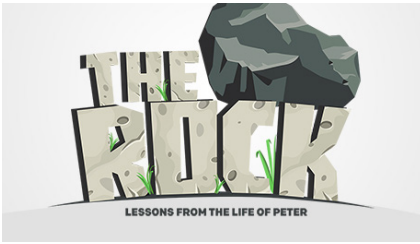


# Small Group Experience

## LESSON 4 - “Who Am I?”



### Whatchagaddaknow?:

“If I Want To Follow Jesus, I Must Obey!”



### Power Verse:

“...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me...”

– Mark 8:34

## Retelling The Bible Story

### SUPPLY LIST:

- \* Bible Story Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- \* Pencils, crayons, or markers

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Bible Story Print Pieces and familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. Also, gather all classroom materials. Once small group begins, give each kid a copy of the Bible Story Print Piece. Tell the kids to read the story on their own and write down four things of significance on the right side of their page. Once this is complete, ask everyone to share their thoughts on the story. Discuss the story and its main points, filling in any gaps in the storyline as needed.

**Say-** We’ve already learned so much from the life of Peter, and we are just getting started. Let’s take a closer look at another part of Peter’s story and see what we can discover. Read the Bible Story, and choose four things of significance, writing them on your page. Once everyone is ready, we will share our discoveries with each other.

**-Allow time for the kids to read the story and fill out their list-**

**Say-** Thank you for reading the story! Now it’s time to share your four things and discuss the story together.

**Ask-** Who would like to share?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond. Discuss their answers with the group. Continue on this way until everyone gets a chance to share and the story has been thoroughly reviewed. Guide discussion and fill in any gaps in the storyline as needed-**

**Ask-** Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do you think I am?”

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask-** Why were the disciples hesitant to answer?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask-** What does, “Take up your cross,” mean?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

## Game/Activity

### SUPPLY LIST:

- \* Blank paper
- \* Crayons, markers, or pencils

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

*Before small group begins, gather the necessary supplies. Once activity time begins, divide the group into several teams. For this activity, assign each team one mode of transportation. Utilize lesser thought of or silly modes of transportation like a tractor, hippopotamus, unicycle, camel, pogo stick, and dog sled. Each team should write a commercial about their mode of transportation that explains why it is superior. Teams can utilize the paper to make props or write scripts. When everyone is ready, allow them to present their commercial to the group. This is a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity.*

**Say-** An effective commercial makes you want to purchase or use something because the company has convinced you that their way is best. I hope you are feeling convincing, because you are now the new marketing team for a transportation industry. Each team is being assigned one mode of transportation. Your job is to write a commercial that will convince consumers that your way of transportation is best. Use the paper to write down ideas or make props as needed. When time is up, each team will present their commercial to the group and try to convince us that your ride is the best in the business.

**-Allow time for the teams to complete the task-**

**Say-** It's time to watch some commercials and learn about exciting ways to get from here to there. Will we be convinced? Let's find out! Team One, please share your transportation method and commercial with the group.

**-Allow time for the team to present their transportation method and commercial. Continue on this way until every team has a chance to present-**

## Group Sharing

### SUPPLY LIST:

- \* Mark 8:34 Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- \* Pencils, crayons, or markers

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

*Before small group begins, print and cut the Mark 8:34 Print Pieces and gather all classroom supplies. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.*

**Say-** Have you ever been convinced that the way you do something is the BEST way to do that thing? I have! I bet you've even argued with someone about the way they are doing something because you thought there was a better way. Companies use commercials to argue that what they offer is best. Your team just did a commercial, trying to convince everyone that your mode of transportation was superior, and some of those commercials will never leave my mind. For better or worse!

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**Ask-** Has someone ever tried to convince you that their way of doing something was better than yours?  
How did that make you feel?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** It's easy to become consumers of our own products. We “buy” into the thought that our way is the best way. “The way I live my life is my choice, and I am doing things my way.” When we are confronted with a different way of doing things, we often become defensive, sensitive, and argumentative. We hold tightly to our rights to live and do things the way we want to do them.

