



## **BIG IDEA:**

Everyone can follow Jesus



## **BIBLE STORY:**

Jesus calls His disciples to follow Him



## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:**

Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11; Luke 6: 12-16



## **GROW VERSE:**

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” Matthew 4:19



## **MOTIONS:**

**Come, follow me** : Motion toward yourself with your hands

**Jesus said** : Hands around mouth

**and I will send you out** : Point hands outward

**to fish for people** : Pretend to cast a fishing line

**Matthew 4:19** : Pretend to hold your Bible

# Scripture + The Story

Open your Bible and read the following passages of Scripture as a family:

- Matthew 4:18-22 and Luke 5:1-11
  - Luke 6: 12-16
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## THE STORY:

Our story starts with some men named Peter and Andrew. They were fishing when all of a sudden, Jesus came walking by! They had seen Jesus do amazing things. They knew He was the most amazing leader and there was something about Him that was different than anyone they had met before. And then Jesus said, 'Come, follow me! We will look for people instead of fish.' That means, He wanted them to go out and tell others about Him so they can follow Him, too. Right away, Peter and Andrew left their nets behind and followed Jesus.

Then Jesus saw two more fishermen, James and John, in a boat. James and John were brothers fishing with their dad when Jesus said, 'Come, follow me!' Right away, the brothers got out of their boat and followed Jesus because, just like Peter and Andrew, they knew He was the person they wanted to follow. These fishermen—Peter, Andrew, James, and John—became some of Jesus' best friends called the disciples.

Jesus also met a man named Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector. That means his job was to collect money for the town from everyone. But the problem was that tax collectors took more than they were supposed to, which meant that nobody wanted to be their friend. There is another story in the Bible about a man named Zacchaeus who did the same thing. Matthew was a lot like him! I bet he didn't have many friends. But Jesus asked Matthew to follow Him, and that's what Matthew did! Jesus didn't just come to be the friend and the Rescuer for the nice people who don't make many mistakes. Jesus came to be the friend and Rescuer for the not-so-nice people, too! He came to rescue us and help us to show others His love!

So now we have (count on your fingers) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 people following Jesus. These men knew that Jesus was special, and that He was unlike anyone they had ever met. When they followed Jesus, they couldn't really explain it, but they felt happy and free!

Jesus asked more men to follow Him, and He called them His disciples. He had 12 disciples, or helpers, altogether. Do you want to know the most important thing all of these guys did? Can you guess? When Jesus said, 'Follow me,' they did it! They became Jesus' disciples, and Jesus was their leader. Everywhere Jesus went, the disciples went with Him.

Because the disciples followed Jesus, they saw Him do so many amazing things! They saw Him make sick people better. They saw Him feed people who were hungry. They saw Jesus be kind and loving to everyone. They watched Him very closely. They followed Him very closely. And when Jesus went back to Heaven, the disciples kept following Jesus by living the rest of their lives the way Jesus taught them to. They were kind to everyone. They were helpers. They wanted everyone to know that God loved them. And that's what we can do, too. Just like Jesus' friends, the disciples, we can follow Jesus with our lives and show His love to the people around us. We can put our trust in Jesus, and know that He is always with us!

## Prayer + Reflection

### PRAYER

“Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your son, Jesus to rescue us. Help us to follow Jesus just like the disciples did. We want to love others and help however we can. We love you! In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

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### GROW VERSE

Practice the March Grow Verse together as a family.

**“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”**  
**Matthew 4:19**

### MOTIONS

**Come, follow me** : Motion toward yourself with your hands

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### REFLECTION

- **What did the disciples do, even when Jesus went back to Heaven? //**  
They watched Him very closely and when He went back to Heaven, they lived their lives the way Jesus taught them to live!
- **How can we be like the disciples and be followers of Jesus? //**  
We can show God’s love to the people around us! We can put our trust in Jesus and know that He is always with us!
- **What can we do to show God’s love to the people around us? //**  
We can be kind, help people, share, and love others like Jesus loves us!

# Family Activities + Discussion Questions

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

1

### FOLLOW ME!

No supplies needed

Gather in an activity area, such as the family room or play room. Lead everyone to follow you as you perform various movements or stretches. Ideas are listed below. After several rounds, allow someone else to be the leader. Talk about how Jesus' disciples followed Him and lived how He told them to live. They knew that Jesus was the best leader to follow, so they did what He told them to do! We know that Jesus is STILL the best leader to follow, and we will go wherever He leads us!

**Movement Ideas:** Reach down and touch your toes; Reach up high with both hands; Clap your hands; Stomp your feet; Reach down and pat your knees; Reach across your body and grab your shoulder; Pat your tummy...

