

# Unit 3: Jesus Wants Me to Follow Him

Lessons 9-13

**By the end of the unit, the leaders and learners will**

**KNOW** Bible people who followed Jesus.

**FEEL** a desire to do what Jesus did and said.

**DO** Use Bible verses to remember ways to follow Jesus.

## Unit Value

This unit helps children know some Bible people who followed Jesus and some specific ways we can follow Jesus. Throughout the unit the children can work to learn the names of the twelve apostles and some information about each of them. Following Jesus means doing what Jesus asks us to do or behaving in the way Jesus would behave. Stories 10-13 provide some concrete ways children can follow Jesus: 1) use Bible verses to help them know what is right; 2) feel a desire to follow Jesus; 3) help tell God's message to people they know; and 4) worship with their church family. Throughout the unit, the children will have repeated opportunities to learn what it means to follow Jesus, why we follow Jesus, and how to tell when they are or are not following Jesus.

The unit has an additional strength in its suggestions for helping children go beyond knowing ways to follow Jesus. Lessons 10-13 have options for helping the children follow Jesus' example of using Bible verses to remember what is right. For children who are learning about Jesus for the first time, this unit will be a great introduction to what it means to follow Him. For children who have grown up knowing who Jesus is, this unit provides the challenge of using Scripture to know what is right, just like Jesus did.

## Unit at a Glance

### **9 Jesus Is Baptized**

**Matthew 3:1-17**

When John preached, people repented and were baptized. But Jesus did no wrong. John baptized Him because it was the right thing to do.

### **10 Jesus Is Tempted**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

Each time Satan wanted Jesus to do wrong, Jesus remembered a Bible verse that helped Him to do right. We follow Jesus when we remember Bible verses that help us do right.

### **11 Jesus Invites Fishermen to Follow Him**

**Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-20;  
Luke 5:1-11**

Peter, Andrew, James, and John left everything to follow Jesus. We follow Jesus when we do what He did and do what He said.

## **12 Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles**

**John 1:43-49; Luke 6:12-16;  
Mark 2:13, 14; 3:13-19**

Jesus chose twelve apostles to help Him tell God's message to people.  
We follow Jesus when we help tell God's message to people we know.

## **13 Jesus and God's House**

**John 2:13-16**

Jesus helped people use the temple for worship and praying to God.  
We follow Jesus when we worship with our church family.

## **Unit Memory Block**

Twelve Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, Thaddaeus, Simon, James, Judas

**Memory Challenge:** Ephesians 6:1; Philippians 2:14; Ephesians 4:25; Hebrews 13:16; Luke 10:36, 37; Matthew 6:9

## **Bible Project** **Mini-Dramas**

The learners will choose and participate in a mini-drama that illustrates a way to follow Jesus. Each mini-drama should incorporate a Bible verse the children can use to help them follow Jesus. Assign an adult leader to guide each group of 4-6 children. (Use the memory challenge verses listed above.) The adult leader will direct conversation, write rough drafts and finished dramas so the children can concentrate on creating the situation and dramatizing it.

Use the activities and reproducible pages throughout the unit to give the children ideas of what to dramatize. Provide materials for props.

**Week 1:** Talk about situations in which children must make decisions to do what Jesus said.

Choose a Bible verse to use and make a rough draft of the mini-drama.

**Week 2:** Review. Write finished drama. Discuss needed props.

**Week 3:** Make props. Practice.

**Week 4:** Memorize the Bible verse. Practice.

**Week 5:** Rehearse all mini-dramas for each other as a dress rehearsal before the scheduled presentation.

**Materials:** Provide materials to help the children create and dramatize "following" situations. Print on large pieces of poster board the memory challenge verses listed on this page. Provide materials for props children suggest.

## Resources

### Music

"I'm Gonna Hide God's Word Inside My Heart" (words and music by Peter and Hanneke Jacobs)

*Bible Song Sing-a-long*; audio cassette, songbook

©Maranatha! Music.

"The Twelve Disciples" (words and music by C. Barney Robertson)

*The Third Sunday Sing-a-long*; audio cassette, songbook

©Maranatha! Music

"I Have Hidden Your Word" (Psalm 119:11, 9)

*Hide 'Em In Your Heart, Bible Memory Melodies, Vol. 2* (Steve Green)

©Sparrow Corporation/BMG

"We're Following Jesus" (words and music by Robert C. Evans)

"Peter Was a Fisherman" (words and music by Robert C. Evans)

*Follow the Leader*; audio cassette (The Donut Man)

*Sing-a-long Songbook*, ©Integrity Music, Inc.

"Matthew's Song" (words and music by Robert C. Evans)

*With All My Heart*; audio cassette (The Donut Man)

*Sing-a-long Songbook 3*, ©Integrity Music, Inc.

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### Bible Times Bread

Use this recipe in Lesson 25.

1 cup flour

½ teaspoon salt

¼ cup vegetable oil

3 tablespoons milk

Make the dough. Pat or roll the dough into flat cakes. If children help you prepare the bread, divide the dough among the children. Direct them to pat the dough or roll it with small rolling pins or olive jars. Prick the flat cakes with forks. Bake in an oven at 475° for six minutes or until brown around the edges.

