



3PK

February 9-10, 2013

DATE

Jesus Chose Friends to Follow Him

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 4:18-22

WHERE TO FIND IT

We can follow Jesus

MAIN POINT

schedule

SCHEDULE for all sites:

First 10 minutes of the service hour:

Relationship-building time (kids get to know each other and the volunteers)

Next 25 minutes: Large group teaching and worship

Last 30 minutes: Story review, snack and small groups, activities/crafts

If you finish early, have kids engage group games as parents arrive. Check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

tips

Have activities ready for kids when they arrive. Place coloring pages and crayons on the table or help kids engage in other activities like playing with a truck or baby doll. Use this time to get to know the kids individually. Ask them questions like: "Who brings you to church?", "What's your favorite...", etc.

check-in/out

As kids leave, tell parents something positive about how their kid followed Jesus today. It'll give them an idea of the lesson—and probably be encouraging for many of them to hear!

large group heads up

Today's all about the time Jesus chose friends to follow him. Their reaction was immediate and joyful obedience.



instructions

Goal: To practice following *right* when Jesus speaks!

Why? Jesus' disciples left everything immediately when Jesus called—we want to practice joyful obedience like theirs.

Tip: Make following Jesus really, really joyful. Your smile and excitement will be contagious!

QUESTIONS

**DO THE ACTIVITY FIRST

Then, have kids sit at the table, serve them a snack, and begin the review questions.

REVIEW

1. What special word did Jesus call his friends who followed him? (disciples)
2. It didn't matter if Jesus' friends were working or having fun, when Jesus said, "Come with me!" they said, "Let's go!"
3. Who else does Jesus want to be his friend and follow him? (You! You can point at each kid, have kids tell each other, name other friends and members of the kids' families—include everyone!)

*Pray together and thank Jesus that he wants all of us to be his friends. If kids finish their snacks, have more fun following with a Crazy Parade! (See below) *(optional activity on next page)*

ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY ONE

SAY: Now let's have some fun following! We'll practice following Jesus by playing a game called Simon Says. But we're going to call it "Jesus Says" to practice following Jesus. As soon as Jesus says to do something...you've got to do it! Ready?

DO: Line the kids up so they can all see you. Be the voice telling them what Jesus says. The typical way to play "Simon Says" is to occasionally just say a command, without preceding it with "Simon says." In this case, say "Jesus says" every time. That way, kids won't get confused about obedience, since following Jesus means they would obey *you*, too!

Give kids simple tasks. Feel free to adapt for your group and add, but here's a list to get you started:

(Continued on next page)

QUESTIONS

Crazy Parade (OPTIONAL IF TIME PERMITS)

Walk around the room in a variety of ways:

- with your new wristband in the air
- on your heels
- on your toes
- forward
- backwards
- quickly
- slowly
- left
- right
- standing tall
- bent over
- arms in front
- arms behind
- hands on head
- hands on toes
- with a partner
- in a curved line
- etc.!

You can lead or choose kids to be leaders. To mix things up, add music.

ACTIVITY

Jesus says...

- Touch your toes
- Spin around
- Talk to God ("Hi God!")
- Reach as high as you can
- Reach as low as you can
- Give a friend a high five
- Tell a friend you love Jesus (Let kids say: "I love Jesus!")
- Pretend you're a fish, like in the story
- Pretend you're going fishing
- "Come with me" (have kids repeat "Let's go!" You could even lead them around the room)

***HAVE KIDS SIT AT THE TABLE, SERVE THEM A SNACK, AND THEN (DURING SNACK) ASK THEM THE REVIEW QUESTIONS**

special notes

Feel free to adapt to best fit your site location and service time. Keep the main points and story of the lesson the same, but if you know that your kids will stay more engaged if they whisper “Let’s go!” (instead of yelling), switch it up! If they can handle a parade across the room to practice following, add it in before the songs.

presenter tips

Today’s lesson is all about following Jesus. Use the space on the stage to model that following Jesus is active!

script

Presenter: Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid’s Club. I’m _____ and I’m really glad you’re here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend, HOPS. She’s going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make today in Kids’ Club.

