



Lesson **30**

1st-4th

JESUS CHOOSES HIS FIRST DISCIPLES

March 22 & 23
**GOD IS
OUR LEADER**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Jesus chose twelve followers called disciples who learned from Him and were trained by Him. Each of the twelve men God chose as his disciples were just ordinary people. But God used each of them in extraordinary ways. Jesus called his first disciples to be fishers of men - He wanted them to help others have faith in Jesus.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that Jesus wants each of us to be disciples and follow Him. God can use ordinary people like us to share the good news of Jesus when we follow Him!

Matthew 4:18-22

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

City Serve (Saturday, May 2)
woodmenvalley.org/acts

Kids Camp Leaders Needed (June 9-12)
woodmenvalley.org/kidscamp

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Youtube

KEY VERSE:



In the same way, **let your light shine so others can see it.** Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 (NIRV)

shortened version for younger kids is in bold

MISSION FOCUS:

CURE INTERNATIONAL

CURE is a group that loves Jesus and helps kids feel better. They have hospitals in Africa and the Philippines where doctors fix things like little feet that need straightening and legs that need help to walk right. Kids from many countries come to CURE to get better!

During the month of May, you can help by bringing a gift of money to help a child get the care they need or praying for those who are part of CURE.

Let's be part of God's work in making kids healthy and happy!



25
min

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.



SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Do you have any offering to put in our offering bin? *(Direct child to offering station)*

When you're done, grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

20
min

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God is Our Leader!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.



SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.



SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **God is Our Leader**. This story comes from the Bible in **Matthew 4:18-22**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?



DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus and his 12 disciples

2. What was the problem?

Jesus called 12 ordinary guys to be his followers, but many didn't think they were good enough to be a disciple

3. What did God do?

Jesus showed the disciples that He is our leader and God can use anyone to do extraordinary things when we have faith in Him

Encourage kids to think about why this matters and how they can apply it to their own life as they listen to the story!



MAKE: Follow Jesus Poster

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: poster (1 pair per child), markers/crayons, God statement sticker



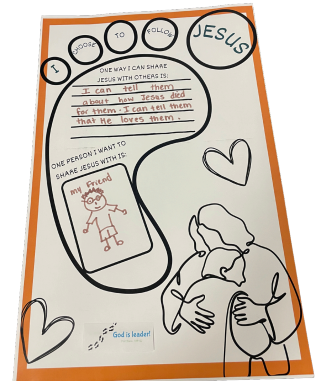
DO:

Pass out one poster per child. Allow them to color/fill out the poster and then add the God statement sticker to the poster.



SAY:

God wants us to be disciples and to follow Him! He wants us to be excited to share Him with others. Let's make a special craft to prepare us for our lesson today.

