



# Jesus Chooses His Disciples

Gospels

**God Statement: Jesus is Our Hope**

**KEY VERSE:**

**"Let your light shine so that others can see it..." Matthew 5:16, NIRV**

## CHECK-IN

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

***Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.***

*As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you've completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.*

*If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.*

*Use the "Connect" reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!*

## CONNECT WITH KIDS

***Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.***

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

**The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:**

When a child feels...(most of the time)

**SAFE:** physically and emotionally  
**SEEN:** known and understood  
**SOOTHED:** calmed and supported  
They can become **SECURE**.

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### DISCUSS: Jesus Chooses His Disciples

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about when Jesus chose His disciples.

**Say:** We're going to learn a new word today, disciple. Can you say disciple? A disciple is like a student or a learner. Do any of you go to preschool or day care? When you're there, you learn from a teacher! Just like when you're here at church, you learn from me or another teacher! The disciples were a group of 12 men who followed Jesus around and learned from Him. These disciples were just like everyone else, but God chose them special to follow Jesus and learn from Him. We can also learn from Jesus and be disciples of Jesus, because Jesus is our teacher too! When we read the Bible, we're learning from Jesus and God!

### PLAY: Find the 12 Disciples

**Supplies:** 12 disciples cards hidden around the room

**Directions:** Gather all the kids into a circle on the floor. Explain that you have hidden 12 disciples, or learners of Jesus, around the room. Then, release them to try and find the people cards.

**Say:** Later, we're going to hear about the 12 disciples that Jesus chose to follow him. Remember, disciples are like students or learners of Jesus! Jesus went out and found each disciple specifically because He wanted those men. Well, I have 12 cards with each of the disciples on it. I have hidden the cards around the room, and we're going to work together to find all 12, just like Jesus did when He chose His disciples.

**Idea:** Have kids work together to find the 12 disciples. As they find the cards, have everyone say – "Jesus chose you!"

#### **While you are working with the children:**

- Talk about what it must have felt like to be chosen by Jesus.
- Talk about how we can be learners/students of Jesus.
- Talk about how Jesus is our hope.

## CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

## LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time.*

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

## WORSHIP

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *My God is so big*
- *Only God can do*
- *Thank you, God,*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!*

### **BIG IDEA:**

**Jesus chose His disciples, people who were going to follow and learn from Jesus. We can be learners, or disciples, of Jesus too!**

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as your read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on

the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

## BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

### ***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus Chooses His Disciples***

*Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.*

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class.***

**Say:** Hi Hamilton! We are learning about how Jesus chose His disciples, or followers and learners, to help Him spread the word about God's love. Let's play a game. Hamilton, whisper something about Jesus in my ear. ***Hamilton whispers into teacher's ear.***

**Say:** Oh, I hear you. OK, now I'm going to tell my friend. ***Whisper in one child's ear, "God loves you." Ask that child to whisper "God loves you" in the next child's ear. Pass it on around the circle.*** Now let's say it all together. "God loves you!"

**Say:** Hamilton, thanks for helping us spread that good news about God, that He loves us! That's exactly what Jesus' disciples, or followers and learners, did. Jesus taught them the truth and they took that truth and spread it to everyone they could. Let's read about that story in the Bible together!

**Read the story from the Jesus Storybook Bible on page 210-213.**

**Say:** Wow, Jesus picked some pretty interesting people to be His followers and to learn from Him. Did you know that Jesus also picks us to follow Him too? When we read the Bible and learn about Jesus in here (***holds up Bible***), we're becoming disciples of Jesus too!

**Say:** Thanks for helping us learn about how Jesus chose His disciples and how He chooses us to learn from Him too, Hamilton! We can't wait to see you next week to learn more about how Jesus is our teacher and hope! But for now, let's all say bye to Hamilton! ***Wave goodbye to Hamilton.***

## SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

We are learning that Jesus is our Hope. *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter: "Jesus is our hope!" (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times) "*

**WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** Let's listen to God today. We're going to make our bodies very quiet. Shh.

God, will you help us know that you love us? Listen quietly for 20-30 seconds. Now whisper: God loves you.

**Say:** Thank you, God, that you love us.

**Play Worship Response music from Plex during this time and allow kids to listen and respond as they like.**

Go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

**BLESSING (1 minute)**

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***Friends, always remember that God loves you and chooses you to be His friend.***

**CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**(Until parents pickup)**

**MAKE: Coloring Page – Take Home Activity**

***Supplies:*** Coloring page- one per child, crayons

**Directions:** Pass out one coloring page to each child and encourage them to color the page as bright and colorful as they can to remind them of the lesson from today. Make sure each child takes their coloring page home to show their parents what they learned.

