

March 15, 2020

Bible Story Focus: Everyone can follow Jesus.

Matthew (Tax Collector) • *Matthew 9:9-12*

Memory Verse: “‘Come and follow me,’ Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19, NIV

Key Question: Who can you follow?

Bottom Line: I can follow Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day’s Bible story.

1. Move with Me

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: “Move Cards” Activity Page, cardstock, and an opaque bag

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Move Cards” Activity Page onto paper or cardstock and allow kids to color the pictures. Then cut them apart. Shuffle and place cards in an opaque bag.

During the Activity: Pull out a card from the bag and lead the children to follow you as they perform the same movement. Pass the bag around and allow other children to serve as leaders, pulling a card from the bag and leading the rest of the group. Once all cards have been pulled from the bag, shuffle and return them to the bag to play again. Continue as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

After the Activity: “That was fun! You made a great leader and follower. Who is the most special leader of all? (Pause.) Yes, Jesus! Tell me: **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”



Jumping Jacks



Jumping



Squatting



Raising Hands



Tip Toeing



Twisting

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Key Question: Who can you follow?

Bottom Line: I can follow Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences.

1. Story Ordering

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: “Bible Story Images” Activity Pages and paper or cardstock

What You Do:

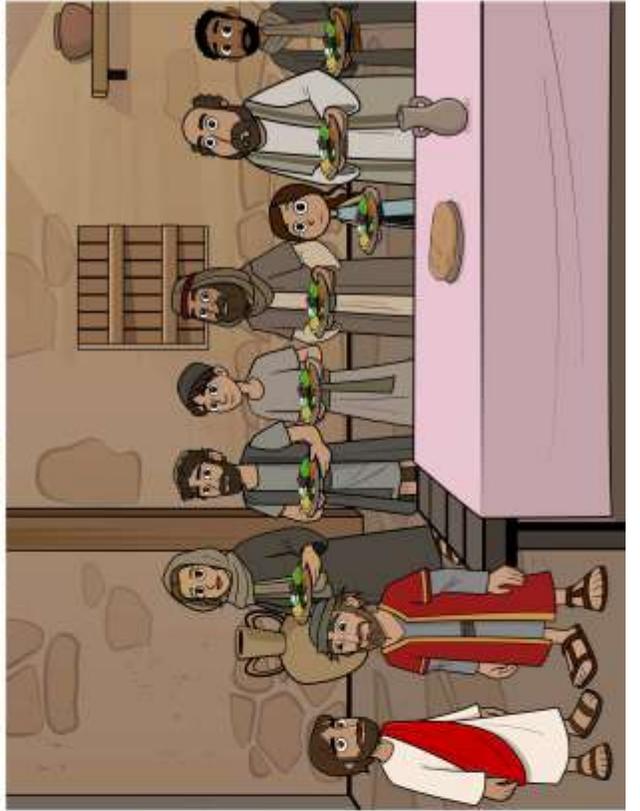
Before the Activity: Print the “Bible Story Images” Activity Pages onto paper or cardstock and cut.

During the Activity: Hold up the four images in story order as you review today’s Bible story. Then shuffle the images and see if your child can work together to put them in order.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Remember our Bible story from today? Let’s see if we can put these in order as we talk about what happened. Matthew, a tax collector, met Jesus. Jesus said, ‘Come and follow me,’ And Matthew did! Jesus came to Matthew’s house for dinner even though Matthew had made some bad choices. Jesus still wanted Matthew to follow Him. Why? Because EVERYONE can follow Jesus.”

After the Activity: “Why did Matthew choose to follow Jesus? Because Jesus wanted to be his friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend and my friend forever, too. Everyone can follow Jesus. **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”



2. Leader Brainstorm

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: paper and marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Sit with paper and marker with your child.

During the Activity: Guide the children to sit in front of the paper. Ask the child to name people in their lives that are leaders. Write down all the people that they say.

After the Activity: Reread all of the leaders that are on the paper.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Let’s think of people in your life that are leaders. When you think of someone tell me who they are and I will write them all down. (*Point.*) Let’s see how many leaders we can add to our list!”

After the Activity: “WOW! Look at all of the leaders that are on our list. (*Read the list.*) Jesus is the most special leader! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**”

3. Footprints

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Footprints” Activity Page and markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print the activity page on cardstock or paper.

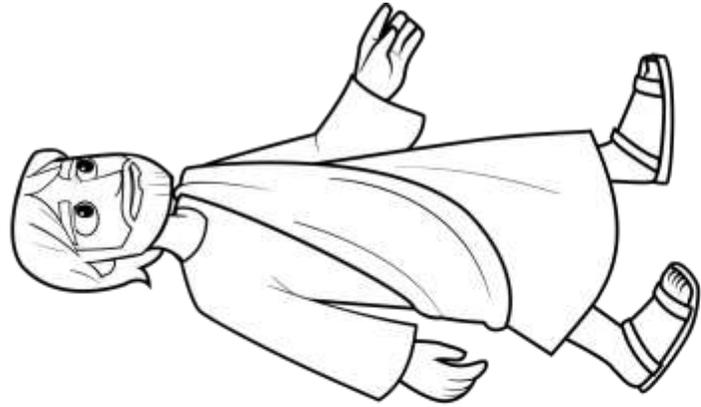
During the Activity: Use the marker to trace the child’s foot (*shoe on or off*) onto the Activity Page to the left of Jesus.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We can follow Jesus!”

During the Activity: “We are going to make a picture of how we can follow Jesus.” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Now we have a picture of you following Jesus! (*Point.*) **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**”



I can follow Jesus.

4. Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

“Our Bible story today was about a guy named Matthew. Jesus walked right up to Matthew and said, ‘Follow me.’ What did Matthew do when Jesus said, ‘Follow me’?”

(Pause for response.)

“He sure did! Matthew got up and followed Jesus!”

“Jesus wanted Matthew to follow Him, even though Matthew had made some wrong choices. Can we follow Jesus even if we have made wrong choices?”

(Pause for response.)

“We sure can! Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! And when we do, Jesus will help us make right choices. So tell me: **Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “I can follow Jesus!”

SGL: “You got it!”

(Give two thumbs up.)

“Okay, who’s ready to say the Bible verse we have been learning? I’ll read it one time and then we can say it together with the motions.

“Come and follow me,” Jesus said, Matthew 4:19.

“Did you hear that? Jesus wants you and me to follow Him! Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”



“Come,



and follow me,’



Jesus said.”



Matthew 4:19

FOLLOW
the
LEADER

CHILDREN and SGL: “Come (*motion toward yourself with hand*) and follow me (*march*),” Jesus said (*hands to mouth like yelling*), Matthew 4:19.” (*Open hands like a book.*) (*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

SGL: “You sound awesome!”

(Clap for the children.)

“Let’s sit down so we can talk to God.

(You can use any pen and paper to make a list that you can use to pray.)

“Jesus wanted Matthew to follow Him, even though he had made some wrong choices. Let’s make a list of wrong choices—things we know we should not do. We can use the list when we pray.

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that Jesus wants us to follow Him, even though we have made wrong choices. And thank You that Jesus helps us make right choices. We don’t want to do things like (*read the list you made*). We want to follow Jesus and do what He does. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”