



### WEEK 3 - March 2020 - PRESCHOOL

**Bible Story Focus:** Everyone can follow Jesus.

Matthew (Tax Collector) • *Matthew 9:9-12*

**Memory Verse:** “Come and follow me,” Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19, NIV

**Key Question:** Who can you follow?

**Bottom Line:** I can follow Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

#### **Make it True**

*Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world.*

-Large group time

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**9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE**

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**LARGE GROUP SCRIPT:**

**Bible Story**

**What You Need:** A Bible and jumbo play money

*Optional Story Images can be found in the Large Group Images folder. (02\_LG35\_Stage\_Images) They can be used in conjunction with this script.*

**STORYTELLER:** “Hello, everyone! I’m so glad to see you guys today. I have an awesome TRUE story straight from the Bible, and it begins in a town with lots of people. And in this town, there was a man named Matthew. What was his name?”

**CHILDREN:** “Matthew!”

*(Option: Story Image W3 01)*

**STORYTELLER:** “Yes, Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector. *(Fan out the money in front of you.)* That means his job was to collect money for the town from everyone. *(Stick a small amount of the fanned out money in your pocket.)* But the problem was that tax collectors took more than they were supposed to *(pick up the rest of the money and stick it in your pocket)*, which meant that nobody wanted to be their friend.

“One day, someone SUPER important came to town. Can you guys guess who it was? *(Pause.)* Yes. Jesus, God’s Son—the most important leader ever—came to town! Can you guess who Jesus talked to? *(Pause.)*”

*(Option: Story Image W3 02)*

“Yes! Jesus talked to Matthew. He walked right up to Matthew and said, ‘Follow me!’ Do you think Matthew followed Him?”

“Of course! Matthew got up and followed Him because Jesus is the most special leader. The people who saw Jesus talk to Matthew were confused. Show me your confused face. *(Pause.)* They didn’t know why Jesus wanted to be friends with a tax collector. But everyone can follow Jesus and be His friend.

*(Option: Story Image W3 03)*

“Later, Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, and everyone was invited. And I mean everyone! Let’s help them serve the food. Can you fill a plate with food? Go ahead. (*Mimic filling your plate with food.*) Yum, it smells so good! Great job! Now pretend to hand off the plate to serve someone else. We can serve all the people who were at Matthew’s house that day. Great job!

“Jesus came to serve everyone because Jesus came so that EVERYONE can follow Him, even if you’re like Matthew and made a bad choice. Jesus came for ALL the people. Everyone can follow Jesus. **Who can you follow?**”

**CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: [*Bottom Line*] “I can follow Jesus.”**

**STORYTELLER: [*Bottom Line*] “I can follow Jesus.** You can follow Jesus. EVERYONE can follow Jesus. Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus so that everyone can follow Him.”

### **PRAYER**

**STORYTELLER:** “Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus. Thank You for showing us that everyone can follow Jesus! We love You so much. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

*(Host enters. Storyteller exits.)*

*CG: Bible Story Wrap-Up Video*

### **Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God**

*Engage kids’ hearts through dynamic and interactive worship in a Large Group setting.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Welcome, friends! Do you remember what we’re learning all month long? **Who can you follow?**”

**CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: [*Bottom Line*] “I can follow Jesus!”**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “I want to follow Jesus wherever He goes! Let’s sing this out to Him.

*(Lead children in singing “Follow On,” this month’s worship song.)*

“That was beautiful! **Who can you follow?**”

**CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: [*Bottom Line*] “I can follow Jesus.”**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Yes, you can! Our memory verse reminds us that we can follow Jesus! Let’s practice it together. *“Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and follow*

*me (march),” Jesus said (hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19. (Open hands like a book.) Let’s say it together.*

*(Say the verse and do the motions several times together.)*

“Good job, friends! Jesus is the MOST special leader, and we can follow Him always! I can sing and dance because He’s number one. **[Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**

***(Lead children in singing “Wow Oh Wow”)***

“Jesus can do anything! And we can follow Him. That makes me want to say, ‘Wow Oh Wow!’ **Who can you follow?**”

**CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: [Bottom Line] “I can follow Jesus.”**

*Dismiss children to small groups.*