



WEEK  
**ONE**  
MARCH 2022

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



## FOLLOW

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Floor tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Tape a straight line on a table or the floor.

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow me."

**ANDREW & PETER;  
JOHN & JAMES  
MATTHEW 4:18-22;  
LUKE 5:1-11**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Place the Little people figures around the tape. Ask the children to choose one of the children in the room to be the leader. Then invite the other children to stand behind the leader on the tape line. Repeat the activity by choosing a different leader and allowing the children to place themselves in a different order on the tape line each time.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Today we are going to talk about how we can follow Jesus!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's practice following someone! First, we need to choose a leader. Awesome! This one will make a great leader! Let's put the leader at the top of the line. Now we can work together to all stand behind the leader so they can follow them! Fantastic job! Let's do it again with another leader!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job having the people follow the leader! I am so excited to hear our Bible story today on how we can all follow Jesus!"

## MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by playing follow the leader made as you walk to the story area.

## KEY QUESTION

Who can be friends  
with Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

Everyone can be  
friends with Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



**MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**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.

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says, "Follow me."

**ANDREW & PETER;  
JOHN & JAMES  
MATTHEW 4:18-22;  
LUKE 5:1-11**

"Come (motion towards self) and follow me," (march) Jesus said," (hands by mouth) 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 will say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me! "Come (motion towards self) and follow me," (march) Jesus said," (hands around mouth) Matthew 4:19." (Open hands like a book.)

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me," Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? "Come (motion towards self) and follow me," (march) Jesus said," (hands around mouth) Matthew 4:19." (Open hands like a book.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse tells us that we can all follow Jesus! Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who can be friends with Jesus? Everyone can be friends with Jesus!**"

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can be friends with Jesus?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Everyone can be friends with Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.





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**MADE TO CREATE**  
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



## FOLLOW ME ON THE CRAZY STRAW

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Follow Me Label" and "Follow Me Parent Note" Activity Pages; Online Labels® #OL1025WX or equivalent; cardstock; crazy bendy straws; foam smiley face stickers; foam sheets; sandwich zipper bags; utility knife; scissors; and permanent marker

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow me."

**ANDREW & PETER;  
JOHN & JAMES  
MATTHEW 4:18-22;  
LUKE 5:1-11**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Follow Me Label" on label paper, one per child. Copy "Follow Me Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Cut foam sheets into 1 1/2" x 2" rectangles, one per child. Stick one Jesus label towards the top of each foam rectangle. Cut a 1/4" slit under the Jesus sticker. Cut a 1/4" slit in each smiley face sticker. (You may need cut more foam rectangles and stick the smiley faces to them if too small.) Write child's name on their straw and zipper bag.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to thread Jesus halfway onto the straw. Follow with the smiley faces. Move Jesus a little, then move the smiley faces. Repeat as many times as desired. Place pieces and Parent Note in each child's zipper bag.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible story.

### KEY QUESTION

Who can be friends  
with Jesus?

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, friends! Follow me to the table. (Pause.) I have a fun 'follow Jesus' craft for you to make today."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Find your picture of Jesus. (Pause.) Take Jesus and slide Him on your straw like this. (Demonstrate.) Great! Jesus said, 'Follow me,' and people did. Slide the smiley faces on behind Jesus. (Pause.) Now that your smiley faces are on the straw, move Jesus forward and say, 'Follow me.' (Pause.) Follow me. (Repeat.) Now move your smiley faces to follow Jesus. (Pause.) Keep going until you get to the end of your straw, then you can do it all over again. (Repeat as many times as desired.) Super-duper friends! Now put everything in your plastic bag to take home."

### BOTTOM LINE

Everyone can be  
friends with Jesus.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In today's story, we learned about some fishermen named Andrew and Peter who were brothers, and John and James who were also brothers. Jesus was walking by one day and said, 'Come follow me.' God's Son, Jesus wanted to be friends with the fishermen. He wanted them to follow Him. And they did! They wanted to be friends with Jesus, too! These four fishermen, Andrew, Peter, John, and James followed Jesus and became His really good friends called the disciples. Jesus wants to be friends with you, too! Jesus wants to be friends with everyone! **Who can be friends with Jesus? Everyone can be friends with Jesus.**"

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.



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25 MINUTES

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Matthew 4:19, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time!

Today, we'll play 'follow the leader' all the way to our small group spot. I will be the leader, and you will follow

me. Stand up, do what I do, and follow me! (*Do silly actions for the children to follow as you lead them to your small group spot.*) Way to go! We made it! Now let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

"Our Bible story, today, was about when Jesus said to His friends, 'Follow me.' The very first friends Jesus told to follow Him were fishermen. They didn't wear fancy clothes. They didn't have a lot of money. They probably smelled like stinky fish. (*Hold nose.*) Yuck! But because Jesus wants everyone to be His friend, Jesus told them to follow Him. And they did!

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow me."

**ANDREW & PETER;  
JOHN & JAMES  
MATTHEW 4:18-22;  
LUKE 5:1-11**

"Hearing stories about the people Jesus talked to and ate with and told to follow Him helps us know that **Everyone can be friends with Jesus.** That's why, when '**Who can be friends with Jesus?**', we'll say '**Everyone can be friends with Jesus!**' Let's try it! **Who can be friends with Jesus?"**

### MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,'  
Jesus said."

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "Everyone can be friends with Jesus!"**

**SGL:** "That's right! Jesus wants everyone to be His friend and follow Him. And the Bible verse we're going to learn will help us remember to follow Jesus. It says . . . (*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.*)

### KEY QUESTION

Who can be friends  
with Jesus?

"Those are Jesus' words. Let's stand up and say them together with these motions I'll teach you. Just say what I say and do what I do."

### BOTTOM LINE

Everyone can be  
friends with Jesus.

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'Come (*motion towards self*) and follow me,' (*march*) Jesus said,' (*hands around mouth*) Matthew 4:19." (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

**SGL:** "You sound awesome! And you did a great job with the motions, too! (*Give two thumbs-up.*)

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) Since Jesus wants everyone to be His friend, when I say your name, I want you to stand up and say, 'I can be friends with Jesus!' Got it?



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## (JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Okay, listen for your name as I write it in our journal. When I say your name, stand up and say, 'I can be friends with Jesus!' (Say each child's name and write it down. Encourage them to stand and say, "I can be friends with Jesus." Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"Yay! **Everyone can be friends with 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 Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that [child's name] can be friends with Jesus. Thank You that [child's name] can be friends with Jesus. (Continue with each child.) And thank You that I can be friends with Jesus, too. You're the best, God, and we love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

