



12

Jesus Calls Followers



Key Passages

- Matthew 4:18–20, 4:21–22, 9:9

Lesson Focus

- Jesus called His disciples, and they followed.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the It Is Written Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 11 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear how Jesus called His disciples. They left what they were doing to follow Him right away.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Follow Me!

Students will role play the disciples. When they hear, "Follow me!" they will drop everything to follow Jesus.



Activity 2: Follow Me! Booklet

Students will color a Follow Me! Booklet to take home and share with their family.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one It Is Written Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- It Is Written Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time



FOLLOW ME!

- Print and cut out one each of the six Follow Me Disciples Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Gather the materials listed to the right.

- Six Follow Me Disciples Pictures
- Large box, chairs, or other suitable "boat" for 3 children (James, John, Zebedee)
- Two small bed sheets (fishing nets)
- Chair, TV tray, or table for Matthew's tax table
- Play money for Matthew's tax table
- Tape



FOLLOW ME! BOOKLET

- Print, cut, collate, and staple the four pages of the Follow Me! Booklet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Color one booklet to show as an example.

- Follow Me! Booklet for each student
- Colored booklet to show
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut out one copy of the Follow the Leader Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Attach the cards to chairs and tables around the room.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Follow the Leader Cards attached to chairs and tables around the room
- Tape



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

In Lesson 11 we learned that Jesus began His public ministry when He was publicly baptized by John. He was then led out to the wilderness where He fasted from food for 40 days and was tempted by the devil. These events verify to us that Jesus was fully man and identified with man. Yet we know He remained fully righteous in His obedience to the Law so that His righteousness could be applied to all who would turn to Him in repentance and faith.

As Jesus continued His ministry, we find that He called certain men to be His disciples. The word *disciple* means a student, a pupil, a learner. The first disciples Jesus called were followers of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a prophet. His coming was predicted by the prophet Isaiah who said there would be a voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3). The Jews had waited 400 years since the prophecies of Malachi for this voice. John was that voice, and he had been preaching to the people for months. John was highly revered by the people of Israel as a prophet. So what would their reaction be as he looked up at Jesus and said, “Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1:36)? John’s disciples heard the announcement, and they followed Jesus—just like that. They left their mentor, John the Baptist, and followed Jesus. One of these disciples was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. The Bible says that Andrew went to find his brother to tell him they had found the Messiah, and they both went to Jesus (John 1:40–42).

Later, we read of these two brothers who apparently had returned to fishing after their initial meeting with Jesus. Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee and saw them. He said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The Bible says they immediately left their nets and followed Him (Matthew 4:18–20).

Jesus also called to Philip, “Follow Me” (John 1:43). What did Philip do? He went and found Nathanael and told him they had found the one whom Moses and the prophets had written of—Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:45). Nathanael and Philip went after Jesus.

As Jesus went on He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They, too, were fishermen. The Bible tells us they were mending their nets when Jesus called to them. They immediately left the boat and their father and followed Jesus (Matthew 4:22).

Jesus did not call His disciples from among the religious elite. In fact, Matthew had been a tax collector. Tax collectors were among the most despised people in Jewish society. This was because they collected taxes for Rome, keeping much of the people’s money for themselves. They were often considered thieves and traitors. So what did Jesus do? He saw this man Matthew—the tax collector—and He said to him, “Follow Me.” And Matthew arose and followed Him (Matthew 9:9).

We learn that Matthew invited Jesus to his home for dinner. As Jesus sat there, many tax collectors and sinners came to sit with Jesus and His disciples (Mark 2:15). Matthew had apparently invited others who did not know Jesus to come and meet Him.

That is how the kingdom advances. People meet the Savior, and their hearts are moved to call on friends and family to come and meet Him as well. So Andrew found his brother Simon Peter, and they both went after Jesus. Philip encountered the Lord and ran to tell Nathanael. And upon meeting the Savior, Matthew the tax collector was moved to host a party and invite his sinful friends to meet the sinless one who came to seek and to save the lost.

