



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

January 26-27, 2013

DATE

Jesus Chooses His Disciples

LESSON TITLE

Luke 14:26; Matthew 28:13-20; Matthew 4:18-22

WHERE TO FIND IT

Being a disciple means following Jesus and teaching others to follow Him

MAIN POINT

## schedule

Play games and hang out (10 minutes)  
Large group (30 minutes)  
Small group (20 minutes)  
Video/song review (10 minutes)

## tips

When small group ends, transition your kids into a game together. Play Pictionary, Hangman, or Charades.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, tell their parents something positive about their kid. It'll make the parents *and* the kids feel great!

## large group heads up

Today we're talking about what being a disciple means: loving Jesus more than anything or anyone and teaching others to follow him!



## instructions

**Goal:** to understand what it means to be a disciple and help kids find practical ways to apply discipleship to their lives

**Why?** Jesus calls us to count the cost of following him. We want kids to consider that today.

**Tip:** If a cotton ball is too hard or easy for your group, feel free to use another object in the room (a marble, a Lego, a game piece—be creative!).

## QUESTIONS

### CONNECT/RELATE

1. Tell us your name and your favorite thing to do and your favorite person to be with. (you can use what you told a friend in large group)
2. If Jesus walked by and asked you to follow him, would you be willing to leave like the disciples and follow Jesus? Why or why not? (don't force kids to share, but encourage them to discuss)

### APPLY

3. Does anybody remember WHY Jesus chose disciples? (Jesus taught them to follow him, so they could teach others. Disciples do two things 1. Follow Jesus by loving him more than anything or anyone and 2. show others how to follow Jesus)

### MOVE DIRECTLY TO ACTIVITY

*(continued on next page)*

## ACTIVITY

**SAY:** Okay, so if disciples do two things-- follow Jesus and teach others to follow Jesus—let's play a game to practice that. Each of you get a **pair of chopsticks**. (Pass around chopsticks)

I've got a **cotton ball**. We're going to call this our "Follower of Jesus" cotton ball. Whoever has it has to think of ONE way he or she can follow Jesus and pass along the cotton ball.

I'll start. *(Give one personal example. Of course, keep it kid-friendly, but refer to a specific friend you can love or person on your street you could meet, etc.)* Now, I'll pass along the cotton ball, using **ONLY** my chopsticks. Let's see if we can do it!

**DO:** Pass the cotton ball around the circle. Some kids may have trouble thinking of a way they can follow Jesus. If so, refer to the list below for ideas. They are general ideas, but help kids make them specific.

*(continued on next page)*

## QUESTIONS

### REACT/RELATE

(if the group did well passing the cotton ball, you could pass it again and have each person answer the react questions as they pass it on)

4. Does anything about being a disciple surprise you?
5. Who taught you to follow Jesus? (press kids to think of positive influences in their lives)
6. Is there anybody who *you* could show how to follow Jesus?
7. We're going to read a verse. This is the message Jesus gave his disciples before he went back to Heaven. He told his followers somebody would help them. See if you can figure out who it is:

**Matthew 28:18-20: I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."** Who is with us? (Jesus!)

**\*Pray together** and ask God to help each of you to follow Jesus this week and to love him more than anything or anyone.

### **COLLECT KIDS' CHOPSTICKS!**

**\*If you have extra time, you could play the chopstick game again, but try for speed. Or, if it's clear all small groups are finished, you could compete to see how many kids can pass it in a row without dropping it.**

## ACTIVITY

1. Love others ALL the time—that means your annoying little brother or sister, your friends, any kids in your class (even those who aren't your friends)
2. Obey your parents—even when you don't feel like it or you're doing something else and they ask you to help them. Or when obeying them means you miss out on something with your friends
3. Love God—learn about Him through reading the Bible, praying, listening to him, spending time with Him, talking to others about him

**\*\*As you play, make sure you implement this important object lesson:** As the cotton ball passes from kid to kid, it will hopefully get dropped at *least* once. Take that opportunity to remind kids that following Jesus is hard work and we'll mess up sometimes. But that's okay—He loves us anyway. So we can just pick up right where we were (pick up the cotton ball!) and follow him again. (Let the kid who dropped it try again!)

