

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Everyone can follow Jesus.

MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR) MATTHEW
9:9-12

MEMORYVERSE

“Come and follow me,
Jesus said.”

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

1. MOVE WITH ME

WHAT YOU NEED: “Move Cards” Activity Page, cardstock, and an opaque bag

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the “Move Cards” Activity Page onto cardstock and cut apart. Shuffle and place cards in an opaque bag.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in the activity area. Pull out a card from the bag and lead the children to follow you as they perform the same movement. Pass the bag around and allow other children to serve as leaders, pulling a card from the bag and leading the rest of the group. Once all cards have been pulled from the bag, shuffle and return them to the bag to play again. Continue as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Friends, come over here with me! I have some movement cards here in this bag. I will pull out the first card. Follow me, and let's move together. Don't worry. Everyone will get a chance to lead the group.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “That was fun! You made great leaders and followers. Who is the most special leader of all? (*Pause.*) Yes, Jesus! Tell me: **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out a movement for the children to follow. Movement ideas: baby steps, hop, march, skip, roll your arms, high knees, walk jog, two big steps, etc.

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25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

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Who can you follow?

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Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

1. FOOTPRINTS

WHAT YOU NEED: “Footprints” Activity Page, cardstock, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock (*one per child*).

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child an Activity Page. Use the marker to trace the child’s foot (*shoe on or off*) onto the Activity Page to the left of Jesus. Let them color their foot if they would like after it is traced. (If you’re worried marker will get on their sock or shoe, trace with pencil and then let the child trace over the pencil with marker or crayon).

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Send the Activity Pages home with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “We can follow Jesus!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “We are going to make a picture of how we can follow Jesus.” (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “We have a picture of you following Jesus! (*Point.*) You can take it home and tell your family that they can follow Jesus, too. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!** ”

PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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2. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Prayer Journal time!

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Jesus wanted Matthew to follow Him, even though he had made some wrong choices. Let’s make a list of wrong choices—things we know we should not do. We can use the list when we pray.

(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“Reading the list we made makes me want to yell a big THANK YOU to God! Let’s do that right now. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: “Dear God, Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that Jesus wants us to follow Him, even though we have made wrong choices. And thank You that Jesus helps us make right choices. We don’t want to do things like *(read the list the children made)*. We want to follow Jesus and do what He does. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”