These men called by Jesus were not spectacular in any way. They were simple men and had no influence with important people. They often faltered in their faith, struggling and doubting God. Yet God used them to influence the world for all eternity with the truth that they witnessed in Jesus Christ. We can learn from this. The Bible tells us that God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise; He has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are mighty (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). We are weak and foolish. We are called as believers to follow the examples of these early disciples. We are called to spend our lives declaring the truth of Christ to others.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

If you read the accounts of the calling of the disciples in Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4, and John 1, you might get a bit confused about how and when Jesus called the disciples to follow Him. Some have even used the differences in these accounts to say that the Bible cannot be trusted. But if we slow down and carefully organize our thoughts and compare each of the passages, the apparent contradictions disappear. But

that takes some effort—effort far too few people are willing to exert.

Try taking a poll at church: How did Jesus call the first disciples? What do you expect the most common answer to be? For most people, the scene of Jesus calling the fishermen to drop their nets and become fishers of men probably comes to mind. But this idea, probably picked up from a sermon or some type of audio or video depiction, is a false view. Now, is this type of misconception going to lead anyone into major error? No. But it is this type of small error that can lead to misunderstandings that cause doubt about the truthfulness of Scripture.

Let's look at each of the Gospels and try to determine the order of the events of the baptism of Jesus, the temptation in the wilderness, and the calling of the first disciples. Look for additional notes in your Bible that will help you connect the accounts. These might be in the form of footnotes, margin notes, or headings above passages that connect the various accounts. Remember, the Gospels give different perspectives on what Jesus did, but they are all true. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all give the same basic timeline. This is why we call them the synoptics ("same view"). Take a few minutes to consider how the order of events in the synoptic Gospels compares to those in John.

Synoptics: John the Baptist preached repentance (Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:4–8; Luke 3:1–20); Jesus was baptized by John (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22); Jesus was led to the wilderness to be tempted (Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13); Jesus traveled to Galilee and preached repentance (Matthew 4:12–17; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 4:14–30); Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20, Luke 5:1–11).

John: John the Baptist preached and baptized (1:19–28); Jesus was baptized (1:29–34); Andrew, Simon, and a third disciple followed Jesus (1:35–42); Philip and Nathanael followed Jesus (1:43–51); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Cana, and the water was turned to wine (2:1–10); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Capernaum (2:11–12); Jesus and the disciples traveled to Jerusalem, and Jesus cleared the Temple (2:13–25); Jesus talked with Nicodemus (3:1–21); Jesus baptized in Judea while John the Baptist was still alive (3:22–36); Jesus and the disciples traveled through Samaria, witnessing to many (4:1–42); Jesus traveled to Galilee and healed many people (4:43ff).

John gives us a lot more detail and shows that there are a lot of events that happened between the time the first five disciples began following Jesus, right after the temptation, and the setting aside of the nets to become fishers of men. And there is a big clue as to the timing of events in Matthew. Many of the events described by John must have happened between Matthew 4:11 and 4:12. Specifically, we know that John had not been imprisoned in John 3:23, so the first five disciples had been following Jesus for quite some time before the calling from the seashore. There is a reasonable explanation for the apparent conflict if we take the time to carefully and prayerfully study the text.

Sadly, even when we can explain these ideas to skeptics, they still refuse to accept the spiritual truths that are rooted in these historical events. John the Baptist called people to repent and trust in "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). But this is foolishness to those who do not have the Spirit of God. The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. They rely on their own fallible reasoning rather than submitting to God's revelation. They claim to be wise and understand the truth apart from God, but they are really foolish (1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16). May we boldly proclaim the "foolish" message of the Cross and the Resurrection, trusting that God will use our preaching to open the eyes of those who hear so that they, too, may know that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ (Colossians 2:1–3).



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Jesus, I love your Word! Thank you for including these portraits of your disciples for us. The joy with which they came to you and the quick desire they demonstrated to tell their close friends and family about you is refreshing. I want to be more like that—filled with pure love and confidence in my Savior who brings salvation and hope to a lost and dying world that needs Him. Forgive me for holding back because I've been afraid or embarrassed. Move in the hearts of my students today to see your truth and begin lives of unashamed devotion to the Gospel of Christ!

