



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

February 14-15, 2015

DATE

Luke 14:28-33; Matthew 5:43-44; Matthew 6:19-21 Adventure Bible (pp. 1147, 1057, 1058)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Discipleship

LESSON TITLE

Following Jesus is Radical

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (10 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (20 minutes):** Begin NO LATER THAN 15 minutes after the service starts. We want kids to have time for stations.

**Stations (30 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

**\*\*Please notice that today's schedule is different.** Read the instructions about how to implement stations ahead of time. As a team, make sure you all have a plan before kids even enter the room.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents how they plan to follow Jesus this week.

## large group heads up

Following Jesus is radical, and it's important that kids know that. But don't forget to talk about why it's worth it to follow Jesus. He gives us radical love and promises to spend eternity with us! Feel free to share what *you* love about following Jesus.

## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### GROWING GESTURES

*Put kids in small groups (if one adult has to lead several groups, that's OK)*

- Choose a **leader to make up a gesture** (any type of movement will do—a head nod, a shrug, sticking one arm in the air, etc.)
- **Move around the circle clockwise.** The second person must mimic the leader's movement and add his/her own. The third person must repeat the first *and* second person's and his/her own. Continue adding as each group goes around the circle. This should become very difficult and very silly!
  - *Alternative way to play:* If kids seem shy, put them in pairs and let groups of two make up and mimic gestures.
- **Debrief:**
  - What were you guys doing?
  - Was it hard or easy? Why?
- **Then let kids share the best and worst part of their weeks.**

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them of your expectations for behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) consider two different ways that they can follow Jesus and (2) make a plan to follow Jesus this week.

**Why?** Following Jesus can be difficult, but it's completely worth it! Jesus actually calls us to plan ahead as we consider how it looks in our lives.

**Tip:** Depending on the size of your group, you may want to have two stations and switch or set up 4 or 6 stations.

## small group

### **SMALL GROUP STATIONS AND WRAP-UP ACTIVITY**

*You've got two stations today. Then end in small groups with the final step. **After Large Group, divide the remaining time into three parts (one for both stations and a final wrap-up), and stick to that schedule!***

#### Station #1: Love Your Enemies

##### **Instructions:**

- Read **Matthew 5:43-44**. Ask kids what it means. (Let them describe it in their own words.)
- Then ask kids to describe a person they have a hard time loving (no specifics). If they have trouble, read one of the **scenarios** provided on a separate sheet of paper.
- On a **large, tear-off sheet of paper**, ask kids to **write** ONE word to describe how Jesus might have responded in that situation.
- Go around and share words and elaborate. Ask kids: What's hard about this? Why do you think Jesus wants his followers to act like this?
- Review as many situations (either real or from the paper) as you can.

*\* Be careful not to oversimplify complicated bullying situations. These verses are about stopping bitterness and hatred and choosing love, not remaining in an unsafe environment. Use discernment as you discuss it.*

**Items:** (1) large, tear-off sheet of paper, (2) paper with scenarios and (3) Matthew 5:43-44 verse card



Station #2: Where's Your Treasure?

**Instructions:**

- Have kids use **play dough** to sculpt one thing they love. You could pose it like this: if you were going to a deserted island and could only bring along one thing, what would it be?
- Then read **Matthew 6:19-21**. Ask kids what it means. (Let them describe it in their own words.)
- Explain how we all have things we care about on earth. But Jesus calls us to store up treasure in Heaven. ASK: What does that mean?
- Then sculpt one thing to show how we can store up treasures in Heaven. (You may have to help them out. It could be a person loving others, a Bible to represent spending time getting to know God, etc.)

**Items:** (1) Play Dough and (2) Matthew 16:19-21 verse card

FINAL STEP: Make A Plan

**Instructions:**

- Read **Luke 14: 28-33**. Ask kids what it means. (Let them describe it in their own words.)
- Let's plan ahead, just like Jesus asks us to!
- Choose a **footprint**. **Write** ONE way you will follow Jesus this week. Maybe it's one way you can love a bully. Maybe it's one thing you can do to show that you want to store up heavenly treasure. But take a minute and write that thing down.
- **Ask:** What will be difficult about what you wrote? Why is it worth it to follow Jesus? (Share reasons you follow Jesus!)

**Items:** (1) footprints and (2) Luke 14:28-33 verse card

***\*Pray with kids, asking God to help them to follow him with their whole hearts this week and always.***

Then lay the footprints down across the floor (either in small groups or as one whole group) and walk around, looking at what other kids wrote. But make sure kids bring their footprint home, so they remember their plan!

*If you have extra time, make another footprint. You've got 1 extra per kid! Ask kids what will be difficult about what they wrote. Ask them why it's worth it.*



## special notes

This should be shorter than usual. Make sure you begin NO later than 15 minutes after your service hour begins (and earlier, if you think you need more time).

