

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 7

Jesus Chooses
Followers

Luke 5:1-11; 27-32;
6:12-16

Life of Christ

Jesus Chooses Followers

Luke 5:1-11; 27-32; 6:12-16

Younger Verse

"I have come to call sinners to turn from their sins."

Luke 5:32

Older Verse

"I have come to call sinners to turn from their sins."

Luke 5:32

Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus traveled from town to town to tell people about God's love. He walked to different places in His country to help the people know how to follow God.

One day Jesus was walking by a lake called the Sea of Galilee. It was a great place to fish, so there were men with boats and nets trying to catch fish to eat or sell for money. A crowd formed around Jesus to listen to Him teach. Jesus saw two boats that were empty. The fishermen were on the side of the lake washing their nets.

Jesus got into Simon Peter's boat. Jesus asked Peter to push the boat out a little from the shore so that He could talk to the people. There He sat down and taught the people about God.

When He had finished speaking, He asked Peter to row the boat into deep water and throw out their nets to catch fish. Peter answered that they had already fished all night and had not caught one fish. But he obeyed Jesus and put the nets in the water.

Suddenly, they caught lots of fish! In fact, there were so many that Peter had to call two of his friends, James and John, to come help so that the nets would not break. When Peter saw what happened, he fell at Jesus' feet. He knew that Jesus was someone special from God. He knew that Jesus was pure and holy and that he was not. His friends, James and John, were also amazed.

Jesus simply said, "Don't be afraid; come, follow me and I will help you fish for men." They pulled their boats up to shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Not long after that, Jesus saw a tax collector named Matthew. Matthew's job was to collect taxes from people. The tax collectors would go to everyone in town and demand taxes for things that they bought. Some tax collectors were sneaky and would ask for more than they needed. They would keep the extra money for themselves.

Jesus walked up to Matthew's money table. Jesus told Matthew to come and follow Him.

Lesson Goals

Recognize the faith of the disciples to leave everything and follow Jesus

Understand that we, too, can be followers of Jesus

Immediately, Matthew got up, left everything, and followed Jesus. He knew that Jesus was more important than money. He freely gave up these things and began to walk with Jesus.

The Bible tells us that Matthew had a big banquet for Jesus and invited a crowd of his friends. They came to listen and learn. Matthew knew that Jesus could change their lives just like Jesus changed his. He invited his friends so that they could see that Jesus was more important than anything else in the world.

Jesus prayed and asked God to help Him choose His followers. Then He chose twelve men out of the crowd to be His close followers, called **disciples**. They were Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot.

Did you know that Jesus wants you to be His follower, too? He died and rose again to make a way for us to be forgiven of our sins. When we invite Jesus into our life, we become His followers, or disciples. Are you following Jesus?

Review Questions

1. Who was the fisherman that let Jesus use his boat? (Simon Peter)
2. What happened when Simon, James, and John took their boats out to the deep water? (Their nets were full of fish.)
3. Who was the tax collector that Jesus called to be His follower? (Matthew)
4. How many men did Jesus choose to be His close followers? (twelve)
5. What were these twelve men called? (disciples)

Life Application

Jesus never said that following Him would be easy. In fact, He already knew that He would die on the cross. His followers didn't ask how much money they would get or if they would become famous. They followed Jesus because they knew it was the right thing to do.

When Jesus calls us, He doesn't promise our lives will be easy either. But He does promise to always be with us to help us. He gives His Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him and ask Him to live in their hearts. The Holy Spirit helps us to be better followers.

Planning for Lesson 8
Four Friends Help
Luke 5:17-26

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Chooses Followers

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God loves us, too! He wants us to be His friend and follow Him. That means that we will love Him and help others know and love Him, too. Let's pray and thank God for being our friend.



**Hands-on Activities
for
Jesus Chooses Followers**

Sing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”

Talk about how Matthew invited his friends to meet Jesus. Ask the kids for ideas on how to invite their friends to church. They can make invitations. Think of fun ways to help new people come. Maybe you could plan a dinner.