***As kids color, talk about the lesson from the day:***

- Read the verse on the page.
- Talk about what the figures on the page are doing.
- Talk about what they might be saying.
- Talk about what colors you are using.

## PLAY!

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

### **Suggestions of activities:**

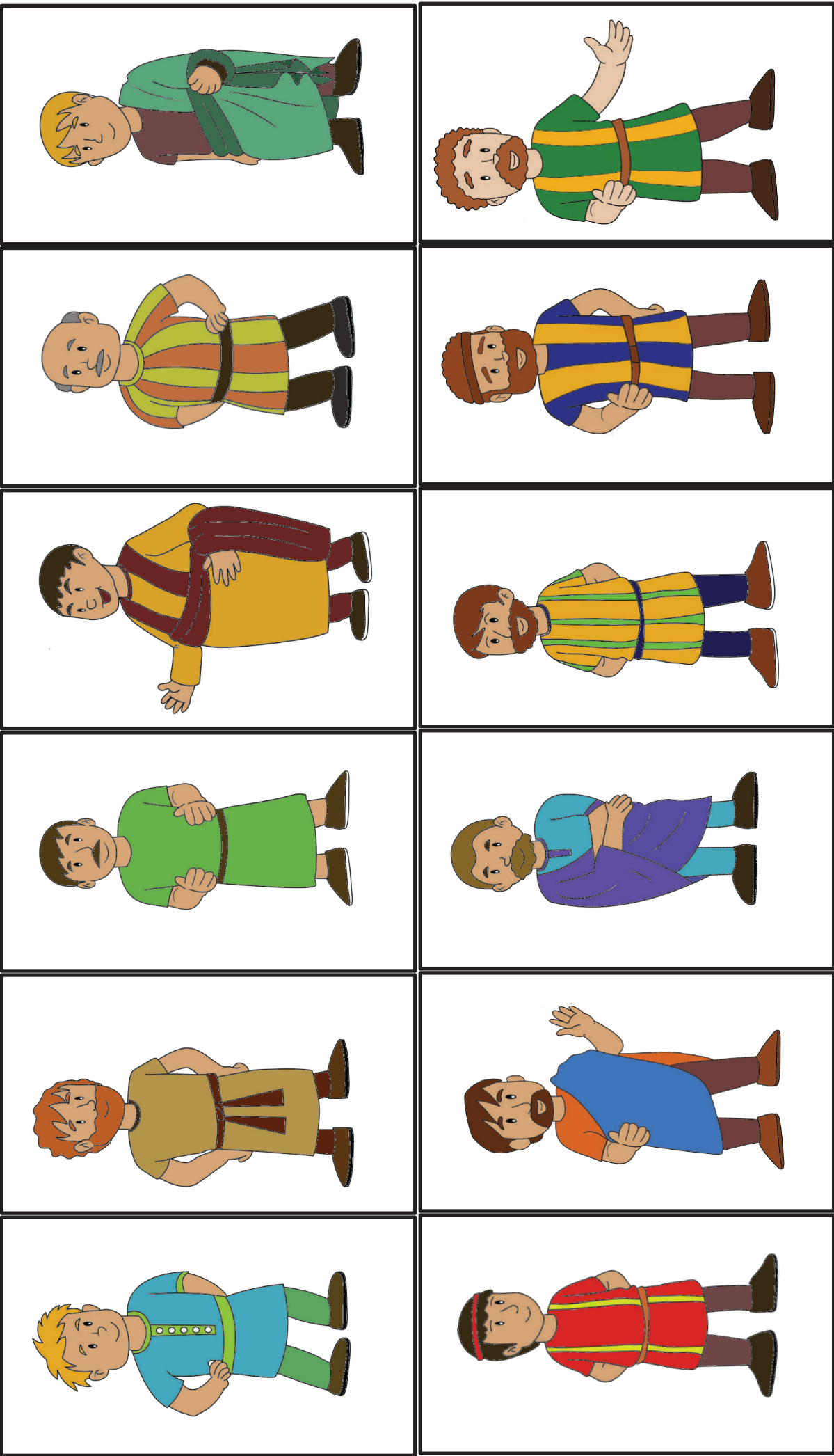
- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

## CHECK-OUT

### **(End of service)**

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"



**Jesus Chooses His  
Disciples & Teaches  
Them!**