**\*\*GO BACK TO QUESTION 4 (REACT/RELATE)**

## special notes

Today starts with a game that serves as an object lesson—and you're the game show host! Feel free to adapt the game for your site or service—just keep the focus spreading news fast, a person or two at a time!

## presenter tips

Emphasize the TWO roles of disciples: 1. loving Jesus more than anything or anyone and 2. Showing others how to follow him.

## script

### WELCOME

Welcome to Kids' Club, everybody! I'm glad you're here today. This is a really exciting time of year! Does anybody know why? Let me give you a hint. (**Put up the football picture**). Yes, it's *almost* time for the Super Bowl—it's happening next week!

And just like your parents have a cool service planned for them...Kids' Club has an awesome service planned for YOU! In case you missed last week's trailer, let's watch it again.

### Video: Super Bowl trailer

### REVIEW

Wow, I hope you all can make it. Next week, we'll talk about David and Goliath. But for now, let's learn some more about Jesus and what it's like to follow him.

Remember, Jesus got baptized and then the Holy Spirit led him into the desert. But who else came to the desert to find Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, the devil! He tempted Jesus. Does anybody remember how Jesus got rid of the devil? (Let kids respond.) That's right, he remembered what God said in the Bible...and he followed GOD!

### GAME: SECRET WORD

Before we talk about today's story, we're going to play a little game called secret word. I have a secret word that I want all of you to know. But we're going to see how FAST the whole room can find out the word by telling it as a secret from one person to the next.

Here's how it works. First, I need 2 volunteers to come up here to start, but you'll all have to play. (Choose 2 kids. Once they are on stage, explain): Okay, I'm going to whisper a secret word. After I tell you, I'll hold up TWO fingers high, like this and keep them up (model).



## script continued

When you guys hear it, go out into the audience and *whisper* it to TWO more people. Once you've told two people, hold up TWO fingers high in the air.

Then, the people you tell should whisper it to TWO more people who don't know it and they'll hold up TWO fingers. Those people can tell two *more* people and hold up two fingers...this should go on until everybody has two fingers up! Basically, when you hear the word, WHISPER it to two people then hold up two fingers. Any questions? (Clarify for kids if necessary.)

Okay, let's see how FAST we can do this. Ready, set, go! (Whisper the secret word: *DISCIPLE*. Let kids tell others, etc. When everybody has two fingers up, say): Alright, what's the word? (Let kids yell "disciple!") One more time! (Let kids say "disciple.") Great job! Yep, the word is *disciple*. Some of you have maybe never heard that word before, but that's okay. Today we're going to find out what that is.

### INTRO: WHAT'S A DISCIPLE?

See, Jesus showed us how to follow God...but he wouldn't live as a man on earth forever. So he chose 12 guys to follow him. He called them DISCIPLES. (**Show picture of making disciples.**) The idea was, they would follow Jesus...and each one could teach somebody *e/so* how to follow Jesus (point to picture as you describe)...and those people would teach somebody *e/so* to follow Jesus...and this could go on and on until LOTS of people follow Jesus!

Kind of like how I whispered a word to two of you...who told two more...who told two more...and pretty soon the whole room knew! Except when you're showing people how to follow Jesus, you can tell as many people as you want!

### A DISCIPLE PUTS JESUS FIRST

So if we want to be disciples, it's important to know what Jesus' disciples did. They didn't just try to make good choices. They actually loved JESUS more than anything or anyone else and tried to follow him, even when it was hard—and even though they made mistakes. In fact, in Luke 14:26, Jesus says:

**SLIDE: You cannot be my disciple, unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot come with me unless you love me more than you love your own life.**

Wow, let's look at how Jesus first disciples loved him more than *anything*.