Have the children name some different places they can go. Then give them a chance to draw themselves following Jesus at that place, i.e. following Jesus in the store, at school, playing outside. Remind them that following Jesus means obeying the things He taught.

Bring Goldfish crackers and/or chocolate coins to hand out for the snack.

Have students trace each others’ feet and then write the memory verse inside the foot drawing. Remind them we need to follow Jesus!

Play “Follow the Leader.”

“I have come to call
sinners to turn from
their sins.”
Luke 5:32

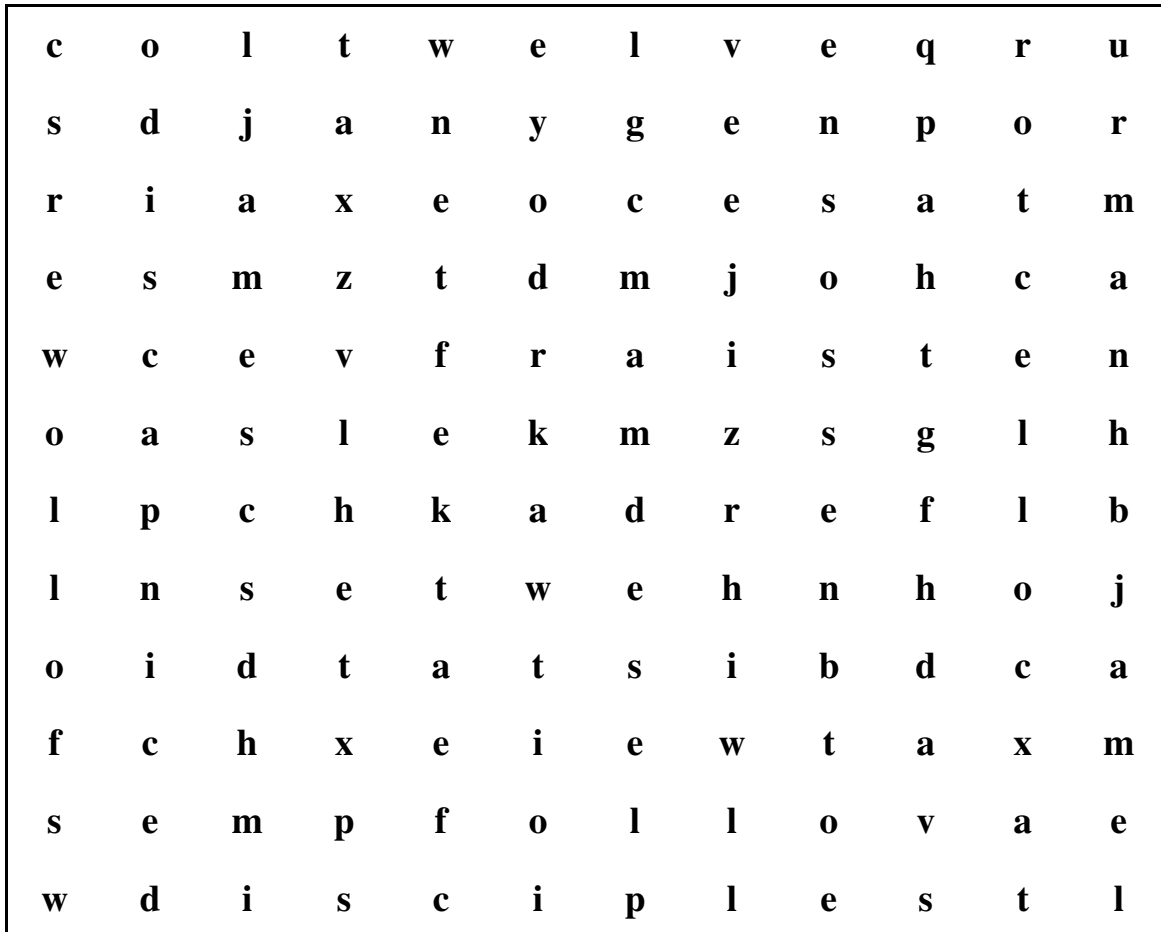


