those who would like to play the game. A teacher should be the leader first to show the children how to play.
- Set up additional activity stations from the suggested list in "Preschool Activity Stations" or create your own to complement the lesson.

Who played "Follow the Leader?" Today we are going to talk about Jesus, the greatest leader ever. We can read about Jesus in the Bible (hold up Bible). Our verse from the Bible today is "Jesus said, 'Follow Me'" (John 1:43). Everyone say it again with me. "Jesus said, 'Follow Me.'" Let me tell you how Jesus met the men who followed Him and were His best friends.

Follow the leader – Jesus!

Instructions: Give the seven laminated figures to seven children who would like to hold them until it is time to put them on the white board. Call the child up when it is time for his/her figure to be put up.

One day Jesus was walking down the road. Andrew saw Jesus and began to follow Him. (Put up Jesus and Andrew.) He decided that Jesus was a good leader so he chose to follow the leader – Jesus!

Andrew (point to Andrew) found his brother Simon. (Hold up picture of Simon.) Andrew told him, "I have found Jesus! Come with me to meet Him," and he took his brother to meet Jesus. (Put Simon next to Jesus, also.) When Simon met Jesus, he too decided to follow the leader – Jesus!!

Then Jesus met a man named Philip. (Put Philip next to Jesus and the others.) "Jesus said, 'Follow Me.'" Then, Philip ran to find his friend Nathaniel who was sitting under a fig tree. (Put up the fig tree with Nathaniel sitting under it.) "I have found Jesus!" Philip said.

Nathaniel couldn't wait to go meet Jesus. (Put standing Nathaniel near Jesus.) But when they met, Jesus said He already knew Nathaniel! Nathaniel asked Him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree." How did Jesus know Nathaniel? The Bible tells us that Jesus knows everything.

Do you know that Jesus sees you right now? He knows all about you and wants you to follow the leader – Jesus!

Lesson Lg. Group Continued

Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathaniel were men Jesus chose to be His helpers. He called them His “disciples.” Jesus taught His disciples about God and that God loves everybody. Then after Jesus died on the cross the disciples told everyone that Jesus took the punishment for their bad choices called sins. Jesus wants you to decide to follow Him, too. Jesus says to you, “Follow Me.” If you ask Him to forgive your bad choices you can then follow Him.

Discuss: Jesus loves us and is good and trustworthy! He is an awesome leader to follow! What are some reasons that it is awesome to follow Jesus?

Let's pray. Let's thank Jesus for dying on the cross for us. If you have already asked Him to forgive your bad choices, you can ask the Holy Spirit to help you follow Him.

Transition

Let's color a path to remind us that Jesus wants us to follow Him.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Follow Me

Instructions: Give each child a path to color. Add feet stickers.

While working on the craft, talk with the children about following Jesus. We follow Jesus when we ask Him to forgive us for our bad choices. We follow Jesus when we obey our moms and dads. We follow Jesus when we choose to share our toys, etc.

Transition

If you would like to read the story from the Bible, come sit with me.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

"A Day with Jesus"

Instructions: Read the story on pp. 254-261 of The First Step Bible. Talk with the children about why these men wanted to follow Jesus.