# Jesus' Followers

Ruth Frederick

Traditional "Mulberry Bush"

1. Je - sus called some spe - cial men: Pet - er, And - rew, James and John,  
 2. Je - sus called some spe - cial men: Thom - as, Mat - thew, Thad - de - us,  
 3. Pet - er, And - rew, James and John, Phil - ip, and Bar - tho - lo - mew,  
 Phil - ip and Bar - tho - lo - mew, and they all fol - lowed Him.  
 Si - mon, James, and Ju - das, and they all fol - lowed Him.  
 Thom - as, Mat - thew, Thad - de - us, Si - mon, James and Ju - das.

# Following Jesus

Words and music by Janet Gallup

We're fol - low - ing, fol - low - ing Je - sus, We're  
 fol - low - ing, fol - low - ing Je - sus, Je - sus is lead - ing us,  
 He is our guide, We're fol - low - ing, fol - low - ing Him. —

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# Little by Little, Bit by Bit

Words and music by J. D. Miller

— by bit — I am trust - ing the Lord. Lit - tle by lit - tle, bit -  
 — by bit — Je - sus is lead - ing my way. — Work - ing to - geth - er, Je -  
 — sus and me, that's the way — it should be. Grow - ing and grow - ing, learn -  
 — ing each day, Je - sus shows me the way. Je - sus is lead - ing my way.

*2nd time to Coda*  
 Dm/C C C Dm/C C Dm/C C/G G<sup>7</sup> C B/D C/E F B/F F  
 B/F F G/F F G/F F C B/D C/E F B/F F  
 B/F F G/F F G/F F G D.S. al Coda C Dm/C C Dm/C C/G G<sup>7</sup> C

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to follow Jesus. What is one way to do what Jesus said? What is one way to do what Jesus did? How can we know what Jesus said or did? (Learn Bible verses.)

## Bible Project

**Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.**

Provide materials to help the children create and dramatize "following" situations. Print on large pieces of poster board the verses listed on page 58.

John's message helped people get ready to follow Jesus. In the next few weeks we will learn about some Bible people who followed Jesus and some ways we can follow Jesus. Following Jesus means doing what Jesus asks us to do or behaving in the way Jesus would behave. So we are going to create mini-dramas to show how Bible verses help us remember what Jesus says is right.

Assign an adult leader to guide each group of 4-6 children. Each group will choose a Bible verse and participate in a mini-drama that illustrates that way to follow Jesus. Suggested emphasis of each verse: Ephesians 6:1—obey parents; Philippians 2:14—use kind words; Ephesians 4:25—tell the truth; Hebrews 13:16—share; Luke 10:36, 37—help; Matthew 6:9—pray.

Talk about situations in which children must make decisions to do what Jesus said. Choose a Bible verse to use, choose a situation to dramatize, and make a rough draft of the mini-drama.

## Bible Sharing

**Share how Jesus wants you to follow Him.**

Provide a snack of crackers and honey. Consider having your snack in a different room or part of the building so the children can play a game on the way.

Following Jesus means doing what Jesus said or doing what He did. Think of one way you can follow Jesus. Then think of an action to go with it. For example, helping my mother is a way to follow Jesus, and I can help like this (pretend to rake). We're going to play "Follow the Leader." Whoever is the leader does a "following" action and everyone else follows. Allow the children to take the game on the road (throughout the building, if possible) to the room where the snack is prepared. Close with "Following Jesus" and prayer.

# Jesus Is Baptized

**Scripture: Matthew 3:1-17**

**Memory Block: Twelve Apostles**

When John preached, people repented and were baptized. But Jesus did no wrong. John baptized Him because it was the right thing to do.

## Goals

- Tell what message John the Baptist preached.
- Tell why Jesus said He should be baptized.
- Begin to memorize the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.
- Tell what it means to follow Jesus.
- Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.

## Bible Search

**Tell what message John the Baptist preached.**

Provide Bibles, copies of page 71 and pencils.

John gave people an important message to help them get ready to follow Jesus. Let's find John's message in the Bible.

Children will find Matthew 3:2 in their Bibles and work together to complete the Bible Search page. Give a copy of page 71 to each child. Guide the children to find the book of Matthew in the table of contents of their Bibles. Locate the page the book begins on, then the big 3 for the chapter and the small 2 for the verse. Slowly read the verse as children follow along. Help the children follow the directions on the page to complete the puzzle and write John's message on the bottom of the page.

Who helped people get ready to follow Jesus? What message did he give the people? What does repent mean?

## Bible Story

**Tell why Jesus said He should be baptized.**

Provide a chenille wire and a loaf pan of water. Before class, bend the wire into a stick figure. In the loaf pan of water, show how people in Bible times were typically baptized by bending their knees and going forward under the water. Show how we typically do it today.

**Whether you are baptized forward or backward isn't important. But your reason for being baptized is important. Listen to see why Jesus was baptized.**

The desert is a lonely, wilderness place. Usually no people are there. But a man named John wanted to be in the desert. John wore unusual clothes made of camel's hair. He fastened a leather belt around his waist and he wore sandals on his feet. Out in the desert, John ate unusual food: locusts and wild honey. And, out in the desert John had an unusual job. He spoke God's message: "Repent."

