

FOOTPRINTS

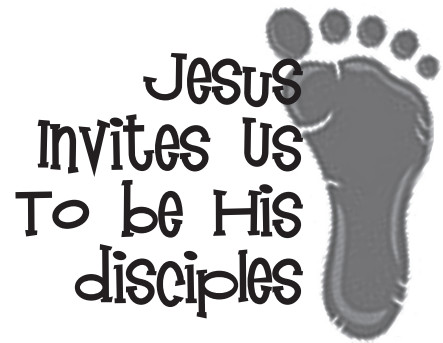
Leader's Guide for LESSON 1

For Kids

Disciples Wanted for a Lifetime Adventure!

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. To begin your group time together, invite the participants to share. **Ask:** Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week? (Acknowledge all responses.)

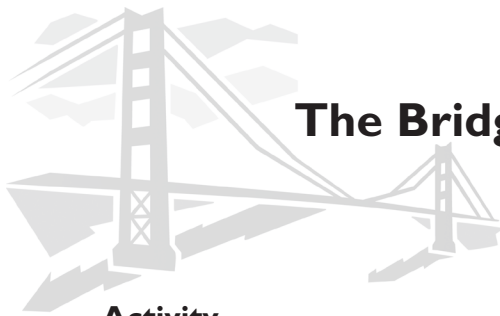


Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** what it means to be a disciple
- **Feel** ready to be Jesus' disciple
- **Respond** by saying "yes" to following Jesus now

A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day to love Jesus and bring others to Him.



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Distribute one set of clues to each family group.

Say: Follow the clues to find an adventure.

Allow time to work then call the family groups back together to report to each other.

Debrief

Ask: Why would anyone want to go on an adventure to one of these places? (It would be interesting, exciting, fun, relaxing, etc.) Was it difficult or easy to think of something special to do on this adventure? (Acknowledge responses.) In what ways might the adventure you planned be like the adventure of following Jesus? (Acknowledge responses.)

Say: Jesus invites each of us to go on an adventure with Him. Just as each family adventure was different, nobody else's adventure with Jesus will be exactly like yours.

Prayer: Say a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to guide you as you begin your small group adventure in being disciples of Jesus.

You need

- Cards with trip descriptions on them
- One set of clues for each family

Ahead

Write the following on index cards: Side One: TRIP of a LIFETIME —1) African Safari to see wild animals; 2) Antarctica to see Penguins and Polar Bears; 3) Egyptian Pyramids and the Sphinx; 4) mountain climbing; 5) ocean/beach to swim and snorkel; 6) trip around the world. Side two: 1) Decide which trip your family would like to take together. 2) Be prepared to tell the whole group why you would like to take this trip and what interesting things you would do there.

Hide the index cards at different places around the room then write a set of clues to locate each card.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus invites us to be His disciples.

Option 1 – You need:

- **Props:** Chairs for boats, fishing net or two old sheets
- **Characters:** Jesus, Peter, Andrew, Zebedee, James, John
- **Costumes:** (Optional) Adult size T-shirts to cover child's clothes; men's ties for belts; a red scarf or length of cloth to go over Jesus' right shoulder.
- **Setting:** Arrange chairs to form two simple boats on opposite sides of the room. Peter and Andrew kneel on the seats and lean out of one boat, pulling in their net. Zebedee, James and John fish from the other boat.

Read Matthew 4:18-22 as participants mimic what is happening in the story.

You need

- A large sign or poster board to be displayed every week on which is written "A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day to love Jesus and bring others to Him."
- White board or flip chart
- Markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Be sure to include the number reference for each passage 1-5.

OR

Option 2

As a volunteer reads Matthew 4:18-22, pause occasionally to ask the group experiencing the story to consider what they would have seen, heard, or felt, if they had been there.

Debrief

Ask: Why did Jesus want these men to come with Him? What would you do if Jesus stood right here right now and asked you to follow Him on an adventure? (Acknowledge all responses.)

Say: Today we are going to explore a Bible story and discover that Jesus calls us to be His disciples just like He called Peter and Andrew and James and John.

Write on the board: "Disciples of Jesus..."

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

- 1 Read Matthew 4:19.** What are the two actions that Jesus asked Peter and Andrew to take? (Come and follow.)