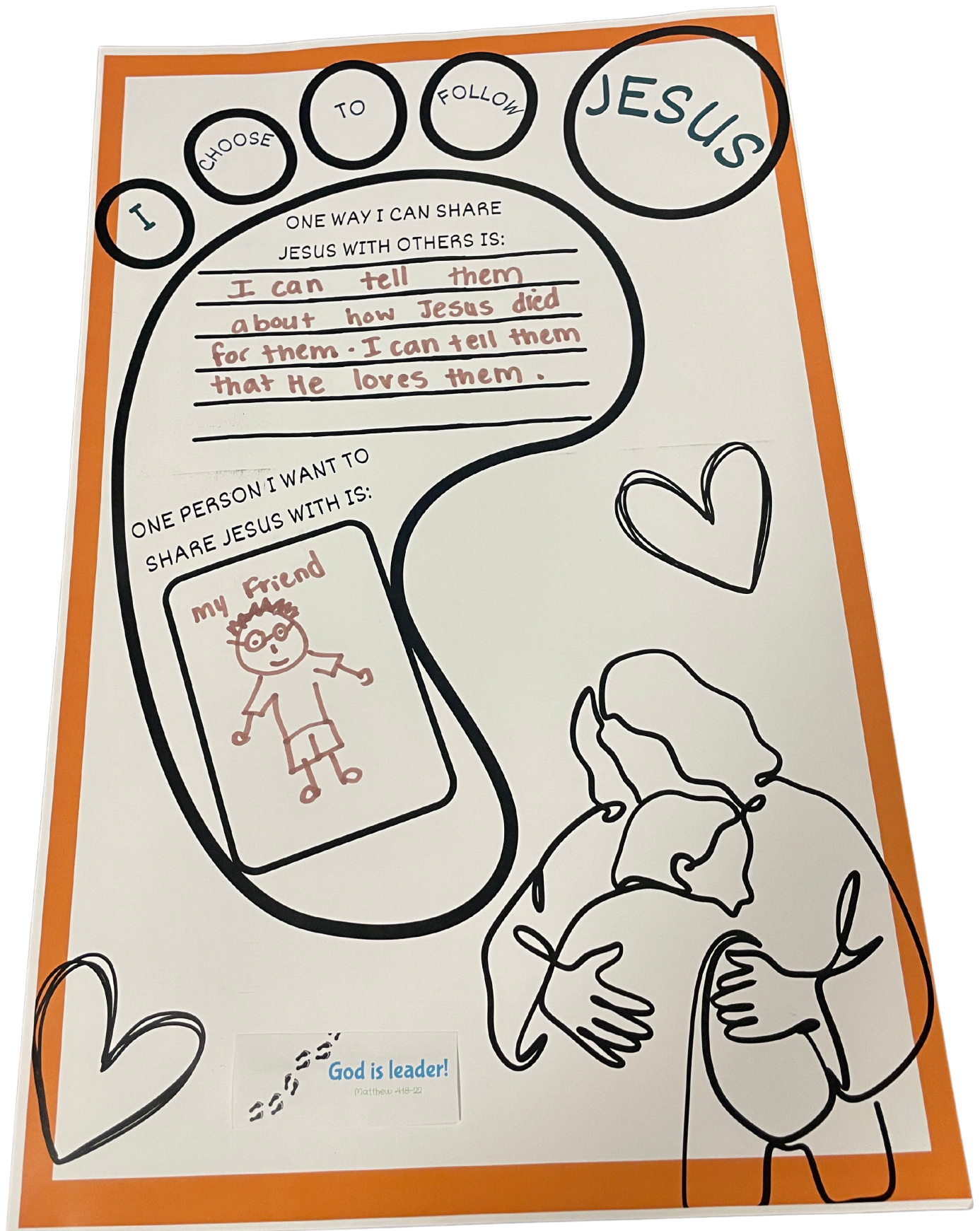


CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



25
min

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: Our King is Coming

SONG 2: Open the Eyes of My Heart



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you follow God for all your life, knowing how loved you are and sharing God's love with others!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God is Our Leader!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: footprint card



SAY:

God is our leader! God loves us so much, and He wants us to share His love with everyone. Jesus wants each of us to be disciples and follow Him. God can use ordinary people like us to share the good news of Jesus when we follow Him!



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***When we follow God, He shows us how to love Him and others, as we share the good news of Jesus!***
 - ***Let's take a moment to think through who we could share Jesus with this week.***
 - Pass out a foot print card and writing utensil to each kid.
 - ***As you sit quietly, draw yourself following Jesus' footprints. This reminds us that we can follow Jesus as our leader.***
 - ***Once you've drawn yourself, flip the card over. Pray and ask God who you can share about Jesus with this week. Draw/write their name on the card.***
 - ***Take this card home as a reminder to follow God as your leader this week, and pray for the person you want to share Jesus with!***
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY:

May you follow God for all your life, knowing how loved you are and sharing God's love with others!

15
min

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus and his 12 disciples

2. What was the problem?

Jesus called 12 ordinary guys to be his followers, but many didn't think they were good enough to be a disciple

3. What did God do?

Jesus showed the disciples that He is our leader and God can use anyone to do extraordinary things when we have faith in Him

4. Why does this matter to me?

We can all be followers/disciples of Jesus too! Jesus leads us and teaches us how to love God and others through God's Word.

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: I can read the Bible about what Jesus taught His 12 disciples; I can pray and ask God to show me who I can share the good news of Jesus with.



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

5
min

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.