When John preached, the desert wasn't lonely anymore. Crowds of people came out from Judea, Jerusalem, and the area around the Jordan River. They came and went. They listened and thought about what John said. He told them, "You must change." People who decided to change said, "We have done wrong. We are sorry." Then John baptized them in the Jordan River. They walked down the river bank right into the water. John helped them go down under the water and come safely back up. Dripping wet, they may have felt like singing to God right there in that wilderness place.

In the crowd of people coming and going, Pharisees and Sadducees also came to see what was happening. Their flowing robes and somber faces made them look important to the people in the crowd. But John wasn't fooled. God helped John see that these men were only pretending to do what was right. John gave them a very stern message.

"You are snakes. You talk about doing right, but you never change. Show you want to do right by the things you do. Someone more important than me is coming. He will know you are only pretending to do right."

John was talking about Jesus. Jesus had been living in Galilee. Jesus came all the way to the Jordan River for John to baptize Him. But Jesus had never done anything wrong. John had done wrong things, so John said, "I need to be baptized by you." Jesus still wanted John to baptize Him because it was the right thing to do. So John agreed.

When Jesus came up from the water, God showed He was pleased. Heaven opened and God sent His Spirit, in the shape of a dove, down onto Jesus. A voice from Heaven spoke, "This is my Son and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him." Jesus was not like the Pharisees and Sadducees. He didn't just talk about doing right. Jesus did what was right. ☐

Seat the children in four groups to represent the people in the story: John, crowd, Pharisees and Sadducees, Jesus. The group(s) whose name answers a question should stand and give the answer. Add more questions if time allows.

- Who preached, "Repent!"?
- Who changed and was baptized?
- Who did not change?
- Who came to the desert?
- Who always did right and still was baptized?
- Who did John baptize?

Summary questions: **What message did John preach? Why was Jesus baptized?**

## Bible Verse

**Begin to memorize the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.**

Provide copies of page 73 and 74 for each child, scissors, crayons or colored pencils, transparent tape, twelve cardboard toilet tissue tubes for each child. Fabric scraps and yarn are optional. Before class, prepare a tape of the song "Jesus' Followers," or prepare to sing it to the children.

**Jesus chose twelve followers (called apostles) to work for God with Him.**

Guide the children to cut out the twelve figures from pages 73 and 74.

Tape each figure to a cardboard toilet tissue tube. As the children listen to the song "Jesus' Followers," they can line up the figures in the order they are named. Then give the children time to practice pronouncing their names.

Optional: color the clothes or add cloth tunics (a rectangular piece of cloth with a slit cut for the head); tie the waist with yarn.

**How many men did Jesus choose to be His apostles? Let's say their names. (Teacher says one, children repeat it.) Let's take turns naming the apostles. (As a child names one, turn the figure around. Continue until all names have been said. Repeat.)**

## Bible and Me

**Tell what it means to follow Jesus.**

Provide a taped recording of "Following Jesus" and copies of page 72.

"Following Jesus" is printed on page 60.

Following Jesus means doing what He said or doing what He did. Bible verses can help us know what Jesus said to do. Let's learn a song that helps us remember how to follow Jesus.

Listen to "Following Jesus" and hum along. Join in when possible. Name a way to follow Jesus each time the song is sung. The children can use the pictures on page 72 to give them ideas and Scriptures.

**What does it mean to follow Jesus? Let's sing about what it means**

# Jesus Is Tempted

**Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11**

**Memory Block: Twelve Apostles**

Each time Satan wanted Jesus to do wrong, Jesus remembered a Bible verse that helped Him to do right. We follow Jesus when we remember Bible verses that help us do right.

## Goals

- **Tell what helped Jesus to do right.**
- **Name times Jesus did what was wrong.**
- **Memorize the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.**
- **Tell the difference between examples of following and not following Jesus.**
- **Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.**

## Bible Search

**Tell what helped Jesus to do right.**

Provide copies of page 75, Bibles and pencils.

**Knowing Bible verses helped Jesus do right. Let's practice finding the verses Jesus used.**

Children will find the verses from Matthew 4 in their Bibles and work together to complete the Bible Search page. Give a copy of page 75 to each child. Guide the children to find Matthew 4:4. Slowly read the verse as children follow along. Then read from page 75 what the verse means. Repeat this procedure for the next two verses. Match the verse to the picture that shows what the verse means.

**What helped Jesus do right? Make a guess of how many times Jesus did right.**

## Bible Story

**Name times Jesus did what was wrong.**

Hold a Bible in your hand as you tell the story. Each time in the story Jesus says a Bible verse, hold a Bible near your head. For the review time, provide six 3" x 5" inch cards. Print on the cards the sentences underlined in the story.

child following Jesus? How can you tell? (The child did what Jesus said to do.) What is the difference between following Jesus and not following Jesus in that situation? (One picture shows the child doing what the Bible/Jesus says; one picture does not.) What can help you do right? (Knowing Bible verses.)

## Bible Project

**Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.**

Provide materials to help the children create and dramatize "following" situations. Display the printed verses prepared for lesson 9.

