



Elementary

“The Gospel Project”

Jesus Called Disciples

April 26, 2020

Unit Key Passage: *“He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 (CSB)*

Bible Passage: Matthew 4; 9; Mark 1-3; Luke 5-6

Main Point: Jesus called disciples to follow Him.

Big Picture Question: *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.*

1 Getting Started

All Team Members: Make sure you have a name tag on! Welcome and introduce kids to one another.

2 Main Session Teaching

Supplies:

- ❖ **Bible story pictures-** (We are just referencing a few of the stories to review)
 - Jesus in the wilderness
 - Jesus calls disciples
- ❖ **Other templates-**
 - **Key passage:** John 3:30
 - **Main Point:** Jesus called disciples to follow Him.
 - **Big Picture Question/Answer:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.*
- ❖ **“The Gospel Project” DVD Lesson:** “Jesus Called Disciples”

Review:

- **Say:** Who remembers what we've been learning about recently? Can anyone remember any of those stories? (Take a few answers and then, review these stories below with pictures):
 - Last week, we learned that right after Jesus' baptism, He was led by the Holy Spirit up into the wilderness. While He was there fasting, the devil came to tempt Jesus to sin. However, Jesus resisted the temptations and did not sin.

Today's story:

- **Say:** Has a leader or parent ever asked you to do something that was difficult? In our story today, we will learn that Jesus called disciples to do something difficult. Let's find out how they responded!
- **Play the DVD video story.** (If DVD not available, teach the story using the printed version at the end of this curriculum)
- **Recap:** (*Show main point template*) **Jesus called disciples to follow Him.** You know what I find so amazing about this story? The men Jesus called left basically everything they had to follow and obey Jesus. (*Show picture of Jesus calling His disciples*) The fishermen walked away from their boats, and the tax collector left his tax booth. When Jesus called, they answered. They were far from perfect, but they obeyed right away. They seemed to know that what they were giving up was nothing compared to what they would gain by following Jesus.
- **Christ Connection:** *Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. This is great news! Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him, and we are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear the good news about Jesus.*
- **Big picture question:** (*Say*) (*Show big picture question/answer templates*) Our big picture question is ***Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.***
- **Review key passage:** (*Show key passage template*): ***"He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30 (CSB)***

3 Snack & Life Group

IMPORTANT!!!! Please check each child for a yellow allergy sticker along with referring to the sign-in sheet to be properly informed on children who may have food and other allergies.

Snack: Swedish Fish and Blue Cool Whip—To represent fish and water because many of the disciples that Jesus called were fishermen.

As the children enjoy their snack, discuss these Life Group questions with them.

Life Group Questions:

- What did Jesus say He would teach His disciples to do? (fish for people, Matt. 4:19)
- What were some things Jesus' disciples left behind to follow Him? (nets, boats, family, jobs, and so forth; Matt. 4:20-22; 9:9)
- With whom did Jesus eat and spend His time? (sinners and tax collectors, Matt. 9:10)
- Why does Jesus love sinners? Help kids understand that everyone is a sinner, and Jesus loves all people because we are created in God's image. Jesus wants to see people repent of sin, turning to God to be saved. He loves sinners and rescues them. He helps us turn away from sin and glorify God instead.
- Why do you think Jesus picked fishermen and tax collectors to be His disciples instead of kings or religious leaders? *(Invite kids to share their ideas. Share that the Bible says God uses people who have nothing to offer to show His power and strength through them. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 1:26-31.)*
- **Big picture question:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.*
- **Base 5/6-For Further Discussion:**
 - What might we lose by following Jesus? *(Guide kids to talk about the cost of loving and obeying Jesus. Help them think about the ways others might react to them, the influence they may lose, or the persecution they may face. Remind the kids that, in some places, following Jesus may even cost a person her life.)*
 - What can we gain by following Jesus? *(Discuss the unending joy and eternal life we have with God when we have faith in Jesus. Point kids to the hope they have in life: that we gain new purpose, can resist sin, and are filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Point kids also to the hope we have for the future: that Jesus will return and fix all that sin has broken. On that day, we will reign with Christ as children of God.)*
- **Say: Jesus called disciples to follow Him.** If we have faith in Jesus, we are His disciples as well. God forgives us and gives us power to live for Him. That means we can call people to follow Jesus, too!

