

JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES | Matthew 3; John 1; 3

Bible Story: Jesus called disciples to follow Him.

Memory Verse: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. **John 1:1-2**

Big Picture Question: Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Bottom Line: *We serve Jesus because He is God.*

Christ Connection: *Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. This is great news! Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him, and we are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear the good news about Jesus.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Sequences Dice Game

What You Need: 6 dice (per group), score chart, pencils

What You Do:

- Everyone rolls one die. Highest roll starts the game, play moves clockwise.
- First player rolls all 6 dice. If he rolls a number sequence that begins with "1", he scores. If he does not roll a sequence that begins with 1 he does not score.
- Play continues to the next player.
- The first player to 100 points wins.
- Game scoring: If you roll
 - 1 = 5 points
 - 1-2 = 10 points
 - 1-2-3 = 15 points
 - 1-2-3-4 = 20 points
 - 1-2-3-4-5 = 25 points
 - 1-2-3-4-5-6 = 30 points

Example rolls: 1-2-4-5-6 = 10 points, 1-2-3-1-2 = 15 points, 3-4-2-5-4 = 0 points, 1-4-1-5-1 = 5 points

Only one sequence per roll is allowed.

What You Say "That was a fun game. I love playing games with you guys. It helps me learn more about you. Like today I learned ... Let's clean up and get ready to hear about how we can Follow the Leader today.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

CONTEXT

In the first century, *rabbi* was a title given to a respected expert in the law of Moses. A rabbi studied the Scriptures and taught through speaking and writing. Jews wanted to honor God in how they lived, and they looked to the rabbis to instruct them in their behavior.

The word *rabbi* translates "my master." Jewish students would seek out a rabbi and ask to follow him. A rabbi would choose only a few highly-promising students to be his disciples. If a student was not accepted by the rabbi, he likely returned home to learn a trade. Those chosen to be a rabbi's disciples followed him everywhere. They learned from the rabbi how to think and how to act. They trusted the rabbi, and the goal was to become just like him.

When Jesus chose His disciples, His strategy was unusual. Rather than waiting for students to come to Him, Jesus sought out His disciples among the people who followed Him. He found them working—fishing and repairing nets. Some of Jesus' disciples were introduced to Him by their friends. He approached these

ordinary men and said, “Follow Me.” Their response? “Immediately they left ... and followed him” (Matt. 4:20,22).

The Twelve—Simon (Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon; and Judas—spent time with Jesus during His ministry. Jesus taught them how to live in light of God’s coming kingdom. He commissioned them to teach others about Him. The good news about Jesus is too great to not share with the entire world.

The call to follow Jesus is not an easy one. Jesus said, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). Jesus calls us to do the same—to surrender our lives for His purposes and perhaps even to die. “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it” (Matt. 16:25)

TEACHING FOCUS (Jesus Calls His Disciples)

As we teach kids about Jesus, lead them to see how Peter, Andrew, James, and John followed Jesus. He called them and they left everything to go with Him. He called fisherman and a tax collector to be his closest friends and followers. He told them that they had a new purpose in life: fish for people. Just as Jesus called his first disciples, he calls us to leave everything and serve Him because He is God.

Christ Connection: *Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. This is great news! Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him, and we are Jesus’ disciples when we trust in Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear the good news about Jesus.*

Bottom Line: *We leave everything for Jesus because He is God.*

Today’s Takeaways:

- Jesus called disciples to follow Him.
- He would teach them to fish for people.
- They left their families and their jobs to go with Jesus.
- Jesus calls us to follow Him and to do what He says.
- **Bottom Line:** We serve Jesus because He is God.

PRAYER AND TIME OF COMMITMENT

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- **What did Jesus say He would teach His disciples to do?** *(fish for people, Matt. 4:19)*
- **Why does Jesus love sinners?** *Help kids understand that everyone is a sinner, and Jesus loves all people because we are created in God’s image. Jesus wants to see people repent of sin, turning to God to be saved. He loves sinners and rescues them. He helps us turn away from sin and glorify God instead.*
- **What might we lose by following Jesus?** *Guide kids to talk about the cost of loving and obeying Jesus. Help them think about the ways others might react to them, the influence*

they may lose, or the persecution they may face. Remind the kids that, in some places, following Jesus may even cost a person her life.

- **What can we gain by following Jesus?** *Discuss the unending joy and eternal life we have with God when we have faith in Jesus. Point kids to the hope they have in life: that we gain new purpose, can resist sin, and are filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Point kids also to the hope we have for the future: that Jesus will return and fix all that sin has broken. On that day, we will reign with Christ as children of God.*

Activity: Discipleship in the real World

What You Need supplies to make paper airplanes

What You Do:

- Direct kids to sit in a circle.
- Teach them a simple trick or new skill. It can be anything: making paper airplane, tying shoes in a new way, whistling, winking, or any other skill you can teach.
- Work with kids to learn the skill and talk to them about what makes the skill easy or hard to learn.
- Challenge them to teach that skill to a friend or sibling.

What You Say “Those new skills were not super important to know, but the way I taught you to do them is a picture of discipleship. Jesus called disciples to follow Him. As Christians, we can help to disciple new Christians to follow Jesus, too. We can show what it looks like to love and obey Jesus in all parts of our lives. By talking to people about the difficulties and joys of obeying Jesus- and showing them what that looks like- we can teach them to do the same. What is one thing you have learned about Jesus that you could share with someone? Have you taken a next step? How could you share your experience of taking that step to help someone else take their next step? (Next steps are believe, read Bible, Baptism, serve, share)

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Bible Memory Verse Grid Poster laminated or put in page protector, sticky notes, dry erase markers

What You Do:

- Show kids the Memory Verse Grid and have them say the verse with you 3 times.
- Then cover all the words with sticky notes.
- Split the group into 2 teams and give each team a different color dry erase marker.
- Get teams to take turns in choosing a space and saying which word should be under the post it note.
- If they are correct, they can circle the word in their team color. They can discuss answers in their team but a different person must speak each time.
- The first team with 3 words in a row/across is the winner.

What You Say ” Jesus life as a human started when Mary became pregnant, but God the Son existed long before that. In fact, He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and will always exist. That what our memory verse teaches. Jesus was with God the Father and the Holy Spirit at the start of creation, and He is God the Son.”



All Star Kids

May 24, 2020
Kinder – 2nd grade

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

“Father, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us. Help us follow Him each day. Give us love for Jesus and for the people we meet each day. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can obey You more. Amen.”

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question: **Is Jesus God or human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.** Encourage families to pick up the Family Study Guide online or on the slat wall.