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the It Is Written Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 11.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and thank God for the many blessings He's given us.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, you are an awesome God. I want to thank you for . . .
(insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God thank you for something special in their lives.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- ? Can you see God? *No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*
- ? Can God do all things? *Yes! God can do all His holy will.*
- ? Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*
- ? Is God's Word true? *Yes! Every Word of God is true.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number* *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

- ? Who have we been talking about in our lessons? *Jesus!*

Refer to Lesson 10 Flip Chart Page. **That's right! We saw that Jesus always obeyed. He did not sin.**

Refer to Lesson 11 Flip Chart Page. **But Jesus was tempted!**

- ? What helped Jesus say "no" to sin? *Hold up your Bible. God's Word. The Bible.*
- ? What did Jesus say when He was tempted? *It is written.*

Yes. Jesus knew God’s Word. It helped Him say “no” to sin when He was tempted. We should know God’s Word, too. We are tempted to sin every day, but knowing God’s Word can help us say “no” to sin!

Now let’s take another look at Jesus’s life. Jesus called some men to be His disciples.

? Can you say that word with me? *Repeat the word “disciples” together.*

? Do you know what that word means? What is a disciple? *Allow discussion.*

A disciple is someone who chooses to follow Jesus and learn from Him. Jesus called some people to come follow Him and work with Him. Jesus had work to do.

? Now, whose work, or will, did Jesus come to do? *God’s will. His Father’s will.*

Yes. Jesus came to do God’s will. And Jesus was going to choose some people to work with Him to do God’s will.

We are going to look at the Gospel of Matthew today. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

We’re going to find out what happened when Jesus called some of His disciples to follow Him and become His friends. Listen carefully so you can answer my questions! *Read Matthew 4:18 emphasizing the answers to the questions.*

? Where was Jesus walking? *By the Sea of Galilee.*

? He saw two brothers there. What were their names? *Re-read Matthew 4:18. Simon Peter and Andrew.*

? What were they doing when Jesus walked by? *Casting their nets. Fishing.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. That’s right. The two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, were fishing at the Sea of Galilee. They were throwing big nets out into the water to catch fish. They were fishermen.

Jesus walked by them as they fished. Listen as I read from the Bible. Tell me what happened as Jesus walked by. *Read Matthew 4:19–20.*

? What did Jesus say to them? *Matthew 4:19. Follow Me.*

? Did they follow Jesus? What did they do? Listen! *Re-read Matthew 4:20. They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Simon Peter and Andrew were brothers. They were fishing. Jesus called to them. And they quit what they were doing right away! They left their fishing nets and followed Jesus. Jesus called His disciples, and they followed.

Jesus was calling disciples—men who would follow Him. I want you to hear about two more men Jesus called. They were brothers, too. Jesus was

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God’s Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Matthew 4:18

Matthew 4:19–20

Matthew 4:21-22

still walking by the sea when He saw these two brothers. Listen to what Jesus said! *Read Matthew 4:21-22 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

- ? Where were the men? What were they sitting in? *Matthew 4:21. In a boat.*
- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. Now there were three people in the boat. Who were they? *Re-read Matthew 4:21 emphasizing James, John, Zebedee.*
- ? So James and John were brothers. Who was the other man? *Matthew 4:21. Zebedee. Their father.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Right! James and John were also fishermen. They were in a boat with their father mending their nets. And Jesus called to them.

- ? What did they do when they heard Jesus call them? *Re-read Matthew 4:22. They left the boat and their father and followed Him.*

All four of these men—Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John—knew that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus brought hope, and they wanted to follow Him. They left everything they knew and went after Jesus. Jesus called His disciples, and they followed.

Those four men were all fishermen, but Jesus called other people, too. Let's read about one more man that Jesus called. His name was Matthew!

- ? Hmm, where have we heard the name Matthew before? *Allow discussion.*

Matthew wrote one of the four Gospels. He wrote the Gospel of Matthew.

I am going to read about Matthew now. Listen carefully. *Read Matthew 9:9 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

- ? Who did Jesus see this time? *Matthew.*
- ? Where was Matthew sitting? *In the tax office.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. That's right. Matthew was a tax collector and was sitting in the tax office. In those days, the people didn't like tax collectors. Tax collectors took the tax money from the people. But they would often take more than they should and keep it for themselves, which is the same as stealing. They were not very nice or honest people. But Jesus called the tax collector, Matthew.

- ? What did Matthew do when he heard Jesus call him? *Re-read Matthew 9:9. He arose and followed Him.*

Yes! Just like that, Matthew got up, left the tax office, and followed Jesus. He left everything just like the fishermen did. Jesus called His disciples, and they followed Him.