**Jesus used Bible verses to help Him do right. Our mini-dramas with Bible verses will help us remember what Jesus says is right.**

Each group should have a rough draft of a mini-drama that emphasizes one of the following verses: Ephesians 6:1—obey parents; Philippians 2:14—use kind words; Ephesians 4:25—tell the truth; Hebrews 13:16—share; Luke 10:36, 37—help; Matthew 6:9—pray.

Read the rough draft, make any changes, and write the finished drama. Discuss and make a list of needed props.

## Bible Sharing

**Share how Jesus wants you to follow Him.**

Provide a Bible that can be handled by the children. For a snack, offer small individual hard rolls (with margarine or jelly) to remind the children of Jesus' first temptation. After the snack, use the Bible to help the children recite Bible verses they have memorized. (For children who are learning about Jesus for the first time, prepare slips of paper with one verse from the Bible Project section printed on each. Put these slips in the Bible.)

**Display the Bible. You can put this Bible on your head, in your hand, under your arm, and carry it with you all the time. But knowing what the Bible says, keeping the Bible in your mind, is the best!** Hold the Bible and recite a verse that helps you do right. Then give the Bible to a child. Encourage each child to recite a verse or part of a verse he has learned; or let him pull a slip of paper out of the Bible and read a verse about following.

**Optional:** Teach songs about learning God's Word: "I'm Gonna Hide God's Word Inside My Heart" or "I Have Hidden Your Word." See the resource list on unit page 59.

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**When Jesus needed to know what the Bible said, He didn't have to look in His Bible. He had learned many verses. So His Bible was in His head. Listen to see how that helped Jesus.**

Forty days and forty nights is a long time to be hungry. That's how long Jesus was out in the desert without any food. The desert is a wilderness place. The Spirit of God had led Jesus out to the desert so the devil could try to get Jesus to do wrong. And now, forty days later, Jesus' body was weak and very hungry.

The devil knew Jesus needed food. So that's what the devil used to try to get Jesus to do wrong. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread." The devil wanted Jesus to use God's power to make life easy instead of using God's power to do God's work. Jesus was weak. Jesus was tired. Jesus was alone. It would have been easy to do wrong. But Jesus also knew God would help Him remember Bible verses He had learned. One verse from Deuteronomy helped Him do right. Jesus told the devil this verse.

"A person does not live only by eating food." That verse meant doing what God says is the best way to live, even if it means not having everything you want. Saying that verse aloud must have given Jesus a surge of strength to keep defeating the devil.

The devil didn't give up easily. He took Jesus to Jerusalem, the holy city. Up on a high place of the temple, the devil asked Jesus to jump off. The devil wanted Jesus to see if God's angels would catch Jesus. Jesus knew about angels. Wouldn't it be fun to try it just once? Jesus also knew what God said in Deuteronomy in the Bible. "Don't test God." That meant we should not demand that God show His power for selfish reasons. This verse helped Jesus choose right again.

The devil tried a third time. He took Jesus up to a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the countries of the world and the great things in them. The devil said, "I'll give all this to you if you will bow down and show that you think I'm better than God." How would it feel if everything great in the world could belong to you? It sounded exciting, but Jesus knew it was one of the devil's tricks.

"Go away," Jesus commanded. Then Jesus spoke another verse He knew. The verse helped Jesus to do right again. "It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!'"

Three times the devil tried to get Jesus to choose wrong. Each time the devil failed because Jesus remembered a Bible verse that helped Him choose right. God had helped Jesus remember these verses. Then, after the devil left, God's angels came to help and care for Jesus. □

Use the six cards on which you have printed the underlined sentences from the story. Ask the children to put the six cards in story order. Then the children can read the cards as they dramatize the story. Different pairs of children can dramatize each temptation.

Summary questions: **What helped Jesus to do right? How many times did Jesus do wrong?**

## Bible Verse

### Memorize the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.

Prepare a taped recording of the song "Jesus' Followers" or prepare to sing it. Use a set of Jesus' apostles made in lesson 9 (pages 73 and 74).

**Jesus chose twelve apostles to work for God with Him. These men wanted to learn what Jesus would teach them. They wanted to do what Jesus did and obey what Jesus told them to do.**

In a random group, set up the twelve apostles figures made in lesson 9. As the children listen to (or sing) the song "Jesus' Followers," they can arrange the figures in order, into the four groups the song suggests.

- 1—Peter, Andrew, James, John
- 2—Philip and Bartholomew
- 3—Matthew, Thomas, Thaddaeus
- 4—Simon, James and Judas

Continue to sing the song (or do it as a spoken rhythm). Each time, remove one of the figures. When the large group begins to memorize the twelve names, take turns doing the song (or spoken rhythm) in small groups for more review.

## Bible and Me

### Tell the difference between examples of following and not following Jesus.

Provide copies of page 76 and crayons.

**Following Jesus means doing what He said or doing what He did. Let's see which of the pictures on our page show children who are following Jesus.**

The three situations (on page 76) each have two possible endings. Guide the children to choose which ending shows a child following Jesus and tell how they know that child is following Jesus. Check the Bible verse to see what Jesus would do. Use the following questions with each situation.

**What is happening in the first situation? What does the first answer show? What does the second answer show? Which picture shows the**

reason why we should follow Jesus. On sections 1 and 2, the child reads the answer given.