2

### HOP TO TWELVE

Supplies: Tape and 12 pieces of paper

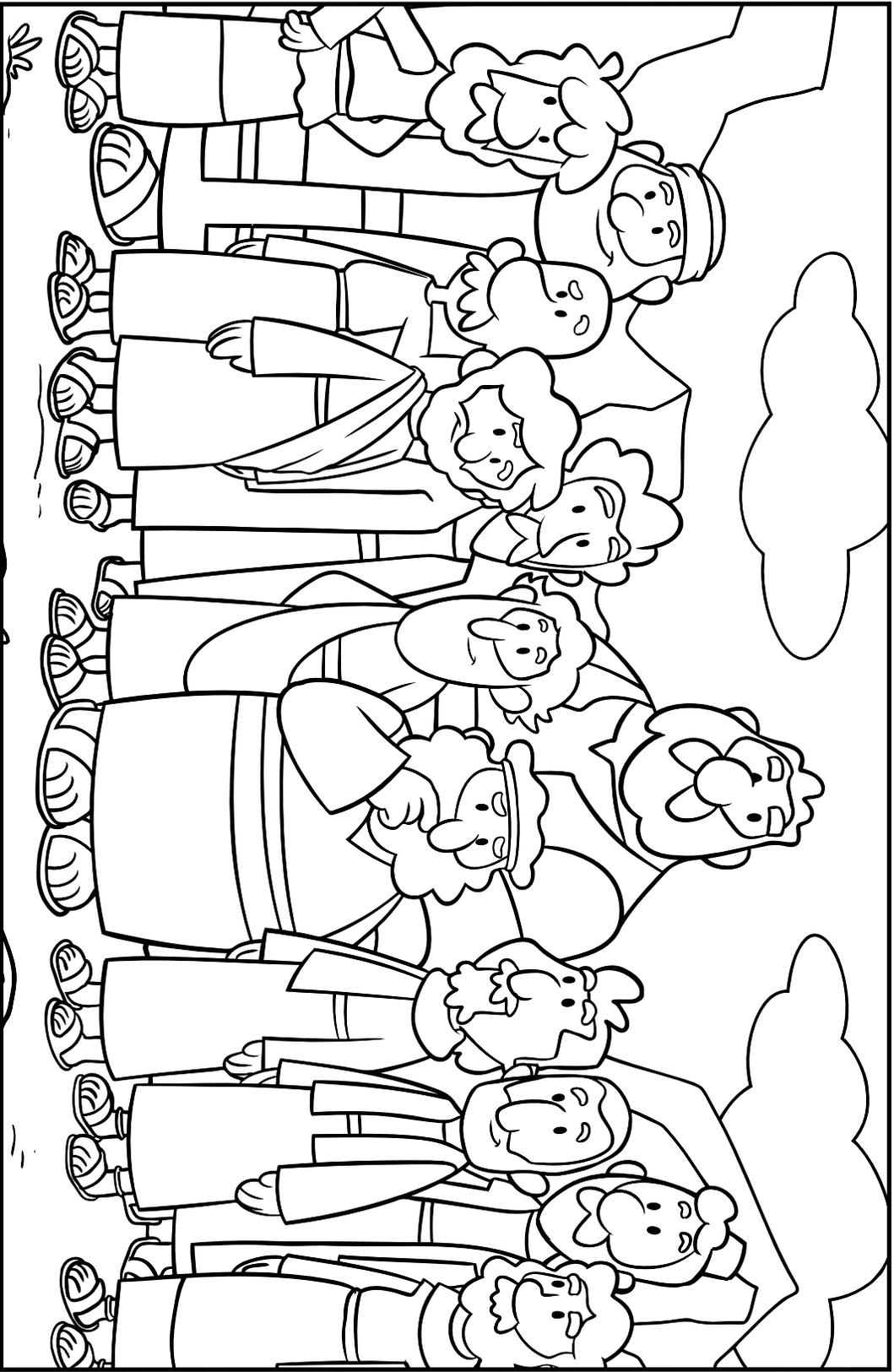
Tape the paper on the floor to make a pathway. Hop from paper to paper, counting as you go!

Talk about how in the Bible, we read about Jesus' 12 disciples. His disciples were His helpers, and they followed Him and learned from Him, and we can do the same!

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## ADDITIONAL FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is a disciple?
- How do you think the disciples felt when they decided to follow Jesus?
- Do you need to be a grown-up to follow Jesus?
- What are some ways you can show your family that you follow Jesus and want to show His love?
- What are some ways you can show your friends and neighbors that you follow Jesus and want to show His love?



## Jesus calls His disciples to follow Him

Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11; Luke 6: 12-16