

# JESUS' FIRST FOLLOWERS

JOHN 1



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- John was with two of his followers. He saw Jesus and said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”
- The two men left John and followed Jesus. They stayed with Jesus that day.
- Jesus found Philip and said, “Follow Me.” Andrew, his brother Simon (or Peter), Philip, and Nathanael all followed Jesus.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** One day, John was with two of his followers. John saw Jesus and said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” The two men left John to follow Jesus. The men asked Jesus where He was staying. Jesus said, “Come and see.” The men followed Jesus and spent the day with Him. One of the men who followed Jesus was Andrew. Andrew found his brother, Simon (also called Peter), and brought him to Jesus. Then Jesus found Philip and said, “Follow Me.” Philip told Nathanael, “We found the one we have been waiting for. He is Jesus!” When Nathanael met Jesus, Jesus already knew him. Nathanael said, “Teacher, You are the Son of God and the King of Israel!”



## **LEARNING** Activities

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Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to John 1. Show the Bible Story Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

### **1 SING A SONG**

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”:

“The Word became flesh,  
The Word became flesh,  
The Word became flesh (clap),  
And lived among us.”

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that Jesus became a human, like us, and lived among us. Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples. ”

### **2 FOLLOW “JESUS” FOOTPRINTS**

Trace the babies’ feet on construction paper to create footprints. Cut out the footprints and tape them on the floor around the room. Assist the babies in a walking position to step on the footprints. Say, “We can follow Jesus.” Retell the last gospel gem.

**SAY** “ Our Bible story reminds us that Jesus found Philip and said, ‘Follow Me.’ Andrew, his brother Simon (or Peter), Philip, and Nathanael all followed Jesus. Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples too! ”

### **3 PLAY PEEKABOO**

Provide a toy lamb. Sit the babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders’ laps. Cover the toy with a blanket. Pull off the blanket and excitedly say, “Peekaboo! Look, the Lamb of God!” Encourage the babies to clap. Repeat several times. Cheer for the babies as they try to pull off the blanket.

**SAY** “ John was with two of his followers. Who did John see? Yes, He saw Jesus and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God!’ The two men left John and followed Jesus. They stayed with Jesus that day. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to John 1. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

### 2 FILL IN THE LAMB

Provide the "Lamb Outline" printable for each toddler. Squirt liquid glue on paper plates. Invite toddlers to fill in their lambs by dipping cotton balls in the glue and pressing them onto their papers. Encourage the toddlers to hold their "lambs" for everyone to see. Retell the story as the toddlers fill in their lambs.

**SAY** "When John saw Jesus, John said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!' The two men with John left and followed Jesus. Can we follow Jesus? Yes! Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples too!"

### 3 COME AND SEE THE LAMB

Use painters' tape to create a simple maze or path on the floor. Provide toy cars for toddlers to get through the maze. Place a toy lamb inside a box and set it at the end of the maze. Lay a blanket over the box. When the toddlers reach the end of the maze, invite the toddlers to "come and see" the lamb. Repeat several times. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** "John saw Jesus and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!' Then two men with John left to follow Jesus. The men asked Jesus where He was staying. What did Jesus say? Yes, Jesus said, 'Come and see.' The men followed Jesus, and we can too! Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples."

### 4 SEEK AND FOLLOW

Place various objects (such as footprint cutouts, two people figures, glasses, Bible, shoe, toy lamb, and so forth) around the room. Lead the toddlers on a scavenger hunt. Encourage the toddlers to follow you like the men followed Jesus. When toddlers find the items, explain how they remind you of the Bible story. Encourage the toddlers to say, "We can follow Jesus too!"

**SAY** "In our Bible story, we learned that Andrew found his brother, Simon, and brought him to Jesus. Then Jesus found Philip and said, 'Follow Me.' Philip told Nathanael, 'We found the one we have been waiting for.' Who was the one they were talking about? Yes, Jesus!"

### 5 COUNT TO TWO

Gather a variety of toys in groups of two, such as balls, blocks, crayons, books, and so forth. Hide one item from each of the pairs around the room. Hold up one of the items. Challenge the toddlers to find the matching item and bring it to you. Lead the toddlers in counting each pair, saying, "One, two." Repeat for all items. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** "Today, we counted to two. How many friends were with John when he saw Jesus? Yes, two! John was with two of his followers when he saw Jesus and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!'"

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## JOHN 1

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: FIND THE ONES

Place several cardstock cutouts of the number 1 in random places around the room at toddlers' eye level. Encourage the toddlers to search for the cutouts and bring them to you. Say, "Jesus is the One!" after each number cutout has been found. Replay as time permits and interest allows. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** " Today we learned about four followers—Andrew; Andrew's brother, Simon; Philip; and Nathanael. Jesus found Philip and said, 'Follow Me.' Philip told Nathanael, 'We found the one we have been waiting for.' Who was the one they were waiting for? Yes, Jesus! "

### 2 SING THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Sing to the tune of "The Farmer In the Dell": "The Word became flesh, / The Word became flesh, / The Word became flesh, (clap) / and lived among us." Use hand motions such as fold your hands together to make a V for "The Word." For "flesh," point to the flesh on your arm or hand. On "among us," point out to each toddler. Repeat, using the hand motions as you sing.

**SAY** " Our key passage phrase reminds us that Jesus, the Word, came to live among us. We can trust that Jesus is the Son of God who calls us to follow Him and be His disciples. "

### 3 FOLLOW JESUS

Trace and cut out the toddlers' feet on pieces of construction paper. Write Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples on each toddler's footprint. Provide crayons for the toddlers to color and decorate their feet cutouts. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers color their footprints.

**SAY** " Jesus called the four men from our Bible story to follow Him. Can we follow Jesus too? Yes, Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples. When we follow Jesus, we can follow Him with our feet as we go or with our lives in how we treat others. We can live like Jesus today! "

### 4 FOLLOW AND MARCH

Invite the toddlers to gather in a line. Instruct the toddlers to repeat the key passage phrase and follow your movements. Use movements such as putting your palms together in a V (the Word), point to arms (flesh), and point to self (us). March in different ways such as using long strides, tiptoeing, zigzagging, and sidestepping. Play instrumental worship music on an electronic device as the toddlers march.

**SAY** " Jesus called the men in our story to follow Him. Jesus calls us to follow Him and be His disciples too! We can know His Word, obey His commands, and follow Him today. "

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's Big Picture Card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.