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Word Search

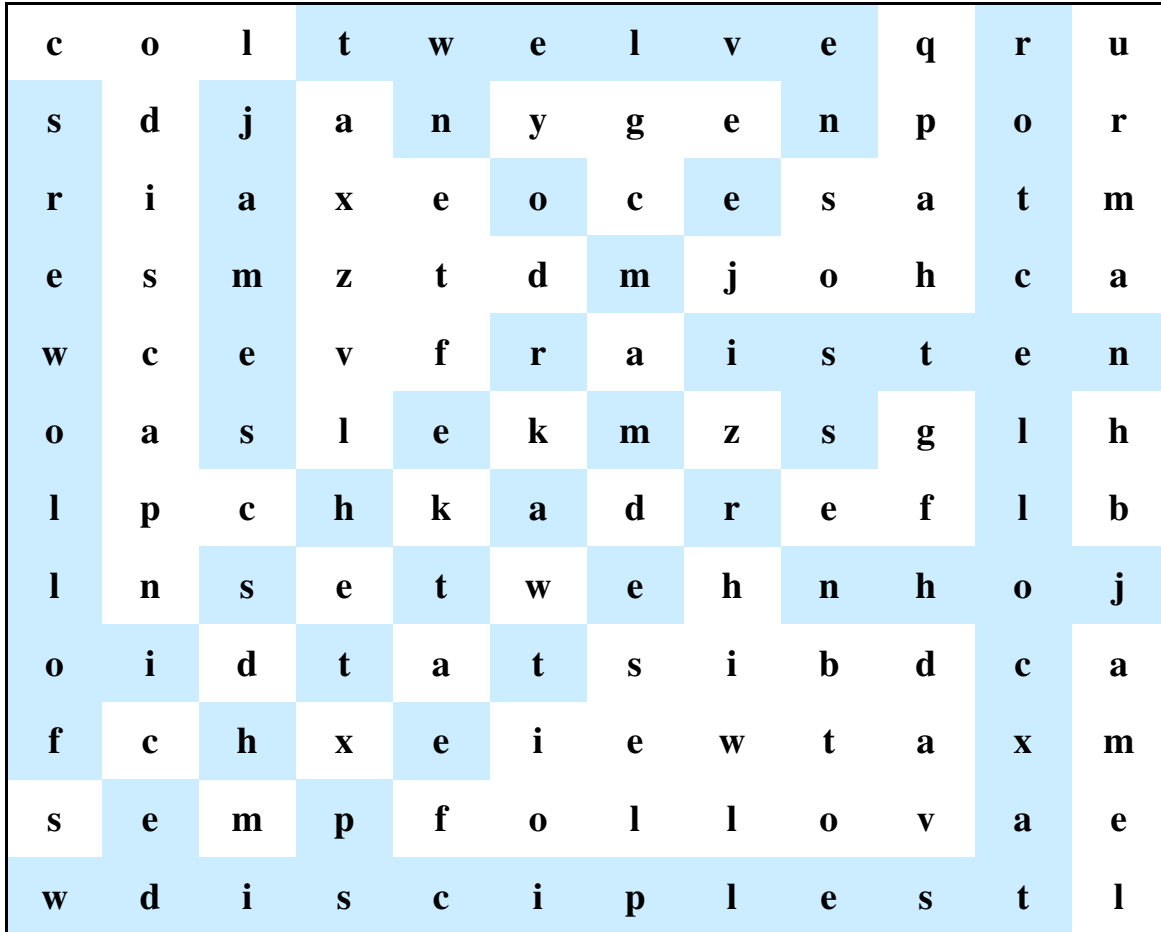
Jesus Chooses Followers



Simon	Peter	James
John	Matthew	nets
fishermen	tax collector	twelve
disciples	followers	

Word Search

Jesus Chooses Followers



Simon	Peter	James
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fishermen	tax collector	twelve
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*Find out what the disciples left to
follow Jesus.*

Write the next letter in the alphabet on the lines below.

D U D Q X S G H M F

Jesus said He came to call

S__n__e__s

to turn from their s__ns.

