

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

TWO

MARCH 2018

SMALL GROUP

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Monthly Overview
Create the Environment

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.
Gone Fishin'
Numbers of Fish Matching
Fishing for Pieces

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Friend Forever
Amazing Things

10
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Introductory Sketch
Bible Story
Prayer

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.
Memory Verse Fish
Act It Out
Fishing with Straws
Catch the Leader
Net Making
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

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1. GONE FISHIN'

Choose a fishing activity off of First Look's March 2018 Pinterest Board to do with the children. There are many different choices and you can choose the activity that works best for your class. www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/march-2018-gone-fishin/

WHAT YOU NEED: Supplies needed for the fishing activity of your choice

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set up the fishing activity.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Help the children fish.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's go fishing!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I have a fun fishing activity for us to do. Let's work together and see how many fish we can catch!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job fishing! Today we are going to hear a TRUE Bible story about two sets of brothers who were fishermen. Are you ready to hear an exciting story from the Bible?" (Pause.)

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to cast and reel fishing poles as you walk to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**



PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

2. NUMBERS OF FISH MATCHING

WHAT YOU NEED: "Fish Matching" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and 10 foam fish or fish die cuts

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Fish Matching" pages onto cardstock. Set the foam fish or fish die cuts on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the fish inside the nets on each page. Let the children take turns placing a foam or die cut fish onto the page with the "1" on it. Count the fish together as you point to the number on the page. Repeat with each page, adding the number of fish that correspond to the number on the page.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today I thought we could catch some of these fish in our nets!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you see the number in the center of this page? (Pause.) It's a number 1. (Select a child.) Would you like to put one of our fish into the net with this number 1? (Pause as child completes task.) Great job! Let's continue looking at the numbers on these pages and taking turns placing that number of fish into each net."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job counting, friends! (Point to the '4' page.) Can anyone remember what number this is? (Pause for responses.) Yes! It's the number four. Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about four men who met Jesus! Let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out a number between one and four and counting to that number.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**



EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

3. FISHING FOR PIECES

WHAT YOU NEED: Several preschool fish and sea creature puzzles

Visit First Look's March 2018 Pinterest Board for suggestions: <https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/march-2018-gone-fishin/>

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay the puzzles out in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Allow the children to work together to put the puzzles together.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Encourage every child to try each puzzle.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "YAY! I love to do puzzles! Follow me and let's have some fun!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's help each other put these fish puzzles together!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Nice work! Hmm. I wonder if there are fish in our Bible story today. Let's get ready to hear our TRUE story from the Bible and find out!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by making fish faces as you walk to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
REVIEW



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**

1. MEMORY VERSE FISH

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Fish" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Verse Fish" Activity Pages onto cardstock and cut apart.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in an open area of the room. Review this month's memory verse by saying it together with the motions. Then place the fish on the floor in verse order and "read" the verse together. Point out that the fish go from smallest to largest. Once you've read the verse, collect and shuffle the fish and work together as a group to put them order again, smallest to largest.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We're learning a GREAT verse this month. Let's say it together with the motions. "Come (*motion toward yourself with hand*) and follow me" (*march*), Jesus said (*hands to mouth like yelling*), Matthew 4:19. (*Open your hands like a book.*) That's right, friends! I have the words of our verse written on these fish. (*Hold up.*) Let's work together to put the fish in order here on the floor and then say the verse together."

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did an awesome job working together to get our fish in order from smallest to largest. It looks like the smaller fish are following the largest fish! We learned in our story today that Andrew and Peter and John and James all chose to follow Jesus. And we can follow Him too! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine,
and role play to enhance their learning

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**

2. ACT IT OUT

WHAT YOU NEED: 2 fishing nets (*these can be simple handheld nets or larger throw nets*)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Choose four children to be Andrew, Peter, John, and James. Have Andrew and Peter stand on one side of the activity area and John and James stand on the other side. Give each pair of children one net.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the four children to pretend to be catching fish with the net. Have the other children line up behind you in a single file line. Lead the children to Andrew and Peter first. Instruct the children behind you to say, "Follow me," and for Andrew and Peter to drop the net and get in line. Repeat the activity by leading the children to where John and James are. Have the children say, "Follow me," and have John and James join the line.

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We heard a wonderful story about how Jesus wants us to follow Him! Let's act out our Bible story!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Choose the fishermen and give them the nets.*)
"Now everyone else get behind me! Let's do what Jesus did in our story." (*Do activity.*)

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was fun! Jesus wants everyone to follow Him. He went to Andrew and Peter and said, 'Follow Me.' They dropped their fishing nets and followed Jesus! So did John and James! Jesus wants us to follow Him too! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

3. FISHING WITH STRAWS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Paper Fish" Activity Page, white copy paper, scissors, straws (1 per child), and a large bin or basket

(NOTE: If you have a large class, consider setting out a basket or bin and fish on two different tables.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Paper Fish" Activity Page onto white copy paper. Make enough copies so that you have at least one fish per child. Cut out the fish. Lay the fish out on the table around the basket/bin.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Show the children how to put one end of the straw in their mouths and the other directly on top of one of the fish. Then suck in to create a suction that holds the fish. While holding their breath, they must transfer the fish from the table to the basket/bin. Let them practice a few times. Once all fish have been placed in the bin, put them back out on the tables and repeat if time/interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Okay, friends, we're going to do something SUPER cool today! I'm going to show you how to move one of these paper fish into this basket/bin with a straw! But first, we have a BIG rule. Every friend has his or her own straw. You don't need to share your straw with anyone else! Are you ready? (Pause.) Okay, everyone, watch this!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "You will place one end of the straw in your mouth and the other end on top of one of the fish. Then you will suck in your breath and hold it ALL the way to the basket/bin. Once you've arrived, you can let out the breath you're holding to drop the fish into the basket/bin. Are you ready to try? (Pause.) Okay, everyone, stand behind a fish with your straw in your mouth. Ready? Go!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Yay! You caught all the fish. I'm not sure we could catch a real fish that way, but it sure was fun. In our Bible story today, Andrew and Peter and John and James were all fishermen. They left their nets behind to follow Jesus. And we can follow Jesus too. **Who can you follow?** Say it with me. **I can follow Jesus.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
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KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