**Ask-** Humans cling to their rights to do things as they want. Why?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** God created us with the ability to make choices. We get to choose how we live and what we do. We get to choose what and who we follow. In the end, it comes down to this - we either follow ourselves or we follow God. When Jesus told each of the disciples that they must take up their cross if they wanted to be His follower, it blew their minds. Jesus was saying that following Him meant they had to choose to give up the right to do things their way. Giving up what we want is a difficult decision. Being a follower of Jesus requires sacrifice.

**Ask-** What do we sacrifice to follow Jesus?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** Following Jesus also means we choose to obey Him. He is our Lord.

**Ask-** What does that mean?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** Because Jesus is our Lord, He has all authority over us. We listen and obey because we choose to follow.

**Ask-** So how does this affect the way of life we often “bought” into? The “I can live my life and do things my way” mentality?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** Being a follower of Jesus means I must give up MY WAY and choose GOD'S WAY. Write that on your page.

**-Allow time for the kids to fill in the blank on their page-**

**Ask-** Is that choice worth it, and why?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Prayer Time**

**Say-** The choice to give up our way and follow Jesus is no small decision. I don't know where you are on your journey, but I would like to pray for you. Jesus has great and amazing plans for your life. The sacrifice is worth what you get in return - eternity with Jesus!

**Pray**

**Closing**

**Say-** Jesus and His disciples were having a conversation one day. Jesus decided to ask the disciples some key questions and teach them a life-altering truth with their response. The more you study the life of Jesus, the more you realize He is great at those types of moments. Jesus asked His disciples who people said He was. The responses rang out as they eagerly shared the thoughts and opinions of other people. Then, Jesus got personal. “Who do YOU say that I am?” There was no hiding behind that question. Once they answered, the position of their hearts would be revealed. Peter's voice finally broke the silence as he responded, “You are the Christ. The Son of the living God.” Peter was correct! Jesus went on to teach the disciples that if they wanted to be His followers, they must give up their ways and choose His way. Each of us will have a moment in our life when things get personal, a time when Jesus approaches us with the question, “Who do YOU say that I am?” Our response reveals the position of our hearts. Have we become consumers of our own products, buying into the thought that we can do things our way? Or will we choose to give up our way and follow God's way? You are the only one who can make that choice. I would encourage you to choose God! Choose His plan for your life. Yes, there will be sacrifice, but it's worth it! Give up YOUR way in this short life, and you will gain GOD's gift of ETERNAL life! Thank you for coming today. I will see you again soon!



One day, Jesus and the disciples were sitting together, talking. Jesus began to ask the disciples some questions. He asked them, "Who do the people say that I am?" The disciples started sharing with Jesus some of the things they had heard people say.

Since Jesus was such a powerful person who went around healing people, raising the dead, and performing miracle after miracle, people had all kinds of thoughts about him. One of the disciples told Jesus, "Some people say You are the prophet Elijah!" Another disciple told Jesus, "Some people say that You are John the Baptist!"

Jesus listened to what they had to say, but He had a much more important question to ask them. He looked at them and asked, "Well, who do YOU say that I am?" The disciples looked at each other. Nobody wanted to answer. They didn't want to get it wrong. Jesus was asking, "Who am I?" They wanted to be sure to give the right answer. Well, you can guess which disciple spoke up loud and clear. That's right! Peter spoke up and said boldly, "You are the Christ – the Son of the Living God!"

Jesus spoke back to Peter, "Blessed are you, Peter. For God is the One who has revealed this to you." Then, Jesus began to teach the disciples what it meant to call Him the Lord of their lives. Jesus said, "If anyone is going to be My disciple, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me."

1.

2.

3.

4.

**I must give up \_\_\_\_\_ !  
And choose \_\_\_\_\_ !**

“...‘IF ANY OF YOU WANTS TO BE MY FOLLOWER,  
YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR OWN WAY, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME...” – MARK 8:34

**I must give up \_\_\_\_\_ !  
And choose \_\_\_\_\_ !**

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YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR OWN WAY, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME...” – MARK 8:34