



WEEK 4 - March 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: I can follow Jesus.

The Twelve • *The Gospels*

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.

-Find the disciples

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 chain
-Craft stick review
-Dance party
-Journal and prayer

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

3. Find the disciples**

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

What You Need: For each classroom a few male Little People® figures

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Hide all of the little people

During the Activity: Let the kids take turns finding the little people around the room.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "There are people toys we are missing."

After the Activity: "Nice work! We found all of the people. Today we are going to hear a Bible story about 12 people who followed Jesus!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by counting to 12 as you walk to the story area.

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

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: I can follow Jesus. It wasn't just Andrew, Peter, James, John, and Matthew that followed Jesus, as we will see during week four. Jesus asked twelve men to follow Him, and they did. We know them as the Disciples. Those twelve men followed Jesus everywhere. They watched, learned, and were changed. And, they went on to help others—lots of others—follow Jesus too. We can all follow Jesus.

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

1. Memory Verse Chain

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

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: “Memory Verse Word Strips” Activity Page, seven different colors of cardstock, scissors, and a stapler

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Memory Verse Word Strips” Activity Pages onto colored cardstock and cut apart. Choose a different cardstock color for each word of the verse. Put the strips in order, and place a set of strips at each spot at the table.

During the Activity: Review the memory verse and motions together. Then show the children how to bring the ends of the first strip together to form a ring. Go around the tables and staple each ring. Encourage the children to run the next word through the strip, calling out the next color/number so that they select the correct word. Continue until the children have added each word to complete the verse.

After the Activity: Set the rings aside for pick up.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Friends, do you remember our memory verse for this month? Let’s say it together with the motions. “*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.)*

The words of our verse are on each of these strips. Everyone, hold up your [color] strip with the number one. It says, ‘Come.’ That’s the first word of the verse. Bring the ends together like this to make a ring (*demonstrate*) and I’ll come around the staple it in place. Let’s put the rest of the verse together.” (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: “You can take this chain home and share the verse with your family. When Jesus said, ‘Come and follow me,’ He was speaking to some special friends. But you and I can follow Jesus, too. He’s the BEST leader we could follow! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”

2. Craft Stick Review

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: “Disciples and Jesus” Activity Page, cardstock, craft sticks, clear tape, and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. You should have 12 disciples and one Jesus cutout. Tape each cutout to a craft stick to create puppets.

During the Activity: Give each child a disciple, and keep the Jesus puppet yourself. Lead the children around the room while holding up the puppets.

After the Activity: Retell the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s be Jesus’ disciples!”

During the Activity: (Give the children the puppets and lead them around the room.) “I will pretend to be Jesus and you can be Jesus’ disciples. The disciples were Jesus’ best friends. When Jesus said, ‘Follow me,’ they did! FOLLOW ME!” (Continue activity.)

After the Activity: “The disciples followed Jesus, and so can we! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**”

3. Dance Party

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: The monthly song

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Turn on the music.

During the Activity: Play the music and encourage the children to dance in a line while playing following the leader. Repeat so that everyone gets a turn to be the leader.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s dance!”

During the Activity: “When you hear the music, start dancing while we play ‘Follow the Leader.’ Follow me!” (Do activity.)

After the Activity: “Great job! We can ALL follow Jesus! **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. This time, let’s pretend you are little puppies and I’m the big dog leader. Can you go, ‘Ruff-ruff,’ like a little puppy? *(Pause.)* You sound like little puppies to me! Come on, little puppies. Follow me!

(Pretend you are a dog as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

“Here we are, little puppies! 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 12 men called the disciples. Jesus told all of the men to follow Him. And they did! They became Jesus’ closest friends and they followed Jesus everywhere He went.

“Are the 12 disciples from our story the only people who can follow Jesus?”

(Pause for response.)

“Noooooo. Everyone can follow Jesus! [Child’s name] can follow Jesus and *(repeat with each child’s name)*. So, tell me: **Who can you follow?**”

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

SGL: “Yes, you can! You can follow Jesus just like the disciples did. And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that Jesus wants us to follow Him. 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.)

“See? Jesus wants us to follow Him, too! 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: “Wow! You are so good at saying that verse!

(Give each child a high five.)

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

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Jesus asked 12 men to follow Him, and they became His closest friends, the disciples. Jesus wants us to follow Him, too! That’s why I want each of you to write your name in our prayer journal today. I want to pray that we will all follow Jesus.

(Say each child’s name, and let them write their first name in the prayer journal. Encourage them to do the best they can. They may only know the first letter of their name, and that’s okay.)

“You did a wonderful job writing your names. Thank you for doing that! Let me add my name because **[Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus**, too. (Write your name.)

“There. 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 that my friends (name each child) get to come to church and hear about how much Jesus loves them. Thank You that they get to hear that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. I pray that (name each child) will follow Jesus, because He is the best friend we could ever have and He will always lead us the best way. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”