**What does it mean to follow Jesus? How can you know what to do to follow Jesus? (Bible verses.) What are some ways to follow Jesus? What might make it hard to follow Jesus? Why do we follow Jesus?**

## **Bible Project**

### **Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.**

Provide materials to help the children create and dramatize "following" situations. Display the printed verses prepared for lesson 9.

**Jesus invited four fishermen to follow Him. We can follow Him too. Our mini-dramas with Bible verses will help us remember to do what Jesus said or did.**

Each group should have a finished copy of their mini-drama and a list of needed props. For this session, work on making props, choosing parts, and practicing the mini-dramas at least once.

**Note:** Investigate possible groups for whom the children can present their mini-dramas. Encourage the children to work hard so they can demonstrate for others these ways and times to follow Jesus.

## **Bible Sharing**

### **Share how Jesus wants you to follow Him.**

Prepare a construction-paper fish for each child and secure a hair net. Before class, print one of the six Bible verse references on each fish (Ephesians 6:1; Philippians 2:14; Ephesians 4:25; Hebrews 13:16; Luke 10:36, 37; Matthew 6:9). Provide fish crackers for a snack. Gather the children together on the floor and let them snack while you introduce the activity.

**Following Jesus means doing what He said or doing what He did. Sometimes it's easy. Sometimes it's hard. Even when it's hard, we still want to follow Jesus. That's why we want to learn Bible verses that will remind us to do right.**

Distribute paper fish and ask children to look at the verse reference. At a signal, children should get up and find others who have their same verse. Once in the verse group, children can work together to learn the verse and say (or read) it with motions. Give groups three minutes to work; then ask everyone to share the verses. Close with "Little by Little, Bit by Bit" (unit page 60).

# **Jesus Invites Fishermen to Follow Him**

**Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11**

**Memory Block: Twelve Apostles**

Peter, Andrew, James and John left everything to follow Jesus. We follow Jesus when we do what He did and do what He said.

## **Goals**

- **Name four men who were fishermen.**
- **Tell what Jesus invited the fishermen to do.**
- **Recite the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.**
- **Tell why we follow Jesus.**
- **Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.**

## **Bible Search**

### **Name four men who were fishermen.**

Provide Bibles, copies of page 77 and pencils, props for Bible times fishing (badminton or volleyball net, construction-paper fish).

**There were many ways to earn a living in Bible times. One way was to be a fisherman. Let's read about fishing in Bible times and find the names of four men who were fishermen.**

Distribute page 77. Read the descriptions of each picture as the children follow along. Then guide the children to find the names of the fishermen in Matthew 4:18, 21. Guide the children to find the book of Matthew in the table of contents of their Bibles. Locate the page the book begins on, then the big 4 for the chapter and the small 18 for the first verse. Children can write the names of the fishermen on the bottom of page 77.

Then guide the children to use the information on the page and the net you brought to demonstrate Bible times fishing (pretend to be the four fishermen).

**Who were the four fishermen? Show us how they earned money to buy food and clothes.**

## Bible Story

### Tell what Jesus invited the fishermen to do.

Display a fishing pole or a picture of someone fishing. Provide a net (nylon netting or plastic fruit bag) and printed questions on paper fish (see the review questions at the end of the story).

### People in the Bible caught fish, but not like this. What did they do?

Ask the children to report what they learned from the Bible Search activity.

### Listen for something else four fishermen did.

Lake Galilee is a great place for fishing. My name is Andrew. My brother Simon and I, and our partners James and John, were experts at fishing. All four of us were fishermen until the day Jesus came and used our boat. He didn't take our boat away. I'll tell you what He did.

We had fished all night with our nets and boats. What a waste! When the sun came up, our nets were empty but our job was not done. Weeds, sticks and other things get caught in your net when you drag it through the water. If you don't keep your net clean, it will break. Keeping the nets clean was not fun, but we still had to do it.

That day, there was someone to listen to while we worked. Jesus was speaking God's message near us on the shore. So many people wanted to hear Him that they were pushing and pressing to get closer and closer. He would have backed right into the water if He hadn't climbed into Simon's boat. In the boat Jesus could sit down, the people could see Him, and He continued to speak.

When Jesus was done, He said to Simon, "Take your boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish." Well, how could Jesus know where the fish were? He wasn't a fisherman. Simon explained to Jesus how hard we worked fishing all night long. But, Simon also wanted to do what Jesus had told him. So, we rowed to the deep water with Jesus.

We hoisted the net over the side of the boat. The ropes and net slipped quietly into the water. Then, in a moment, the net started to pull away from me. It was getting heavier and heavier. It was getting away. "Help!" we called to James and John. "Come! Quick!" James and John arrived not a moment too soon. We struggled to haul the net in, but there were too many fish for our boat. In fact, there were too many fish for both boats. Our boats were so full of fish we were almost sinking.

What had happened? This was not a normal catch of fish. It had something to do with Jesus and we were scared. Simon spoke what he felt, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!" All of us were in awe of what Jesus had done.

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But Jesus told us, "Don't be afraid." He wanted us to go with Him. He said we would fish for men. Straining at the oars, we started back to shore. We thought about what Jesus said, and all four of us decided to follow Jesus. We left our nets. We left our boats so we could follow Him. We wanted to go where Jesus went, do what Jesus did, and obey what Jesus asked. We didn't wait for a second invitation. We followed Jesus.

