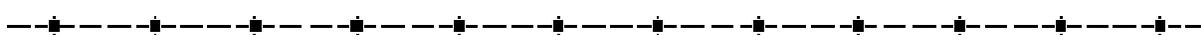


# GOD'S BIG PLAN

## Twelve Follow Jesus John 1:35-51

**Supporting Scriptures:** Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13, 10:2-4, 37; Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17, 3:13-19; Luke 5:1-11, 27-32, 6:12-16



**Lesson Goals:**  
To see that God loves us and chooses to use us.  
To see the need to follow Jesus.  
To see that others need to be invited.

**Scripture Memory** Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.  
1 Peter 2:21 (NIV)

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as “He said. . . She said” or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

**The Lesson:** Let’s review what we have learned so far. (Review the previous stories, focusing on the ones that specifically point to Christ’s birth. Encourage more and more students to share.)

Last week, we talked about Jesus obeying God. How did Jesus obey God? (By being baptized.) What else did Jesus do to obey God. (He resisted the devil. Instead of sinning by doing what the devil suggested, He told the devil what God said.)

Who remembers what John the Baptist said about Jesus? (“Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sin of the world.”) John was pointing people to Jesus. That’s why he came. Everything that John did was so that people would be ready for Jesus. Let’s read on to see what else happened.

**READ: John 1:35-39 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

Many people had been following John. In fact, on the day we read about, two of John’s followers were with him. Jesus came walking by and John said again, “Look! The Lamb of God!” When those two followers heard John tell them about Jesus, they left John and began to follow Jesus. They understood John to say that Jesus was from God, but at first, they thought of Him as just a teacher. They followed Jesus and spent the whole afternoon with Him.

One of those followers was a man named Andrew. After spending time with Jesus, Andrew knew that Jesus was more than just a teacher. Andrew knew that Jesus was the Promised One they had been waiting for, the Messiah. Jesus was the One the prophets Isaiah and Micah talked about. The first thing Andrew did was to run and find his brother, Simon. “We have found God’s Promised One, the Messiah,” Andrew shared! Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus and Jesus gave Simon a new name. He called him Peter.

The next day, Jesus headed towards Galilee, where He had grown up. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” And Philip followed. Then, just as Andrew had done, Philip went and found a friend and told him about Jesus. “We have found God’s Promised One, the Messiah,” Philip told him. Philip’s friend was named Nathanael Bartholomew.

After that, as Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He found Peter and Andrew again. They

were both fishermen and were throwing their net into the lake to catch fish. But Jesus said to them, “Come. Follow Me. I will show you how to fish for people.” Peter nor Andrew made excuses. They left their nets right there on the beach and they followed Jesus at once. From there, Jesus found two other brothers. Their names were James and John. They were in their boat with their dad. They were getting ready to fish. Jesus called out to them and they, too, left their boat and their father and followed Jesus.

When Jesus was again walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Matthew, or Levi, sitting at a booth collecting taxes. “Follow Me,” Jesus told Him. So Matthew got up from what he was doing and followed Jesus. Many others followed Jesus. There were twelve special men that Jesus called to be with Him. They were Philip and Nathanael Bartholomew, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John and Matthew. The other five were named Thomas, James, Simon the Zealot, Thaddaeus (or Judas, son of James) and Judas Iscariot.

These twelve men left the life they knew to walk with Jesus and learn from him. They were sent out to preach and do wonderful and amazing things. When Jesus called, they didn’t see anything important enough to keep them from obeying; not their jobs, not even their families. When given the chance, they followed Jesus.

**Review:**

Let’s review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

How about you? Is Jesus calling you?

Jesus’ call now isn’t much different than it was many years ago when He called His disciples. Sure, you may not be on the beach and you may not have a job to leave. And you probably won’t hear his voice the way you can hear mine, but Jesus is still calling people to follow Him. If you are interested at all or if you have questions about God, it’s because God is already working in your life, maybe someone has introduced you to Jesus the way Andrew told his brother Simon. But the choice is yours. Your mom can’t make a choice for you to follow Jesus. And neither can your brother or sister. They do their part to let you know. The rest is up to you!