- ? Which Gospel did Matthew write? *Matthew!*
- ? What are the names of all four of the Gospels? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

Matthew 9:9

Show the Gospels in your Bible. Here are the Gospels. And here is the book that Matthew wrote! We have been reading out of it today. When Jesus called him, Matthew left his life of stealing money from people and followed Jesus instead. And he even got to write part of God's Word!

Jesus called His disciples, and they followed Him. They traveled with Jesus, listened to Him, and learned from Him. And they were able to help Jesus in His ministry as He did His Father's will.

Each of these men left their life to follow Jesus, and God used them in special ways. Jesus wants us to follow Him, too. We can follow Him by trusting Him and turning away from our sins. Then we will learn how to love Him and obey Him. Jesus called His disciples, and they followed Him. Jesus calls each one of you. Will you follow Him?

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. We can follow Jesus by turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Jesus came to die so sinners could be saved. Let's sing "Jesus Came" together. Sing "Jesus Came" once or twice with clapping and/or marching.

Turn to Lesson 3 Flip Chart Page. We talked about Matthew today! He wrote one of the four Gospels. God also used Mark, Luke, and John to write the other three Gospels. Let's sing our "Gospel Writing Song" together. The Gospels tell us about Jesus's life! Sing the song together with enthusiasm.

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Our memory verse reminds us that Jesus came to earth to do God's will. Let's practice our memory verse now. Sing it with me. Here we go! Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.



Follow Me!

MATERIALS

- Six Follow Me Disciple Pictures/Name Tags
- Large box, chairs, or something that could act as a boat for James, John, and Zebedee
- Two small bed sheets to serve as nets
- Chair and table for Matthew
- Play money for Matthew
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut out one copy of each of the six Follow Me Disciple Pictures/Name Tags: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Zebedee, and Matthew.

Set out props: the large box, chairs, or other appropriate "boat" and a sheet for James, John, and Zebedee; the other sheet as Peter and Andrew's net; and one chair with TV tray or table and play money on it as Matthew's tax table.

I want you to act out what we studied in the Bible today. I need six volunteers to be the six people we talked about. Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew; James and his brother, John, and Zebedee their dad; and Matthew the tax collector.

Tape the pictures/name tags of the disciples to the students playing the parts. Repeat the activity using other children or switching roles.

? *Refer to the Flip Chart. Where were Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew? What were they doing? On the shore. Casting a net into the lake. Fishing.*

That's right! Simon Peter and Andrew were fishermen. So I want Simon Peter and Andrew to stand over here. This is the shore of the lake. This is your net. I want you to cast it into the lake. You are fishing with the net. Give the sheet to the two students. Position them at the "lake." Put their pictures/name tags on.

? *Refer to the Flip Chart. Now what about James and John? Where were they? What were they doing? They were in a boat.*

They were fishermen, too. But the Bible tells us they were repairing their fishing nets. And they were sitting in the boat.

? *Who was with them? Their father, Zebedee.*

Now I want James, John, and Zebedee to come over here. Get in your boat. Here is your net. You can pretend you are repairing it. Give the students one of the sheets. Put them in the "boat." Put their pictures/name tags on.

? *Refer to Flip Chart. There is one more disciple we talked about. Who is it? Matthew.*

? *Where was Matthew? Allow discussion.*

Matthew was a tax collector. He was at the tax booth collecting money. Move Matthew to his "tax booth." This is your tax booth. And here is the money you are collecting from the people. Sit Matthew at the tax table. Place the money on the table. Put his picture/name tag on.

? *OK. Now what happened to these men? Allow discussion.*

? *These men were minding their own business. Who came along? Jesus.*

Jesus came along and called them all. I will be Jesus. I am going to call my disciples. As I go by these busy men, I'll say what Jesus said, "Follow me." And I want you "disciples" to drop everything and follow me. Ready? Walk past the "disciples," Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John, Matthew. Tell them to, "Follow me." Have the students follow behind you as you walk around the room and call the disciples together. James and John leave their father in the boat.

Repeat activity as time allows using different children and/or assigning different roles.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Jesus called His disciples. They heard Jesus's call, dropped what they were doing, and left everything behind. They followed Jesus.



Follow Me! Booklet

MATERIALS

- Follow Me! Booklet for each student
- Crayons
- Colored booklet to show

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, cut, collate, and staple the four pages of the booklet. Students will color the pictures.