From a net, let the children pull paper fish with questions about the story.

- Name two fishermen.
  - What was Jesus doing on shore?
  - Name two fishermen.
  - What did Jesus invite the men to do?
  - Why did Simon call for help?
  - What did Jesus tell Simon to do?
- Summary question: **What did the fishermen decide to do?**

## Bible Verse

### Recite the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.

Provide copies of page 78 and scissors.

Jesus chose twelve apostles to work for God with Him. These men wanted to learn what Jesus would teach them. They wanted to do what Jesus did and obey what Jesus told them to do.

Speak in rhythm (or sing) the song "Jesus' Followers" to review their names. Then learn about the twelve apostles from information on page 78. Cut the page into two sections: one section of sentences and one section of pictures. Give each child a set of pictures. As you read the phrases, the children find the picture/apostle's name that matches. When the children know the name of the apostle, they can raise their hands and take turns answering.

Who can say the names of the twelve apostles? Which apostle (fill in with information from page 78; ask a question for each man)?

## Bible and Me

### Tell why we follow Jesus.

Provide Bibles, copies of page 79, pencils, paper clips.

Following Jesus means doing what He said or doing what He did. Sometimes it's easy. Sometimes it's hard. Even when it's hard, we still want to follow Jesus. Let's learn why we follow Jesus.

The children will take turns reading a situation on page 79 and spinning the paper clip (as shown) to learn some ways and reasons for why we follow Jesus. When the paper clip stops on section 3, the child will give her own

What is happening? What could you do to follow Jesus? What would make it hard to follow Jesus? What did Jesus do in hard situations? Let's pretend you are the person in the situation. What could you say to God to let Him hear what you are thinking and feeling?

## Bible Project

### Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.

Provide materials to help the children finish and practice mini-dramas. Display the printed verses prepared for lesson 9.

Jesus chose twelve apostles to work for God with Him. These men wanted to do what Jesus did and obey what Jesus told them to do. We can follow Him too. Our mini-dramas with Bible verses will help us remember to do what Jesus said and did.

Each group should have a finished copy of their mini-drama and needed props. Work on memorizing the Bible verse central to the mini-drama and practicing the mini-dramas at much as possible. Next week is dress rehearsal for all groups.

Note: If you have not already done so, plan a time for the children to present their mini-dramas. Encourage the children to work hard so they can demonstrate for others ways and times to follow Jesus.

## Bible Sharing

### Share how Jesus wants you to follow Him.

Provide a snack of dried figs or raisins, or cookies with fig filling; also a kitchen timer. Try to find one of these songs by the Donut Man (Integrity Music, Just For Kids): "Matthew's Song," "Peter Was a Fisherman," "We're Following Jesus." See the resource list on page 59.

Gather the children together on the floor and eat fig snacks. Ask the children to tell which apostle was sitting under the fig tree. Choose one or more of the songs to listen to as the children eat. Between times of listening to the song(s), ask the children to tell something about one of Jesus' apostles or share a way to follow Jesus. Set the timer and share as many things as possible in one minute between songs.

Close the session with prayer. If possible, allow the children to choose a spot in the room to be "alone" (like Jesus on the mountain). Guide the prayer time with simple sentences about following Jesus.

# Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles

Scripture: John 1:43-49; Luke 6:12-16; Mark 2:13, 14; 3:13-19

## Memory Block: Twelve Apostles

Jesus chose twelve apostles to help Him tell God's message to people. We follow Jesus when we help tell God's message to people we know.

## Goals

- Tell what Jesus did before choosing twelve apostles.
- Tell what Jesus' apostles did.
- Recite the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.
- Tell what makes it hard to follow Jesus.
- Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.

## Bible Search

### Tell what Jesus did before choosing twelve apostles.

Provide Bibles, copies of page 80, colored pencils or crayons, transparent tape. Before class, prepare a cassette tape of the song "Help Us, Lord, Now to Pray" or prepare to sing it to the children (printed on page 114).

Jesus knew it was important to pray. He prayed about making right choices. One time He prayed all night before He chose His twelve apostles.

Guide the children to find the book of Luke in the table of contents of their Bibles. Locate the page the book begins on, then the big 6 for the chapter and the small 12 for the verse. Read the verse while the children follow along. Then distribute copies of page 80 and transparent tape. Make the prayer reminder and sing the song about prayer.

What did Jesus do before He chose His twelve apostles? What is one reason it is important to pray? (Ask God to help you make right choices.)

## Bible Story

### Tell what Jesus' apostles did.

Display a watch or clock. Provide copies of page 81 and pencils for review.

**What is the longest time you know of someone praying to God?  
Listen for how long Jesus prayed before He chose His twelve apostles.**

Where do you like to be in the spring when the leaves begin to turn green? One spring, I was under a fig tree and that's where Jesus saw me. My name is Nathanael, and Jesus saw me even before I saw Him. That spring, Jesus was traveling up and down the Jordan River to begin His work for God. Wherever He stopped, people listened. Some decided to follow along with Jesus so they could learn more.