Video: HOPS 2 Obey Your Leaders (about 1 minute)

REVIEW

Presenter: (Hold up the **Bible** for kids to see.) This is God’s story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. It’s God’s Rescue plan.

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? But then something bad happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sadness and death came into the world! Show me your sad face and thumbs down. (Let kids respond.)

So God sent his own son, Jesus, to rescue us from all the wrong things in the world. Show me your happy face and thumbs up! (Let kids respond.)

INTRO: JESUS CHOOSES FRIENDS

And Jesus came to live on earth, just like us! A special man named John helped show us how to follow Jesus. Jesus wanted everybody to follow him, including us. Today, we’re going to learn about how Jesus chose some special friends to follow him. He called his friends “disciples.” Can you guys say “disciples?” (Let kids say it.) One more time: “disciples!”

Jesus’ friends—the disciples--were SO excited to follow him! When Jesus says, “Come with me!” They say, “Let’s go!” (Put your thumbs up when you say it to prep kids for the rest.)



script continued

So, as we hear today's story, I need your help! Every time Jesus says, "Come with me!" I want you guys to say, "Let's go!" and give me a thumbs up. Let's practice. Jesus says, "Come with me!" Your turn: (Lead kids in saying): "Let's go!" (Giving a thumbs up)

PETER, ANDREW, JAMES and JOHN

(Show picture of men fishing) Two guys named Peter and Andrew were fishing one day, on a boat. That was their job and how they made money. They had to catch a lot of fish. They were VERY busy. Let's pretend we just caught a HUGE fish (hold **the fake fish**).

But Jesus said, "Come with me!" And right away, Peter and Andrew said.... (Lead kids in putting thumbs up and saying): "Let's go!" (Throw the fish dramatically behind you.) They left their job and their fish to follow Jesus.

Then Jesus saw TWO more guys fishing. They were just fishing for fun. They were having a great time, just catching fish and hanging out with their dad. It was the BEST! Let's all laugh together (lead the kids in a loud "hahahaha!")!

But as SOON as Jesus said, "Come with me!" James and John said.... (Lead kids in putting their thumbs up and saying): "Let's go!" (Run to the other side of the stage to model active following.) Following Jesus was WAY better than any really fun thing, like fishing!

(Show picture of all 12 disciples.) Jesus asked 8 more people to follow him! He didn't care if they were smart or silly or tall or short or fat or skinny or strange. All that Jesus wanted was for his friends to follow him. When he said, "Come with me!" He wanted his friends to say.... (Lead kids in putting thumbs up and saying): "Let's go!"

JESUS WANTS US TO BE HIS FRIENDS

Jesus wants US to be his friends too. He loves it when we follow him. It's like he's saying to ALL of us, "Come with me!" And we should say...(lead kids in putting thumbs up and saying): "Let's go!" Great job!

Let's pray together today. (Lead kids in prayer, breaking it into small, repeatable parts.)

Pray: Hi God! Thanks that Jesus chose friends! Thanks that we can be his friends! We love you! Aaaaaaa-men!

Now let's stand up and sing two songs to say thank you to Jesus for choosing friends to follow him. We learned one of these last week, so follow me for the motions (refresh the kids if you have time).

Song: Come With Me

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop--like Hops--to their groups.)