4. CATCH THE LEADER

WHAT YOU NEED: Hula-hoop, pool noodles, utility knife, and duct tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Use the utility knife to cut the pool noodles in half vertically. You will have long pieces. Place the pieces around the hula-hoop as if you're putting the noodles back together with the hula-hoop inside it. Secure the noodles around the hoop with the tape.

(NOTE: Be sure to only use the utility knife when the children are not present. It is best to prepare for this activity before any child enters the classroom.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Get down on your knees so that you are at preschool height. Have the children stand about four feet in front of you. Encourage the children to toss the hoop at you and try to "catch" you. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Catch me if you can!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our Bible story was about fishermen who tried to catch fish all day. We are going to pretend that you are the fishermen and I am the fish! Toss the hoop and see if you can get it over me. Catch me if you can!" *(Do activity.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You are all such magnificent fishermen! You caught me! The fishermen in our story today were catching fish too. Jesus walked by and said, 'Follow Me,' and they stopped fishing and followed Jesus. We can follow Jesus too! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**ANDREW AND PETER;
JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**

5. NET MAKING

WHAT YOU NEED: "Nets" Activity Page, white cardstock, foam fish (4 per child), craft sticks (1 per child), snack-sized zip-top bags (1 per child), and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Nets" Activity Page onto cardstock and cut apart. Gather the remaining supplies and put them in the center of the table.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around the table. Pass out a zip-top bag, a net cutout from the Activity Page, and a craft stick to each child. Show them how to use one or two pieces of tape to secure their craft stick to the back of the bag near top of the zip-top bag to create the handle of the net. Remind them to tape their craft stick so that they can still open the bag. Encourage the children to place a net and four foam fish inside the bag and close it up.

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "What were Peter and Andrew and John and James doing when Jesus found them? (Pause for responses.) Yes! They were fishing. To fish back then, they used big nets! I thought it would be fun for us to make our own nets to take home."

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, we'll tape a craft stick like this (hold up a craft stick) to the back of our zip-top bags. Then we'll place one of these cards inside the bag. (Hold up a net cutout.) See how it looks like a net? (Pause.) Awesome! And what do we want to catch in our nets? (Pause for responses.) Yes! Fish! So let's put four of these foam fish (hold up foam fish) into the bag and then close it up tight."

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job. Your nets look awesome! I want you to take these nets home as a reminder of how Peter and Andrew and John and James chose to leave their nets behind and follow Jesus. Right here on the card it says, 'I can follow Jesus.' Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

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JOHN AND JAMES
MATTHEW 4:18-22**

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" paper clipped in your Bible at Matthew 4:19, journal, fun-shaped pen, and a timer (*can use one on a phone*)

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! (*Say each child's name in your small group*), come and follow me!

(*Make a sweeping motion with your hand for the children to follow you and lead them to your Small Group spot.*)

"Let's see. (*Name each child again*), you all followed me, just like Andrew, Peter, James, and John followed Jesus in our Bible story today. Let's sit down and talk about it. One, two, three, sit down with me!

"Do you remember what Peter and Andrew were doing when Jesus told them to, 'Come and follow me'? (*Pause for response.*) Yes! They were fishing. And what did Peter and Andrew do? (*Pause for response.*) They followed Jesus!

"Do you remember what John and James were doing when Jesus told them to, 'Come and follow me'? (*Pause for response.*) Right again! They were fishing. And what did James and John do? (*Pause for response.*) They followed Jesus!

"Peter, Andrew, James, and John knew that following Jesus was a good thing, so that's what they did. They all followed Jesus. It's a good thing when WE follow Jesus too. So tell me: **Who can you follow?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "I can follow Jesus!"

SGL: "Say it in a quiet voice this time. Who can you follow?"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "I can follow Jesus!"

SGL: "Now let me hear your loud voice! Who can you follow?"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "I can follow Jesus!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY
TO GOD
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

SGL: "Woohoo! We can all follow Jesus! (*Give each child a high five.*) Now let's practice our new Bible verse. It says exactly what Jesus said to Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Do you remember what Jesus said?"

(Open Bible to verse.)

"Come and follow me," Jesus said, Matthew 4:19.

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

"That's easy to remember! Say it with me and we can do the motions too. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Come (*motion toward yourself with hand*) and follow me" (*march*), Jesus said (*hands to mouth like yelling*), Matthew 4:19." (*Open your hands like a book.*) (*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

SGL: "Remember, following Jesus means doing what He does, like loving people or helping people or even sharing with people. And the best part is Jesus wants everyone to follow Him. EVERYONE! Ohhhh, that gives me an idea for our prayer journal. Let's sit down and get started.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"I'm going to set the timer on my phone for three minutes. When I say GO, let's make a list of EVERYONE we know until the timer goes off. We can use our list when we pray and ask God to help EVERYONE follow Jesus. Okay, get ready! When I say GO, start saying names of EVERYONE you know.

(Write each name that the children say. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"Whew! This is a lot of names! Let's pray and ask God to help EVERYONE follow Jesus. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, Jesus is such a good, good friend. Thank You that He loves EVERYONE and that He wants EVERYONE to follow Him. We pray that (*read the list the children made*) will follow Jesus. We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."