My friend Philip and I were up in Bethsaida when Jesus found us. When Jesus invited Philip to follow Him, Philip couldn't wait to tell me. There I was, under that fig tree, when Philip came flying up to me. His words spilled out of his mouth, "Remember that Moses wrote in the law about a man who was coming, and the prophets also wrote about him. We have found him. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth."

Well, yes, I did remember what Moses and the prophets had written. But the part about Nazareth sounded like a joke. I told Philip, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?" But Philip didn't give up. He persuaded me to just come and see. Soon I could see I was wrong about Nazareth. When I talked to Jesus, I knew that this great teacher was the Son of God.

On another day, Jesus was teaching down by the lake. Walking along the sandy shore, He saw a tax collector's shelter ahead. Most people stayed away from tax collectors, but not Jesus. He walked straight up to that man. Levi was his name. Levi must have known who Jesus was. When Jesus invited him to follow along, Levi stood up, left everything, and went with Jesus. Wherever Jesus went, people decided to follow Him.

Jesus decided this was the time to choose some men to help Him do His work for God. These men would be His apostles. Choosing these men was so important that Jesus talked to God about it first. He picked His way up a mountain to find a quiet place to pray, alone. Then He prayed, all night.

As the sun lit the early morning sky, Jesus was ready. He called all of us who were following Him and explained He was going to choose some apostles. The apostles would travel with Jesus and preach in other places. They would have power to heal sick people and force demons to come out of people. From all of the followers, Jesus chose twelve of us (together, sing or say the names): Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew (Levi), Thomas, Thaddaeus, Simon, James and Judas. Together, the twelve of us helped Jesus bring God's message to everyone who would listen. ☐

Give each child a copy of page 81. Together complete the page by filling in the names of the twelve apostles.

Summary questions: **What did Jesus do before choosing twelve apostles? (He prayed.) What job did Jesus give to the twelve apostles?**

## Bible Verse

**Recite the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.**

Provide copies of page 78 (used in lesson 11) and if children need more review, play Tic-Tac-Follow using page 84.

**Jesus chose twelve apostles to work for God with Him. These men wanted to learn what Jesus would teach them. They wanted to do what Jesus did and obey what Jesus told them to do.**

Speak in rhythm or sing the song "Jesus' Followers," to review the names of the apostles. (Optional: Match apostles and phrases from page 78. Give each child a set of pictures. As one person reads the phrases, children find the picture and/or name of the apostle that matches.)

For more review, play Tic-Tac-Follow. With masking tape, mark a tic-tac-toe playing surface on the floor or table. Set one apostle figure (made from pages 73 and 74) in each of the nine squares. Give each team Xs and Os (page 84). If a team can name the apostle and tell one thing about him, they can put their X or O in that spot. Three Xs or three Os in a row wins a round. **What did Jesus' apostles do? Who can sing (or speak) the names of the twelve apostles? Which apostle . . .** (for each man, fill in with information from page 78)?

## Bible and Me

**Tell what makes it hard to follow Jesus.**

Provide copies of page 82.

**Following Jesus means doing what He said or doing what He did. Sometimes it's easy. Sometimes it's hard. Even when it's hard, we still want to follow Jesus. Remembering Bible verses and praying about what we will do can help.**

Distribute page 82. Give each child a turn to choose a situation on the page and demonstrate what a follower of Jesus would do. (Optional: Children can tell what Bible verse will help them do right in each situation. Verses: Ephesians 6:1—obey parents; Philippians 2:14—use kind words; Ephesians 4:25—tell the truth; Hebrews 13:16—share; Luke 10:36, 37—help; Matthew 6:9—pray.)

What does it mean to follow Jesus? Why do we follow Jesus? How do you know if you are following Jesus or not? Each time a child drops popcorn on the circle, ask: What is a way you followed Jesus by . . . (obeying, praying, telling the truth, helping, sharing, being kind)?

## Bible Project

**Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.**

Jesus knew that God's house was a place for worshipping God. Perhaps He knew that because of the Bible verses He had learned, (Isaiah 56:7, God's house is called a house of prayer). We can follow Jesus by learning Bible verses that help us do right. Our mini-dramas will show others how to do what Jesus said and did.

Each group should be ready for dress rehearsal! List the order of the mini-dramas on a chalkboard or tablet. (If you only have one group, invite parents to come to the dress rehearsal.) Allow time to assemble props. As the dramas are presented, encourage the audience to listen with respect and applaud each performance.

Announce arrangements you have made for the children to present their drama; distribute prepared permission forms if necessary.

## Bible Sharing

**Share how Jesus wants you to follow Him.**

Provide a snack of matzos bread (or make unleavened bread, recipe on page 59). Display the whip used in the Bible Story section. Gather the children together on the floor. Give them the matzos bread to eat while you introduce the activity.

The Passover celebration was very special. The bread you are eating is made without yeast, just like the bread Jesus ate the week of Passover. But the most important part of the story today is the fact that Jesus did what was right. We can follow Jesus by doing what He said or what He did. As we begin to share ways to follow Jesus, I will unite the whip. For each example you give of following Jesus, we will throw one cord away.

Close the session by worshipping God. Sing and pray together.