Will you follow Him no matter what, trusting that your life will be better than you could ever have imagined? If that is something that you want to do, pray to God, telling Him the following. *“God, thank you for calling me. Thank you for wanting me to walk with you and learn from you. I know that I’ve messed up before and done things I shouldn’t have. I know that you call that sin and that my sin deserves death. But I also know that you are offering me a gift, a free gift. I want to accept Your gift of eternal life because I believe that you sent your very own Son, Jesus, to die in my place, for my sin and I want to follow Him forever. Amen.”*

If you have already met Jesus and asked Him to come into your life, you’re not finished yet! You get the awesome opportunity to invite others to know Jesus, too. You can bring your brothers and sisters, moms and dads, even your friends to Jesus. But how do you do that? You can simply tell them what Jesus has done for you and the decision that you made. You can also invite others to Jesus by the way you live. Jesus left us an example. Will you follow His example?

**Planning for Next Week**  
**Lesson 32 • You Must Be Born Again!**  
**John 3**

# PRESCHOOL LESSON

**SING:** “Every Day With Jesus”

**SHARE:** Who remembers John? His job was to tell others about Jesus. When two of John’s followers heard John tell them about Jesus, they left John and began to follow Jesus.

One of those followers was a man named Andrew. The first thing Andrew did was to run and find his brother, Simon. “We have found God’s Promised One,” Andrew shared! Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus and Jesus gave Simon a new name. He called him Peter.

The next day, Jesus headed to Galilee, where He had grown up. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” And Philip followed. Then, just as Andrew had done, Philip went and found a friend and told him about Jesus. “We have found God’s Promised One,” Philip told him. Philip’s friend was named Nathanael Bartholomew.

After that, as Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He found Peter and Andrew again. They were both fishermen and were throwing their net into the lake to catch fish. But Jesus said to them, “Come. Follow Me. I will show you how to fish for people.” Peter and Andrew left their nets right there on the beach and they followed Jesus at once. From there, Jesus found two other brothers. Their names were James and John. They were in their boat with their dad. They were getting ready to fish. Jesus called out to them and they followed, too.

When Jesus was again walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Matthew, or Levi, sitting at a booth collecting taxes. “Follow Me,” Jesus told Him. So Matthew got up from what he was doing and followed Jesus. Many others followed Jesus. There were twelve special men that Jesus called to be with Him. They were Philip and Nathanael Bartholomew, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John and Matthew. The other five were named Thomas, James, Simon the Zealot, Thaddaeus (or Judas, son of James) and Judas Iscariot.

These twelve men left the life they knew to walk with Jesus and learn from him. They were sent out to preach and do wonderful and amazing things. They followed Jesus.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for friends. Help me tell my friends about You!

# LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Play a fishing game. Cut fish from construction paper, card stock, or even old milk jugs. On each fish, write a word from the memory verse, including the reference. Attach a paper clip to the “mouth” of each fish. Fish for the memory verse with fishing poles made of a dowel rod, string and a magnet. Practice saying the verse as you put it in the right order.
- Decorate a bulletin or your door to prepare your students for the story. Use light blue paper and cover it with small fish. Be sure to label fish with the names of students as they arrive.
- Make footprint pictures. Help each student to step into a shallow tray of paint and transfer their footprint onto construction paper. Print the memory verse on each picture or simply write “Follow in His Steps” with the memory verse reference.
- Make sandals like Jesus might have worn. Use an old cardboard box and string. Trace around your students’ feet, then string to be worn.
- Play “Follow the Leader.”
- Make Invitations. How does it feel to receive an invitation to something important? Can you imagine receiving an invitation to meet Jesus! Encourage your students to make invitations for the people they care about. Invite them to church and share your own story with them, too.
- Sing the following song to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.”

## **The Twelve Disciples**

Jesus called them one by one  
Peter, Andrew, James and John

Next came Philip, Thomas, too  
Matthew and Bartholomew

James the one they called the less  
Simon, also Thaddeus  
The twelfth apostle Judas made  
Jesus was by him betrayed

Yes, Jesus called them  
Yes, Jesus called them  
Yes, Jesus called them  
And they all followed Him.

- For adults or older students: Talk about the memory verse and following in Jesus’ steps. If we are going to follow Jesus, what must we ask? We will want to know what Jesus would do right here and right now. Talk about the saying “What Would Jesus Do.” Make it practical, talking about specific choices to be made. What are the best ways to know what Jesus would do? To know what He did. Read the Bible and memorize scripture. And pray.