Write on the board: Come to Jesus

Write on the board: Follow Jesus

- 2 Read Matthew 4:20.** Immediately after Jesus called Peter and Andrew to come and follow Him, what did they do? (They left their nets.) In other words, they left what they were doing.

Write on the board: Leave what keeps them from following Jesus

Ask: Do you think it was easy or hard for them to leave their work and follow Jesus? (Acknowledge all answers.)

- 3 Read Mark 8:34.** Who does Jesus want to come to Him? (Anybody.)

Write on the board: Can be anybody

Ask: What kind of people did Jesus hang out with? (All kinds of people: rich, poor, popular, unpopular, healthy, sick, kind, mean, fun-loving, serious, etc.) People whom others looked down on.) What does this tell us about Jesus? (Jesus loves all people; He doesn't look down on people.)

- 4 Read Mark 3:14.** Jesus appointed twelve people to be His special disciples that we call apostles. What two things did He want for them? (To spend time with Him; to go out to preach.)

Write on the board: Spend time with Jesus

Write on the board: Tell others about Jesus

- 5 Read Matthew 28:19.** Before He left this earth, Jesus gave His disciples a challenge. What was it? (Go and make disciples of all nations.)

Write on the board: Make disciples for Jesus

Say: Jesus offers you the joy of helping a friend become His disciple too.

Ask: Why do you think this is important?

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What did we learn about disciples of Jesus?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: Jesus wants each of us to go on a discipleship adventure with Him.

Leader Share briefly your experience of saying “yes” to Jesus and following Him as His disciple. What difference has this made in your life? In what way has this been an adventure for you?

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



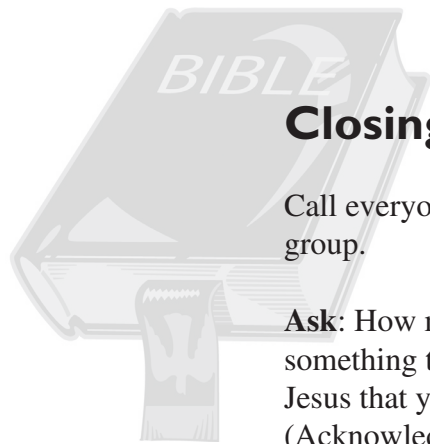
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: How many of you thought of something to do this week to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple? (Acknowledge responses.)

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple.

Say: Let's say the lesson *Footprint* together — **Jesus invites us to be His disciples.** I'm excited that we are beginning a discipleship adventure together today/tonight.

Close with a prayer of thanks for:

- Jesus' invitation
- the discipleship adventure that the group will be experiencing over the next months together

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to be His disciples.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Disciples of Jesus ...

1. Come to Jesus..... Matthew 4:19
2. Follow Jesus..... Matthew 4:19
3. Leave what keeps them from following Jesus Matthew 4:20
4. Can be anybody who wants to follow Jesus..... Mark 8:34
5. Spend time with Jesus Mark 3:14
6. Tell others about Jesus Mark 3:14
7. Make disciples for Jesus..... Matthew 28:19

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time in your life when you knew that Jesus was saying to you “Follow Me.” What difference has it made in your life to follow Jesus as His disciple?
4. Parents/mentors: **Invite** your child to make **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to say “Yes” to Jesus and go on a discipleship adventure with Him each and every day?” If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray:** Form a family circle and pray together for the decisions to follow Jesus as His disciples and to go on a discipleship adventure with Him.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Discuss** specific things you can do as a family to show Jesus that you want to go on a discipleship adventure with Him. Examples: say a praise prayer to Him each morning as soon as you wake up, sing a praise song as you get ready for the day, draw a picture or make a banner showing your family following Jesus, etc. List these in the space below.

Ideas for our family to do:

2. **Ask:** Which one would you like to do as a family this week? Decide how you will do this and when.
3. **Discuss** specific things you can do as individuals to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple. List these in the space below.

Ideas we can do as individuals:

4. Parents/mentors: **Share** one thing that you will do this week to show Jesus that you are willing to be His disciple. **Ask:** What can you do this week to show Jesus that you are willing to be His disciple? Affirm your child's ideas and give suggestions as needed.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a time when you trusted Jesus with a specific problem, fear or situation when you were a child or recently.

