

Gr. 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Decorate your frames for the memory work	Frames and Memory Verse
	Try the session starter: Naming Number	Page 4
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Amanda. She'll get you when ready.	
Classroom	Ask some questions of the questions on page 9.	See leaders guide if you want more answers
Classroom:	Worksheet fill in	Worksheet
	Play simon says. Talk about following the leader. And how do we follow Jesus?	



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** 🗨️ What do you own that would feel impossible to give up? 🗨️

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Wacky Tacky Objects” on the activity page.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Nice work showing off your detective skills to find what didn’t belong in the picture! In today’s lesson, we’ll learn what happened when Jesus called some people to be His disciples. 🗨️

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: NAMING NUMBER



Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Tell everyone to close their eyes. Explain that you will begin by saying the number one. Someone else can then call out the number two, then another person can call the number three, etc. Any of the kids can call out the number, but they must call out the numbers in order. However, if any kids call out the number at the same time, the whole group must start over. Continue playing as time allows, challenging the kids to see how high they can count without starting over.

| **SAY** 🗨️ You guys have some great listening skills! Just like you called out the numbers, Jesus came to call God’s people to turn back to Him. In today’s story, we will learn that **JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES TO FOLLOW HIM.** 🗨️

☐ OPTION 2: FOLLOWING FOOTSTEPS

Use tape or cutout footprints, and create a pattern on the floor. Have the kids form a line behind the pathway. Choose one volunteer to start walking along the pathway by following the pattern. Instruct the next kid in line to walk the same pathway from memory, without looking down at the pattern. If any kid misses a step in the pattern, they are out. Repeat this until all the kids have taken a turn. For more of a challenge, play several times and continue to add more steps each round until only one kid remains.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Following the pathway from memory was not easy! God’s people had strayed from Him because of sin, but Jesus came to call the people back. In today’s story, we will learn that **JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES TO FOLLOW HIM.** 🗨️

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 1. Explain that John, the author of today's story, walked with Jesus as one of His disciples. John knew the sacrifice of following Jesus firsthand and his Gospel reminds readers of the eternal life Christ offers when we follow Him.

Consider pointing out the location of Galilee (C6) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 1:41-43 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🌟 Think of a time when you had to give up something. How does it feel to give up something we care about? [Allow responses.] Giving up our possessions or activities we love can be hard. But it can be easier to walk away from these things if we know we are receiving something better in return. Jesus called His disciples to leave the life they knew in order to follow after Him. When we trust in Jesus as Lord, He calls us to leave behind our life of sin. Giving up the ability to live life the way we want to is not easy, but the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ is worth it. Our new identity as children of God far outweighs any pleasure this world can offer! 🌟

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🌟 How was Jesus able to see Nathanael under the tree? 🌟

Share that Jesus' statement displayed His identity as God. Remind kids that because Jesus is God, He is omniscient. He knows everything about us and desires a personal relationship with us! (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Psalm 139:1-4.)

SAY 🌟 What does the name Son of Man mean? 🌟

Explain that the name "Son of Man" refers to an Old Testament prophecy where Daniel described someone who would rule the world forever. Remind kids that Jesus is the sinless Son of God who the prophets pointed to! (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Daniel 7:13-14.)

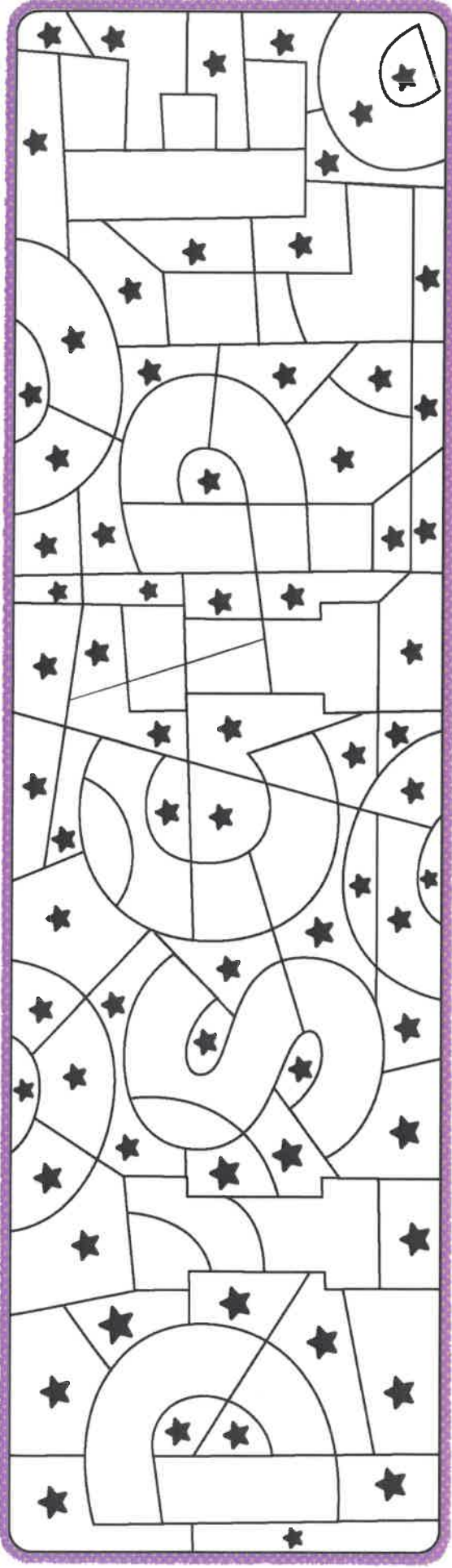
SAY 🌟 Does following Jesus cost us anything? 🌟

Share that salvation is a free gift from God and that we can't earn it by being good enough on our own. However, Jesus also tells people to count the cost of following Him. To be a disciple of Jesus, we must be willing to turn away from our sin and want to live for His glory, not our own. Following Jesus is not easy, but He offers something the world cannot: salvation and eternal life through Himself. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 16:24-25.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**



Follow Him | Color each section that has a star. What did you learn about this word today?



Jesus
is the

and

We Found Him | Find the hidden letters in today's story picture. The red letters will form one word. The blue letters will form another word. Unscramble the letters to find out who Andrew found.





JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 20 • Session 4

JESUS' FIRST FOLLOWERS

John 1

IS JESUS GOD OR A HUMAN? JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY HUMAN.

One day, John was standing with two of his disciples. John saw Jesus passing by and said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

John's disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned to them and said, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Where are you staying?"

"Come and see for yourself," Jesus replied. So, they stayed with Him that day. One of the two was named Andrew. Andrew brought Simon to Jesus.

The next day, Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found a man named Philip and told him, "Follow me." Philip found his friend Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law."

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, He said, "Here truly is an Israelite who tells no lie."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked Jesus.

Jesus replied, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

"Rabbi," Nathanael replied, "You are the Son of God!"

Jesus responded, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than this."

Christ Connection: Jesus still calls people to follow Him today as His disciples. Everyone who repents and trusts that Jesus died and rose again for their sins is His disciple. Jesus is worth following, no matter what we have to leave behind.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO USE AT HOME!