

FOLLOWING JESUS (What Is a Disciple?) KIDS EDITION

LESSON: Following Jesus (What Is a Disciple?)

FORMAT: Four 5–10 Minute Activity-Based Segments

TEXT: King James Version Exclusively

LESSON THEME & INTRODUCTION

A disciple is a helper and follower of King Jesus. Just as Simon Peter left his fishing nets to obey Jesus, little children can learn to listen to Jesus' voice, put Him first, say "no" to bad choices, and follow Him every day.

Discipleship for a child means learning that Jesus is in charge, His rules are good, and following Him brings true joy and a home in Heaven.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY & ROADMAP

All verses King James Version.

1. **Luke 5:11** — *"They forsook all, and followed him."* (Main Memory Verse)
2. **Matthew 6:33** — *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God..."*
3. **Mark 8:34** — *"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself..."*
4. **Psalms 19:11** — *"...in keeping of them there is great reward."*
5. **John 6:67-68** — *"Will ye also go away?"*

FOUR-SEGMENT LESSON OUTLINE (5-10 MINUTES EACH)

SEGMENT 1: JESUS DOES SOMETHING AMAZING! (5-10 MIN)

SEGMENT 2: DROPPING THE NETS (5-10 MIN)

SEGMENT 3: SAYING "NO" TO ME, AND "YES" TO JESUS (5-10 MIN)

SEGMENT 4: GOD'S GREAT REWARD (5-10 MIN)

SEGMENT 1: JESUS DOES SOMETHING AMAZING! (5-10 MIN)

Scripture Focus: Luke 5:4–11

Luke 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Luke 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

Luke 5:6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

Luke 5:7 And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Luke 5:9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

Luke 5:10 And so *was* also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Luke 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Objective: Teach the children that Jesus has all power and knows what is best.

Story Time: Describe Simon Peter fishing all night in the dark. He caught zero fish. He was tired, his boat was empty, and he was ready to quit.

The Command: Jesus told him to go out deep and drop the net again. Peter obeyed, even though he was tired.

The Big Miracle: Suddenly, the net was full of wriggling, jumping fish! The boat began to sink because there were so many.

Child Application: Jesus is mighty and knows everything. When we listen to Him, amazing things happen.

Interactive Element: Have the children pretend to row a heavy boat, pull in a giant net filled with fish, and show their "astonished" faces.

SEGMENT 2: DROPPING THE NETS (5-10 MIN)

Scripture Focus: Luke 5:11; Matthew 6:33

Luke 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Objective: Teach that being a disciple means leaving our own way to follow Jesus.

Lesson Flow:

The Call: Jesus told the fishermen not to be afraid; He was going to make them "**fishers of men.**"

Leaving Everything: Luke 5:11 says: They "*forsook all, and followed him.*"

They left their boats, their jobs, and their nets right on the shore to go with Jesus.

What is a Disciple?

Explain that a disciple is a student and a helper who walks right behind the Master.

Child Application: Jesus wants us to obey Him first—

- Before playtime,
- Before getting our own way,
- Before doing what we feel like doing.

Interactive Element:

Play a quick round of "Follow the Leader."

The teacher leads the children around the room; they must stop when the teacher stops and step where the teacher steps.

Teach them: "**A Disciple follows Jesus!**"

SEGMENT 3: SAYING "NO" TO ME, AND "YES" TO JESUS (5-10 MIN)

Scripture Focus: Mark 8:34

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Objective: Explain "denying self" and obeying God in simple terms.

Lesson Flow:

The Rule of the Cross:

Mark 8:34 says to *"deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*

What Does That Mean?

It means choosing what Jesus wants instead of what our selfish hearts want.

Real Examples:

When a brother takes your toy, you do not hit him; you share and use kind words.

When mother says it is time to clean up, you stop playing and obey right away without pouting.

Child Application:

Saying "no" to our own bad temper and "yes" to Jesus can be hard, but Jesus gives us the power to obey.

Interactive Element:

Hand gestures.

When the teacher names a selfish action (whining, snatching toys, disobeying parents), children cross their arms and say "NO to me!"

When the teacher names a godly action (sharing, praying, obeying), children raise their hands and say "YES to Jesus!"

SEGMENT 4: GOD'S GREAT REWARD (5-10 MIN)

Scripture Focus: Psalm 19:11; John 6:68

Psalms 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Objective: Show children the joy, peace, and eternal reward of staying with Jesus.

Lesson Flow:

The Good Promise:

Psalm 19:11 tells us that keeping God's words brings "*great reward.*"

Peace Inside:

When we obey Jesus, our hearts do not feel guilty or scared; we have God's peace.

Nowhere Else to Go: When others walked away from Jesus, Peter said, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*" Jesus is the only way to Heaven!

The Greatest Gift: One day, every faithful follower of Jesus will live with Him forever in His glorious kingdom.

Interactive Element: Practice the memory verse together with clapping rhythms:

"They forsook all, [clap-clap-clap]

and followed him." [clap-clap-clap]

— *Luke 5:11!*

- **Closing Prayer:** Thank Jesus for calling us to be His disciples and ask Him for strength to obey Him all week long.