- **Review the Key Verse below with the kids:** *“He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 (CSB)*

4 Activities/Games

GAME: Follow the Leader

Supplies: none

Directions: Instruct the kids to stand in a single-file line. Select a kid to lead the line around the room. She may do various motions or move in silly ways. The rest of the kids in line must mimic her motions and movements. After a minute or so, select a new kid to lead the line. Play as time allows.

Say: Today we learned about Jesus’ disciples. Disciples are people who follow someone else. Jesus’ disciples followed Him, learned to obey Him, and were His closest friends. Who would you choose to be your followers and friends?

BASE 5/6 GAME: Find a Friend

Supplies: none

Directions: Instruct kids to stand and spread out around the room. Explain that you will call out a description, and kids will form groups accordingly. Give an example: Find a friend whose birthday is in the same month as yours. Kids should quickly move to stand next to kids who share a birthday month. Groups may consist of more than two kids. Call out additional descriptions as time allows.

Consider using the following descriptions: Find a friend who ...

- has the same number of siblings as you
- has the same number of letters in his or her name
- has the same favorite color
- is wearing the same color of shirt

Say: You formed groups based on specific qualifications. If you had to form a group of people you were going to hang out with all the time, what kind of people would you choose? Today we heard about the people Jesus chose to be His followers. They weren’t famous or powerful. But Jesus chose them to follow Him!

5 Activity Page

Supplies: one “A Change of Pace”/“The Twelve” activity page per child, pencils or crayons

Directions: Invite kids to complete the “A Change of Pace”/“The Twelve” activity page. Help children to follow the instructions for each activity.

Say: When Jesus began His ministry, many people follow Him and learned from His teaching. We saw in today’s Bible story that Jesus chose 12 people to be His disciples. *Disciple* means “learner” or “student”.

6 Journal Page & Dismissal

Supplies: Journal/color page

Directions: Encourage kids (& parents to help) to complete their journal page at home. Remind parents that the family discussion questions and today’s story are on this page to review at home. There’s also a color page on the back for more fun!

Say: Jesus called disciples to follow Him. Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him, and we are Jesus’ disciples when we trust in Him.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING THE KING’S KIDS TODAY!

Main Session Teaching: (Use if DVD is not available)

Jesus' ministry had begun. He traveled around, preaching about God and telling people to turn away from their sins. People started talking about Jesus and the things He was teaching. They were interested in what Jesus had to say. Large crowds followed Jesus around and listened to Him teach.

(Show picture of Jesus calling the disciples) One day, Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers: Simon—who was called Peter—and Andrew. Peter and Andrew were fishermen. Jesus called out to them, “Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people!” Right away, Peter and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Later, He saw two more brothers. Their names were James and John. They were in a boat fixing nets with their father, Zebedee. Jesus called out to them, and right away they got up, left their father and the boat, and followed Jesus.

Jesus went on and saw a man named Matthew (who was also called Levi). Matthew was sitting at the tax office. Matthew was a tax collector. Many people didn't like tax collectors because tax collectors were unfair. Jesus called out to him, “Follow Me!” So Matthew got up, left everything behind, and followed Jesus.

Matthew had a big feast for Jesus at his house. Many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and His disciples. The religious leaders saw this, and they didn't think Jesus should be friends with people who did wrong things. They complained to the disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

Jesus heard the religious leaders and said, “People who are healthy don't need a doctor, but people who are sick do. I did not come to invite good people; I came to invite sinners to turn back to God.”

Later, Jesus gathered His followers together and chose twelve of them to be His apostles. Jesus' apostles would work closely with Jesus and would go out to tell others about Him. These are the men Jesus chose: Simon (who was called Peter), Simon's brother Andrew, James and John (who were called the “Sons of Thunder”), Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus (al FEE uhs), Thaddaeus (THAD ih uhs), Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot (iss KAR ih aht). *(Show main point template)*
Jesus called disciples to follow Him.