## presenter tips

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN, TALK TO THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE ABOUT TIMING**

## script

*\*Click to play intro music*

Hi everybody, thanks for coming to Kids' Club today. It's great to see you here! You know, I was watching you guys during Connect Time...and you looked pretty silly. Can somebody tell me what you guys were doing? (Let a kid explain it.) Oh, so you were basically trying to follow each other. Got it. Was it *hard* to follow each other? (Let 2-3 kids share and explain their answer.)

Yes, maybe it got harder to remember everything. That makes a lot of sense. Did any of you find it harder to do certain motions, because they were *really* silly? (Let kids respond.) I think I would have felt the same way! You know, sometimes we think of following as simply being a copycat. But you guys had to really think to follow the leader in your group today, didn't you?

### **FOLLOWING JESUS**

**(Click to show tower picture.)** Did you know that Jesus wants us to do the same thing when we follow him? He actually told us that when we make a decision to follow him, we should be like a person who builds a tower. That person would never start building without figuring out how much money it costs or what materials he needs.

**(Click to show battle picture.)** Jesus also told us we should be like a king who's going into battle with another king. He won't just rush some men into battle. He'll figure out how many soldiers that other king has and come up with an attack plan.

Just like that, when we choose to follow Jesus, we need to consider that he asks us to follow him with our whole lives. He asks us to love HIM more than anything or anyone or even ourselves. He asks us to be willing to do things that look silly, because most of the world doesn't follow Jesus—and to them, parts of it can look silly.



### script continued

So today, we're going to look at three ways we can follow Jesus. We're not going to spend as much time in our Large Group so that we have time to really talk about it.

### **WORKING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS**

And to think about how important this is, we're going to watch two short clips. You're going to see two people do two different things. They did things with their whole hearts. As you watch, see if you can figure out HOW they were able to do those things. Ready?

**Video: Girl playing guitar**

**Video: Boy playing basketball**

OK, so tell me some things the first person had to do. (Let kids say things like: practice, take lessons, give up free time to practice extra, etc.) Yes, it was hard work, right? And they didn't just play when they felt like it and end up being amazing. They had to think about what they were going to do to get good. Same with the second person. What kind of hard work did *that* person have to do? (Let kids respond. Some things will be similar.)

That's right, doing something with all of our hearts takes hard work. If we want to play an instrument well or win a spelling bee or pass a test at school or become a great athlete, we must work hard at it.

And if we choose to follow Jesus, he asks for our WHOLE hearts. The good news is, following him is the most important thing we could ever do, better than any skill we could practice. That's because following Jesus is worth it—Jesus loves us more than we could ever imagine, no matter what, and he promises that those who follow him will get to one day live with him forever in a perfect home.

### **JESUS LOVES US TOO!**

And you know what else?! John 3:16 tells us that God actually gave up what he cared about most...*for us*.

**SLIDE: John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.**

What did God give up for us? (Let kids say: Jesus!) Yes, and what did Jesus give up for us? (Let kids respond.) Yes, his whole life. If you guys haven't heard about Jesus before, he came to earth to die and take the punishment for all the wrong things we've done.

He was willing to give up everything to one day be with us. Think about it: Jesus was in Heaven with God. He didn't need anything. But he loved US so much, that he came to take our punishment, so that WE can live with him one day too!

So today in small groups, we're going to spend some time talking about what it means to love Jesus with our whole hearts. Another way to say that is that Jesus is our king or our boss. So let's sing a song to remind us that Jesus is our boss and we want to follow him!



script continued

**Song: Boss of Me (music video)**

**PRAY**

Ask Jesus to help us learn to follow him with our whole hearts!



script continued

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# PREP needs



## connect time supplies

Mimic the leader game – no supplies needed

## small group supplies

### Station #1:

Matthew 5:43-44 verse card per group  
1 large, tear-off sheet of paper per group  
markers  
scenarios

### Station #2:

Matthew 6:19-21 verse card  
Play Dough

### Wrap-up:

Luke 14:28-33 verse card  
Markers  
1 footprint cut-out per kid: On Amazon, search  
"Carson Dellosa Footprints Cut-Outs"

## large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1147, 1057, 1058)

## a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Image: tower
3. Image: battle
4. Video: Girl Playing Guitar (the first 1 minute of this video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIGfO2Dgc9Y>)
5. Video: Boy playing basketball (the first 39 seconds of this video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlqVvRh\\_cEY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlqVvRh_cEY))
6. SLIDE: John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.
7. Music Video: Boss of Me (Mae will have file if not on Vimeo)

## connect questions

Tell me about following Jesus.  
What are some ways we can follow him?

## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – Separate doc.