



FOLLOW ME

Preschool-K • #NT7 • April 7, 2024

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">• Bible <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laminated, magnetic-backed pictures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Jesus◦ Andrew◦ Simon◦ Philip◦ Nathaniel (<i>sitting, standing</i>)◦ A fig tree <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Beginner’s Bible, Karyn Henley</i>	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed maze, 1/child• 4-5 washable ink stamp pads• Baby wipes <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light-colored construction paper, 1 sheet/child• Markers• 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 week before class – Read and meditate on the lesson. Ask the Spirit to give you insight as you interact with the children during class.

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 God's son, Jesus, the greatest leader ever. We know a lot about Him because we have the Bible (hold up Bible). Who can tell me something about Jesus? (He is perfect, died on the cross, performed miracles, etc.) Jesus was different from anyone else who has ever lived. Jesus wants everyone to follow Him. Our verse from the Bible today is, "Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me'" (John 1:43). Let's hear the true story about how Jesus met the men who would become His best friends and follow Him.

One day two men were walking down the road and saw Jesus. (Put up Andrew, Simon and Jesus.) They began to follow Him. When Jesus saw them He asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Where are you staying?" Jesus said, "Come, and you will see." So they went and spent the day with Jesus. They talked with Jesus and He taught them about God. Being with Jesus made the two men want to spend all their time with Him. They chose to follow Jesus.

Andrew was the name of one of the men who followed Jesus. (Put Andrew next to Jesus.) He went to find his brother Simon. (Hold up picture of Simon.) Andrew told him, "We have found Jesus!" and he brought his brother to meet Jesus. (Put Simon next to Jesus, also.) When Simon met Jesus, he too decided to follow Him! Why do you think Andrew and Simon wanted to follow Jesus?

Then Jesus met a man named Philip. (Put Philip next to Jesus and the others.) "Jesus said to him, '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. (Take down sitting Nathaniel. Put standing Nathaniel near Jesus.) But when they met, Jesus already knew him! Nathaniel asked Him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." How do you think Jesus knew Nathaniel? Does Jesus know everything?

**Lesson
Lg. Group
Continued**

Then Nathaniel said happily, "You ARE the Son of God!" Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see even greater things than that! You will see heaven open, and angels of God!"

Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathaniel were part of a group of twelve men Jesus called His "disciples." Jesus chose these men to be His friends and helpers. While Jesus was on earth He taught His disciples about God and how much God loves everybody. Then after Jesus died on the cross the disciples told everyone they knew that Jesus died to take the punishment for their bad choices called sins. Jesus chose these twelve men because they believed what He said about God. He wants you to believe Him, just as these men (point to laminated figures) did. Do you know that Jesus sees you now right where you are? He knows all about you and Jesus says to you, "Follow Me." He wants you to decide to follow Him, too. If you ask Him to forgive your bad choices you can follow Him.

Let's pray. Let's thank Jesus for dying on the cross for us.

Transition

Let's make footprints to remind us that Jesus wants us to follow Him.

**Learning
Activity#1
Lg. Group**

Craft – Follow Me maze

Instructions: Color maze. Have children create their own footprints on the maze. To make footprints: clench fist, press outside of fist on stamp pad and stamp on paper as shown. Use index finger to make toes. Clean their hands with the baby wipes.

While working on the craft, talk with the children about what it means to follow Jesus.

Transition

If you would like to follow Jesus, I will draw around your feet to help remind you that Jesus says to you, "Follow Me."

**Learning
Activity#2
Sm. Groups**

Craft – Footprints

Instructions: Give each child a sheet of construction paper. A teacher will draw both footprints on the paper. Ask the child if he/she would like you to write, "Jesus says, <<child's name>>, 'Follow Me.'" Children can color their feet if they like.

While working on the craft, discuss with the children:

- Does Jesus want everyone to follow Him?
- Jesus knows all of us and wants everyone to follow Him. What can we do if we want to follow Him? (Ask Him to forgive our sins so He can come into our hearts.)

Story – Read "Helpers & Friends," pp. 316-319 in The Beginner's Bible.

**Learning
Activity#3**