### JESUS CHOOSES HIS DISCIPLES

(**Show picture of fisherman on Sea of Galilee.**) Jesus first called two men while he was walking along the Sea of Galilee. They were two brothers named Peter and Andrew and they were on a boat, fishing. That was their job: they were fishermen. Do you think their job was important? (Let kids respond.) Yes, it's how they made money to eat and live!

But here's what Matthew 4:19-20 says: (**show slide**): **"Come. Follow me," Jesus said. "I will make you fishers of people." At once they left their nets and followed him.**



### script continued

Fishers of people means instead of trying to catch a whole bunch of fish, they would try to tell a whole bunch of PEOPLE about JESUS! Andrew and Peter left their job to follow Jesus. They loved Jesus MORE than ...what? Shout it out. (Let kids respond: their job!)

### **JAMES AND JOHN LEAVE THEIR BOAT AND THEIR FATHER**

(Go back to the picture of fishermen.) Yep, and a little after that, Jesus saw two OTHER guys fishing with their dad. Their names were James and John. Boating with their dad was probably one of their favorite things to do.

Think of your favorite thing to do. Maybe it's going skating or playing video games. (Give kids a second to think.) Now think of your favorite *person* to be with. Maybe it's a friend, a brother or sister, or parents. **Turn and tell a friend your favorite thing to do and your favorite person to be with.** (Let kids turn to share with a friend.) Now think—just in your head—would you be willing to give up doing your favorite thing with your favorite person...for Jesus? (Give kids a few seconds to think.)

Well, James and John were boating with their dad. But when Jesus called them, Matthew 4:22 tells us what they did:

**SLIDE: Right away they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.**

James and John loved Jesus more than...what? (Let kids respond: boating with their dad or doing their favorite thing with their favorite person.) Yes! And that's just the first four guys Jesus called! The twelve disciples *each left everything to follow Jesus!*

And by following Jesus, the 12 disciples taught *others* to follow Jesus—how to love him more than ANYTHING because he rescued us. And eventually, the news of Jesus' rescue spread throughout the world!

### **WORSHIP**

In small groups, we'll talk about what it might look like to be a disciple of Jesus. But first, let's worship together. As we worship, think about what kinds of things you can do to follow Jesus!

**Song: Because You Love Me (with hand motions)**

**Song: Crazy Love (with hand motions)**

### **PRAY**

Ask somebody to pray and ask God to show us how to follow Jesus!



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## small group supplies

1 set of chopsticks per kid (any kind is fine, but here is one discount website:

[http://www.webstaurantstore.com/727/disposable-chopsticks.html?gclid=CJrazuTf27MCFQJx4AodMTA\\_Ajg](http://www.webstaurantstore.com/727/disposable-chopsticks.html?gclid=CJrazuTf27MCFQJx4AodMTA_Ajg)

2-3 cotton balls per small group

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## large group supplies

NIV Adventure Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Image: football
2. Video: Super Bowl trailer
3. Image: making disciples (jpeg in curriculum folder)
4. Slide: Luke 14:26 (exact wording in script)
5. Image: fishermen (jpeg in curriculum folder—will use twice)
6. Slide: Matt 4:19-20 (exact wording in script)
7. Image AGAIN: fishermen (jpeg in curriculum folder)
8. Slide: Matthew 4:22 (exact wording in script)
9. Worship video: Because you Love Me
10. Worship Video: Crazy Love (use music video called Crazy Love with Dance Moves in Music Video folder)

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## special room set-up

none

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## connect questions

What's a disciple?  
Tell me about Jesus' disciples.

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## parent page

Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples. They left *everything* to follow and teach others about Jesus. You can read about Jesus' disciples in Luke 14:26; Matthew 28:13-20; and Matthew 4:18-22 in the Bible. We talked about ways we can be followers of Jesus (disciples!) too.