# Jesus and God's House

**Scripture: John 2:13-16**

**Memory Block: Twelve Apostles**

Jesus helped people use the temple for worship and praying to God. We follow Jesus when we worship with our church family.

## Goals

- Tell what Jesus did when He came to the temple.
- Tell why Jesus forced the men and animals out of the temple.
- Recite the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.
- Report times and ways they have followed Jesus.
- Demonstrate times and ways to follow Jesus.

## Bible Search

**Tell what Jesus did when He came to the temple.**

Provide Bibles, copies of page 83, pencils.

One day in the temple, Jesus showed He was angry because the people in the temple were doing wrong. They were not worshipping God.

Guide the children to find the book of John in the table of contents of their Bibles. Locate the page the book begins on, then the big 2 for the chapter and the small 14 for the first verse. Slowly read verses 14-16 while the children follow along. Distribute page 83. Guide the children to read the sentences with you, cross out the wrong sentences, and number the rest of the sentences in story order. Solve the puzzle to tell why Jesus was angry.

**What did Jesus do? Why did Jesus make the men leave the temple?**

## Bible Story

**Tell why Jesus forced the men and animals out of the temple.**

Before class, make a "whip" from 12-15 pieces of 24" long yarn. Knot the yarn at one end and again in the middle, so it looks like a whip. Prepare 3" x 5" cards with review questions.

**What things do we use to do spring cleaning? Allow children to suggest; then display the "whip." Listen to see what kind of spring cleaning Jesus did in the temple with one of these.**

From far away places, people traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Jesus went too. Maybe He thought about the Passover when He was twelve years old. That year He had stayed in the temple to listen and ask questions. Even then, He knew that God was His Father and that He must do His Father's work. Now, as Jesus brought God's message to people, people listened to Him and asked Him their questions.

At the end of their trip to Jerusalem, people got ready for special things they did at a Passover. They sacrificed a lamb and ate a special meal. For a whole week they ate bread made without yeast and did not work. Children asked, "Why are we doing these things?" And fathers explained how each part of the Passover helped them remember what God had done to bring His people out of Egypt.

But when Jesus entered the temple, He didn't hear people talking about what God had done. Instead, the sounds of flapping wings, lowing cattle, and bleating sheep roared in His ears. Coins clanked as people crowded around the money tables in the courtyard. The temple was not built for buying and selling. It was built for worshipping God. People were not thinking about God. They were thinking about getting more money by selling animals right in the middle of the temple court. Jesus knew these selfish people were not interested in how the Passover could help them remember God.

Without a word, Jesus took cords and made them into a whip. (Demonstrate "whip.") Moving across the temple court, He flung the whip back and forth to drive those dirty, noisy animals out. People and animals bumped into each other as they crowded to get away from the whip. Oh the noise! The owners of the animals must have felt angry. But Jesus was angry too. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. With coins rolling everywhere, you can imagine greedy people trying to grab some to stuff into their money bags. Then Jesus turned to those who were selling doves and spoke clearly, "Get these out of here. How dare you make my Father's house a place for buying and selling." No one argued with Jesus. Jesus loved His Father and He loved being in the temple to worship Him. Father. Jesus did not allow people to use the temple for doing what was wrong. Instead, He helped clean out the temple so people could celebrate the Passover and remember how great God is. □

Tapa prepared 3" x 5" cards to pieces of yarn in the "whip." Print one of the following questions on each card. As you shake the whip, the children can take turns pulling off a question to answer.

- Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem?
- Had Jesus been to a Passover before?

- What did people do at a Passover?
  - What did people remember at a Passover?
  - What did Jesus see in the temple?
  - What did Jesus do in the temple?
- Summary question: **Why did Jesus force the men and animals out of the temple?**

## Bible Verse

### Recite the names of Jesus' twelve apostles.

Provide Xs and Os from page 84 and a tic-tac-toe grid (masking tape). Jesus chose twelve apostles to work for God with Him. These men listened and learned what Jesus taught them. They learned to do what Jesus did and they worked hard to obey what Jesus told them to do.

Speak in rhythm or sing the song "Jesus' Followers" to review the names of the apostles. If children need more review, play Tic-Tac-Follow. With masking tape, mark a tic-tac-toe playing surface on the floor or table. Set one of the apostle figures (pages 73 and 74) in each of the nine squares. Give each team their Xs or Os. If a team can name an apostle and tell one thing about him, they can put their X or O in his spot.

**What did Jesus' apostles do? Who can sing (or say in rhythm) by themselves the names of the twelve apostles? Which apostle . . .** (for each man, fill in with information from page 78)?

## Bible and Me

### Report times and ways they have followed Jesus.

Provide copies of page 85 and popped popcorn. Following Jesus means doing what He said or doing what He did. Sometimes it's easy. Sometimes it's hard. Even when it's hard, we still want to follow Jesus. Remembering Bible verses and praying about what we will do can help.

Play a game to help the children report times and ways they have followed Jesus. For each group of 4-6 children, provide a copy of page 85 and a bowl of popcorn. Give each child a turn to close his eyes and drop a piece of popcorn onto the circle. For each section, the children will report a real way or a real time they did (or could) follow Jesus. Each time someone reports how she followed Jesus, she can autograph that section. Try to continue until every section has at least two autographs.