

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: Who can you follow?

Bottom Line: I can follow Jesus.

Memory Verse: “Come and follow me,’ Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19

Bible Story Focus: Everyone can follow Jesus.

Matthew (Tax Collector) • Matthew 9:9-12

Memory Verse with Motions:

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I am going to say our memory verse today. Watch me! “Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and follow me (march),” Jesus said (hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19.” (Open hands like a book.)

During the Activity: “Now let’s do it all together! Are you ready? “Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and follow me (march),” Jesus said (hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19.” (Open hands like a book.) (Repeat several times.)

After the Activity: “Our memory verse tells us that God LOVES us so much that He gave us Jesus! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**”

Leaders, Leaders, Leaders:

Live for God | Application Activity

What You Need: Paper, crayons, or markers

What You Do:

During the Activity: Guide your preschoolers in a conversation about leaders. Ask them to draw or name people in their lives that are leaders. [teachers, parents, firemen, policemen, etc.] Write down all of the people they say.

After the Activity: Talk about all the leaders that you drew or listed.

During the Activity: “Everyone think of someone in your life that is a leader. Let’s see how many leaders we can add to our list!” (Do activity.)

After the Activity: “WOW! Look at all of the leaders that are on our list. (Read the list.) Jesus is the most special leader! He shows us how to love others and treat them like He would. **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**”

Follow the Leader:

Live for God | Application Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather your family together.

During the Activity: Take turns playing “Follow the Leader” with each person having the chance to be a leader.

Movement Suggestions/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

What You Say:

After the Activity: “Everyone march in place and say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can follow Jesus.’** Great job! And you are right; you and I can follow Jesus. He’s the best leader ever! Just like in our story today, Matthew, a tax collector, met Jesus. Jesus said, ‘Come and follow me,’ And Matthew did! Jesus came to Matthew’s house for dinner even though Matthew had made some choices that weren’t the best. Jesus still wanted Matthew to follow Him. Why? Because EVERYONE can follow Jesus.” **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.”**

Prayer Time:

“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 when we make some choices that aren’t the best. And thank You that Jesus helps us make right choices. We want to follow Jesus and do what He does. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”