Show your colored book as an example. Briefly discuss each page and read the booklet. This is the book we're going to make today. The first page of our book shows Jesus. He called to His disciples and said, "Follow Me!" On Page 2 we have Simon Peter and Andrew. When they heard Jesus call, they left their nets and followed Jesus. On Page 3 we have John, James and their dad, Zebedee. James

and John left the boat and their father and followed Jesus! And finally, Matthew, the tax collector. He, too, heard Jesus call him. And he left everything and followed Him.

I want you to color the books. And you can take them home and tell your family that Jesus called His disciples. They dropped everything and followed Him.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Jesus called His disciples. Jesus called to me, too! And I pray that one day you will hear His call to you. And you will be willing to follow Him. He may not ask you to leave everything, but He wants you to love Him with all your heart. And He wants you to be willing to go wherever He leads you.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Follow the Leader Cards attached to chairs and tables around the room
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one copy of the Follow the Leader Cards. Tape each one to a chair or table and randomly place them around the room. You will lead the students around the room and stop at each card. Read the card and lead the children to do what the card says while reciting the memory verse. Then move around to the next one. You may want to repeat this activity if time allows or have students take turns leading.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say it first. *Point to each picture as you say each*

word and have the students repeat. Practice the verse together using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

Good job! Now we're going to play a "Follow the Leader" game. I'm going to lead you around the room, and when we come to a chair or table with a sign on it, we will stop and do what the sign says while we say our verse together. So everyone line up. Follow me!

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Our memory verse reminds us that Jesus came to earth to do God's will. And Jesus's disciples did God's will, too. One day, you will hear Jesus call you. I pray you will want to follow Him and do God's will.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

Jesus called His disciples, and they followed Him. We talked about five different men that Jesus called. Peter and Andrew were busy doing their job fishing, but when Jesus said, "Follow Me!" they dropped everything and followed Him right away. The same thing happened with James and John. They left their father in the boat and came after Jesus! Even Matthew got up and left all the money so he could follow Jesus. Jesus had work to do, and He chose these disciples to work with Him to do God's will. Jesus called His disciples, and they followed Him—right away!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Jesus called His disciples to come and follow Him. He would give them work to do. They would tell others about Jesus! Jesus does call us! He called me. And I want to follow Him because I love Him and I know that He took the punishment for my sins on Himself.

One day He will call you. And when that day comes, I pray you will understand that you must turn away from your sin and follow Jesus. The disciples wanted to do God's will. And that is what we should want—to do God's will and to follow Jesus.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to bring forgiveness of sin to us.
- Praise God for calling us to follow Jesus.
- Pray that God will one day move in the hearts of your students to follow Jesus like the disciples did.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

And being found in
(Are you sleeping?)

Appearance as a ma-an,
(Are you sleeping?)

He humbled Himself
(Brother John,)

Be-came-o-be-di-ent.
(Brother John.)

To the point of dea-eath,
(Morning bells are ringing.)

Even-the-death-of-the cro-oss.
(Morning bells are ringing.)

Phil-ip-pi-ans
(Ding, ding, dong!)

Two verse eight.
(Ding, ding, dong!)

JESUS CAME

(To the tune of "This Old Man")

Jesus came. Praise His name.
(This old man, he played one.)

I will never be the same.
(He played knick knack on his thumb.)

If I love and serve Him,
(With a knick knack paddy wack,)

Belie-ieve in His name,
(Give a dog a bone.)

I will never be the same!
(This old man came rolling home.)

GOSPEL WRITING SONG

(To the tune of "London Bridge")

Matthew, Mark, and Luke and John,
(London Bridge is falling down,)

Wrote good news, wrote good news!
(Falling down, falling down.)

Of Jesus Christ, God's only Son—
(London Bridge is falling down,)

In the Gospels!
(My fair lady!)

Matthew wrote of King Jesus,
King Jesus, King Jesus!
Matthew told who Jesus is:
The Son of David.

Mark wrote Jesus came to serve,
Came to serve, came to serve!
Mark said Jesus came to serve
And die for sinners!

Luke wrote Jesus came to look
For the lost, for the lost!
Luke said Jesus came to seek
And save the lo-ost!

John said Jesus is the Son,
Son of God, Son of God!
And through Jesus Christ alone
Can we be sa-aved!

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.