Disciples Wanted for a Lifetime Adventure!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 1

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: John 3:16

Activity: Cut pictures of faces from old magazines and newspapers. Glue or tape them to a piece of paper or poster board to make a collage and make a caption that says, “Jesus Wants You!”

For Discussion: To whom does Jesus offer eternal life? Is there anyone who is not included in the offer? Why does Jesus want to give you eternal life? Has anything happened to you recently that has made you want to get serious about God? This is what an eighth grade student named Dustin said in answer to that question. “When my principal died. I thought everybody would be angry with God, but they weren’t. They still had faith. It had an impact on my faith in God and helped me know that He is with me through any trial.”

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for loving you and for offering every person the gift of eternal life.

Choice Two

Scripture: Mark 8:34

Activity: Make a list of groups to which you belong. They might include your family, your class, your school, a sports team, a music group, a church family, etc.

For Discussion: What do you have to do to belong to these groups? Is anyone excluded from these groups? If yes, who, and why? What do you have to do to belong to Jesus? Is anyone excluded? If yes, who and why? Why do you think Jesus wants you to be one of His disciples?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for calling you to be a disciple and accept His invitation.

Choice Three

Scripture: Mark 8:34-37

Activity A: Look up the word “sacrifice” in the dictionary. Ask each person to define it in their own words and to give an example of a sacrifice. For example, in baseball, a sacrifice hit is one where the hitter expects to be called out, but he makes the play so he can drive in a run.

For Discussion A: A sacrifice is something that is given up in order to get something more valuable. Jesus asks us to both take up a cross and deny ourselves in order to follow Him. What does it mean to take up your cross? What does it mean to deny yourself?

Would you consider following Jesus to be a sacrifice? What do you get in return that is more valuable? For parents/mentors: Share with your child a time when you have taken up a cross or denied yourself to follow Jesus. What were the circumstances? What happened? How did that experience affect your walk with Jesus?

Activity B: Ask each person in your family to bring their most prized possession. Each person should share what makes this item so special and how they would feel if it were lost, destroyed or stolen. (If an item is too big to move easily, the owner should take the rest of the group to see it.)

For Discussion B: Would you be willing to give up your most prized possession to follow Jesus? Why do you think Jesus might ask you to give it up? For parents/mentors: Share with your child a time when you have taken up a cross or denied yourself to follow Jesus. What were the circumstances? What happened? How did that experience affect your walk with Jesus?

Prayer Point: If applicable, confess to Jesus that you may not yet be willing to take up a cross and deny yourself in order to follow Him. Ask Him to make you willing.

Choice Four

Scripture: John 1:43, John 13:35

Activity: Make a list of things or people in our world we sometimes follow instead of Jesus, such as athletes, music or movie stars, politicians, etc. Beside those things or people, write the things those people value, such as money, fame, power, etc.

For discussion: Is it easy to get distracted and follow people or things other than Jesus? What does our scripture today tell us that Jesus values? (Love.) What things do you think a disciple of Jesus might be asked to give up when he or she follows Jesus? (Cross items off your list as they are named.) Jesus promises to give us something even better than fame and fortune. Read John 14:27. He promises to give us peace and love.

Prayer Point: If applicable, confess to Jesus that it is sometimes hard to follow Him instead of the people who are popular in society. Ask Jesus to help you follow only Him.

Choice Five

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-20

Activity: Eat fish shaped crackers with your family while you find the answers to the following questions. You will probably need to consult an encyclopedia or the internet. What kinds of fish are most commonly used for food? How are these fish caught? What must a fisherman know in order to catch fish? (Where they are, what kind of bait to use, etc.)

For discussion: What did Jesus mean when he told Peter and Andrew that he would make them fishers of men? How does one go about “fishing for men?” If you were to go about “catching” a believer for Jesus, what would you need to know? (Where to look, what kind of “bait” to use, etc.) What are you doing now that would be considered “fishing for men?” What could you be doing that you aren’t? For parents/mentors: What are you doing to “fish for men?” What could you be doing that you aren’t? What can your family do together to be fishers of men?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to turn you into a fisher of men and to help you know where and how to catch others for Him.