script continued

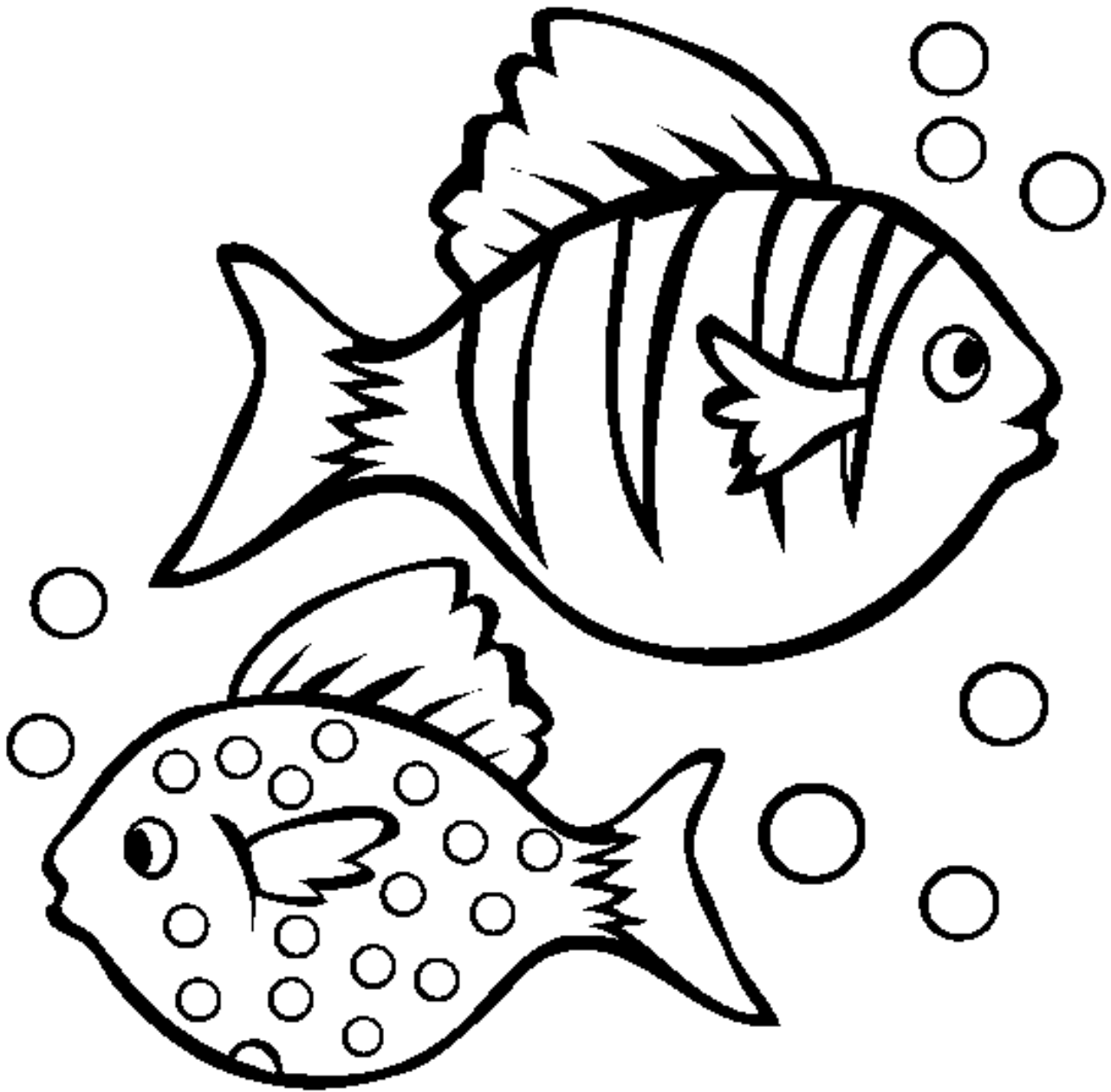
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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

Coloring pages

large group supplies

Jesus Storybook Bible

One fake fish, something like

<http://www.wholesalepartystore.com/store/p/49724-Tissue-Bubble-Fish-asstd-colors-1-Pkg-.html?feed=Froogle> or could do flat version like:

<http://www.stumpsparty.com/party/Assorted-Plastic-Fish.cfm>

a/v needs

1. Video: HOPS 2 (Obey Your Leaders)
2. Image: p. 212 from Jesus Storybook Bible (remove text—just three men leaving their baskets of fish ALREADY IN SERVER)
3. Image: p. 251 from JSB (Jesus sitting teaching to a circle of people)
4. Song: Come With Me
5. Song: Jesus Loves Me

special room set-up

None

connect questions

What's a disciple?

What did Jesus' friends do when he said, "Come with me?"

parent page

Today, we talked about how Jesus chose some friends to follow him. Right when he said, "Come with me!" they left everything they were doing to follow Jesus. You can read about it in Matthew 4:18-22 in the Bible.