



### 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 Fun

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

-What's for dinner?

#### 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.*

-Story ordering  
-Rhythm stick  
-Footprints  
-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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### **3. What's For Dinner?**

*Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning*

**What You Need:** Cups, plates, napkins, plastic ware, placemats, cookware, play food, and other kitchen utensils

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

*Before the Activity:* Set out all the table setting supplies in the center of the table. Set all the cookware, play food and kitchen utensils nearby or in a play kitchen if you have one.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to pretend to cook a special dinner and then set the table to serve.

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

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, has your mom or dad ever invited friends or family over for a special meal? Let's have our own special meal together. First, you will need to cook and prepare your food. Then you'll need to set the table for your guests. Work together as you prepare the meal!"

*After the Activity:* "This table is lovely and the food smells delicious! I'd come to a dinner party at your house anytime. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about how Jesus invited himself over for dinner. Let's go!"

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to prepare for a meal. Practice stirring, chopping, etc., as you prepare the food. Then pretend to set the table with the placemats, napkins, cups, plates, etc. Children will pantomime as they travel.

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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: Everyone can follow Jesus. We will see in week three that anyone can follow Jesus— even disliked, not so honest, tax collectors like Matthew. The choice Matthew made to follow Jesus changed him forever. When he walked away from his tax table, Jesus replaced his love for money with a love for people.

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

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## **1. Story Ordering**

### **Talk About God | Bible Story Review**

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

**What You Need:** "Bible Story Images" Activity Pages and cardstock

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

*Before the Activity:* Copy the "Bible Story Images" Activity Pages onto cardstock, one set of images per activity.

*During the Activity:* Gather the children to sit on the floor of your activity area. Hold up the four images in story order as you review today's Bible story. Then shuffle the images and see if the children can work together to put them in order.

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

*During the Activity:* "Friends, do you remember our Bible story from today? Let's see if we can put these in order as we talk about what happened. Matthew, a tax collector, met Jesus. Jesus said, 'Come and follow me,' And Matthew did! Jesus came to Matthew's house for dinner even though Matthew had made some bad choices. Jesus still wanted Matthew to follow Him. Why? Because EVERYONE can follow Jesus."

*After the Activity:* "Why did Matthew choose to follow Jesus? Because Jesus wanted to be his friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend and my friend forever, too. Everyone can follow Jesus. **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**"

## **2. Rhythm Stick Following**

### **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:** Rhythm sticks (or anything that can create a beat)

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

*Before the Activity:* Gather the children to sit down in a circle in your activity area. Pass out the rhythm stick/makers, and instruct the children to lay the sticks on the floor in front of them. Set your own set of rhythm sticks on the floor in front of you.

*During the Activity:* Ask the children to reach down and pick up their rhythm sticks. Lead them to follow you as you tap the following patterns/rhythms.

### Rhythm Stick Ideas:

Tap and freeze

Steady tap

Fast tap

Rub sticks together quickly

Click in front

Hug to chest

Tap up high

Tap in front of chest

Repeat any of these in any combination as time and interest allow.

*After the Activity:* Have the children follow you as you set your sticks on the floor in front of you. Collect all rhythm sticks for clean-up.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Friends, come sit with me! I’m going to pass out some rhythm sticks. Please put them on the floor in front of you. Leave your rhythm sticks on the floor until I say, ‘Pick them up!’”

*During the Activity:* “I want you to watch and listen and then do what I do with your own set of rhythm sticks. Are you ready? Okay, pick them up!”

*During the Activity:* “Okay, friends, put them down! Set your sticks back down on the floor in front of you. Great job, friends! You followed me, the rhythm stick leader! Who can you follow ALL the time? *(Pause.)* Yes, Jesus! He’s the BEST leader of all. **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”

### 3. Footprints

#### 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:** “Footprints” Activity Page, cardstock, and markers

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock (one per child).

*During the Activity:* Give each child an Activity Page. Use the marker to trace the child’s foot (*shoe on or off*) onto the Activity Page to the left of Jesus.

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

#### What You Say:

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

*During the Activity:* “We are going to make a picture of how we can follow Jesus.” (*Do activity.*)

*After the Activity:* “We have a picture of you following Jesus! (*Point.*) You can take it home and tell your family that they can follow Jesus, too. **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 turtles and I’m the big turtle leader. Remember, turtles walk very slowly, so we need to walk like this (*demonstrate*) to our Small Group spot. Come on, little turtles. Follow me!

*(Pretend you are a turtle as you walk slowly to your Small Group spot.)*

“We finally made it! 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 a guy named Matthew. Jesus walked right up to Matthew and said, ‘Follow me.’ What did Matthew do when Jesus said, ‘Follow me’?”

*(Pause for response.)*

“He sure did! Matthew got up and followed Jesus!

“Jesus wanted Matthew to follow Him, even though Matthew had made some wrong choices. Can we follow Jesus even if we have made wrong choices?”

*(Pause for response.)*

“We sure can! Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! And when we do, Jesus will help us make right choices. So tell me: **Who can you follow?**”

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

**SGL:** “You got it!

*(Give two thumbs up.)*

“Okay, who’s ready to say the Bible verse we have been learning? I’ll read it one time and then we can say it together with the motions.

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

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

*(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“Did you hear that? Jesus wants you and you *(point to each child as you continue to say ‘you’)* 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:** “You sound awesome!

*(Clap for the children.)*

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

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

“Jesus wanted Matthew to follow Him, even though he had made some wrong choices. Let’s make a list of wrong choices—things we know we should not do. We can use the list when we pray.

*(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.)*

“Reading the list we made makes me want to yell a big THANK YOU to God! Let’s do that right now. 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! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that Jesus wants us to follow Him, even though we have made wrong choices. And thank You that Jesus helps us make right choices. We don’t want to do things like *(read the list the children made)*. We want to follow Jesus and do what He does. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

