



## WEEK 1 - March 2020 - PRESCHOOL

**Bible Story Focus:** John told people that Jesus is special.

John the Baptist • *Matthew 3:3-4, 11, 13-17*

**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 Fun

*Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.*

-Follow the path

### Make it True

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

-Large group time

### Make it Stick

*Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.*

-Memory verse  
-Do as I do  
-Follow Jesus  
-Journal and prayer

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**9:10-9:25 | 10:40-10:55 | 12:10-12:25 - MAKE IT FUN**

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### **1. Follow the Path**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** Six or seven pieces of construction paper in the following colors: orange, pink, green, and blue; and floor tape

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Lay the paper down on the floor of your activity area to create four different paths, laying like colors together. You should have an orange path, a pink path, a green path and a blue path. Use floor tape to secure the pages to the floor.

*During the Activity:* Gather the children in the activity area. Encourage the children to hold hands with their friends and walk down each path, calling out a different color each time. Between each round, have the children come back to where they started so you can call out a different colored path.

*After the Activity:* Pick up the construction paper.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come gather here with me. Tell me: What color paths do you see? (*Pause.*) That's right. There's a green, a pink, an orange, and a blue path.

*During the Activity:* "Everyone grab the hand of a friend and follow me along the green path." (*Repeat with remaining paths.*)

*After the Activity:* "That was fun! You paid attention and followed. Great job! In our Bible story today, we'll hear all about someone we should ALL follow."

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by continuing to play "Follow the Leader." Change up how you walk or move your arms as you go in order to keep interest high.

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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 Overview:**

Story Focus: John told people that Jesus is special. We will start the month with someone who wanted people to know who the best leader is. His name is John the Baptist, and he spent his life teaching people that the best leader was coming and they should follow Him.

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**9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 MAKE IT STICK**

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### **1. Memory Verse with Motions**

#### **Hear from God | Memory Verse Review**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children. "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.)

*During the Activity:* Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "I am going to say our new Memory Verse today. Everyone, watch me! "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.)

*During the Activity:* "Now let's do it all together! Are you ready? "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.) (Repeat several times.)

*After the Activity:* "Our Memory Verse tells us that God LOVES us so much that He gave us Jesus! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**"

### **2. Do As I Do**

#### **Live for God | Application Activity**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Gather the children in your activity area.

*During the Activity:* Lead the children to follow you as you perform various movements or stretches. Ideas are listed below. After several rounds, select a child as the leader. Play as time and interest allow.

Movement Ideas:

Reach down and touch your toes

Reach up high with both hands

Clap your hands

Stomp your feet

Reach down and pat your knees

Reach across your body and grab your shoulder

Pat your tummy

**What You Say:**

*During the Activity:* “Friends, come over here with me. Everyone stand so you can see me and do what I do! Follow my movements. Ready? Reach down and touch your toes!”

*After the Activity:* “Everyone march in place and say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can follow Jesus.’** (*Stop marching.*) Great job! And you are right; you and I can follow Jesus. He’s the best leader ever! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”

**3. Follow Jesus**

**Live for God | Application Activity**

*Made to Create:* An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

**What You Need:** “Jesus” and “People” Activity Pages, cardstock, and one-inch label paper

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy the “Jesus” Activity Page onto the cardstock. Copy the “People” Activity Page onto the label paper. You will need five stickers per child.

*During the Activity:* Give each child a “Jesus” Activity Page and one of each sticker. Help the children place each sticker behind the picture of Jesus so that they are following Him.

*After the Activity:* Send the Activity Pages home with the children.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “We can follow Jesus!”

*During the Activity:* (Give each child an Activity Page.) “Jesus is on our page. (Point.) Everyone should always follow Him. Let’s add people behind Him so that they can follow Jesus, too!” (Do activity.)

*After the Activity:* “Great job! Everyone should follow Jesus because He is God’s Son. Jesus is the BEST! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**”

#### 4. Journal and Prayer

##### Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**What You Need:** Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Matthew 4:19. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “It’s Small Group time. Let’s pretend you are little birds and I’m the big bird leader. Come on, little birds. Flap your wings and follow me!

*(Pretend you are a bird by flapping your arms and saying, “Chirp, chirp,” as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)*

“We made it, little birds! Thank you for following me. Now let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

*(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)*

“Our Bible story today was about another leader we should follow. He is the BEST, most special leader ever! Do you remember who the best, most special leader ever is?

*(Pause for response.)*

“You got it! Jesus is the best, most special leader ever. And John the Baptist wanted everyone to know it. That’s why he told everyone to follow Jesus. Mommies can follow Jesus. Daddies can follow Jesus. **[Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.** You can follow Jesus. Everyone can follow Jesus!

“That’s why when I ask, ‘**Who can you follow?**’ I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can follow Jesus.’ Who can you follow?**”

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

**SGL:** “Who can you follow?”

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

**SGL:** “And I have a Bible verse for us to remember that will help us know that Jesus wants us to follow Him.

*(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“It says: *“Come and follow me,” Jesus said, Matthew 4:19.*

*(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“Wow! Jesus wants you and me and everyone to follow Him!

“Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** *“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.) (Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)*

**SGL:** “That was awesome!

*(Give two thumbs up.)*

“Let’s sit down now so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

*(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“John the Baptist told people that Jesus is special and they can follow Him. Let’s make a list of people we can tell about Jesus so they can follow Him, too.”

*(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“Now that we have our list of people, we can talk to God and ask Him to help us tell them about Jesus. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

*(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

## **Prayer**

**SGL:** “Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that everyone can follow Him. I pray that *(name each child)* will follow Jesus. And I pray that You will help them tell *(read the names on the list)* about Jesus so they can follow Him too. Jesus really is the BEST, most special leader ever! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

