

# Follow Me

## TEACHING NOTES



**Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1-12, Luke 4: 42-44)**



God's Word is authoritative

Jesus fulfills God's purposes



**The invitation to follow Jesus (Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 4:19)**



Jesus invites us to follow Him



Man chooses either faith or unbelief in God

### KEY VERSES

Luke 4:1-4, Luke 4: 8, Luke 4: 12,  
Luke 4: 42-44, Luke 5, Matthew 4:19

### KEY THEMES

God's Word is authoritative

Jesus invites us to follow Him

Man chooses either faith or unbelief  
in God

INTRODUCTION

INNOCENCE

CONSCIENCE

PROMISE

LAW



## The unbelief of the Pharisees (Luke 5:17-28, Luke 5:31-32)



What I choose to believe or have experienced (or perceive) can limit what I am willing to believe or accept

### Jesus demonstrates the process of discipleship

**Discipleship:** when someone who has gone before in their walk of faith helps someone coming behind to apply the truth of God's Word to their everyday life

Invitation and response

Elements of discipleship



### Lesson Objective:

*To know that as believers Jesus is inviting us to follow Him.*

*To respond in faith to the truth God reveals and apply it to our lives.*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Whenever we spend time reading and studying God's Word, we should ask God to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the truth that He has for us. Take a moment to do this now.

**The first disciples****Read Luke 5:1-11**

Who did the fishermen originally know Jesus to be?

What did Jesus do to show them who He really was?

What was Simon Peter's response to what Jesus did?

It wasn't just Simon Peter who was amazed by this; James and John were there and were just as impressed with Jesus. In verse ten Jesus replied to Simon saying, *"Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"* And as soon as they reached the shore Simon, James, and John left everything and followed Him.

Why do you think the fishermen responded in that way?

What has God done in your life to show you who He is? What was your response to Him? Did you respond in faith like Simon Peter, James, and John?

What in life makes it hard for us to respond to God in faith like the fishermen?



### **Jesus invites people to follow Him.**

After showing people who He is, He stands at the shore inviting them to follow Him, and waits on a response. When God calls, are you willing to adjust your life in order to respond? Or will you stand around and come up with excuses for why it's not a good time to follow Him?

#### **Key verse**

Using the provided card, put to memory Matthew 4:19. Place the card where you can see it throughout the day.

#### **Prayer time**

Spend some time in prayer thanking the Lord for how He invites people to follow Him. Pray that your response would be one of faith like Simon, James, and John.

Share with God what is on your heart and mind, and pray for any needs you have in your life.

## **Study 2**

### **Prepare your heart and mind**

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and direction as you study God's Word.

### **Jesus heals a paralyzed man**



#### **Read Luke 5:17-26**

Two diverse responses to Jesus and His ministry are identified in this story. The paralytic and his friends were persistent in seeking after Jesus, while the Pharisees and teachers were resistant to Jesus.

Describe how the paralytic and his friends demonstrated their faith in believing who Jesus was.

Describe the Pharisees' response to Jesus forgiving the sins of the paralytic.

The Pharisees and teachers were indignant and instantly responded with unbelief, questioning the authority of Jesus to forgive sins. How did Jesus respond?

Jesus' authority to forgive sins was made evident by the healing of the paralytic man. What is the paralytic's response to being healed?

### **Man chooses either faith or unbelief in God.**

Stop a moment and reflect on how you respond when God is at work. Are you persistent in your faith or are there times that unbelief keeps you from responding to what God may be doing around you?

### **Prayer time**

Part of being a Christ-follower is developing an awareness of God at work around us. Prayer is an opportunity to respond to God in faith. Spend some time in prayer asking God to remind you of times where He has been at work and you have joined Him. Also, spend some time asking God to reveal to you where He is currently at work and may want you to respond.

### **Key verse**

Continue learning Matthew 4:19. See if you can write it by memory.

## PARENT GUIDE

Bedtime story is another tool you will see provided in the Parent Guide. Reading stories at bedtime is a common practice between parents and children. This time is another opportunity to share with your children what you are learning in God's Word.

### **Bedtime story**

In your study guide this week, you read the story of Jesus healing a paralytic (Luke 5:17-26). At bedtime read this story to your children using an age appropriate Bible. Another method would be to retell the story in your own words. Use these questions as a tool to talk about what you have read.

What are the two things Jesus does for the man who was lowered down through the ceiling?

Do you believe Jesus forgives our sins? Do you believe that He can heal the sick?

Who shows their faith in this story?

We recommend using an age appropriate Bible when you read to your children. We have a list of Bibles on the following page for you to look at if you are not sure which one to purchase.

If finances are an issue in purchasing a Bible at this time, please let us know.

## **Bible Suggestions**

### **Age infant-6**

*The Beginners Bible*

Sonlight uses this Bible in the early childhood and preschool rooms.

### **Age 4-8**

*NLT My First Hands-on Bible*

An easy to read translation with great family activities that help bring the Bible alive.

### **Age 6-10**

*NiRV The Adventure Bible for Early Readers*

An understandable version with lots of extra features.

### **Age 8-12**

*NLT Hands-On Bible*

An easy to read translation with great hands-on activities for the whole family to experience together.

## ADDITIONAL STUDY

*Equipping the Church* was built on a simple premise that the truths we learn about the character of God can be applied to our lives and become the foundation for our worldview. If we believe what the Bible reveals about the nature of God, it will cause an adjustment in the way we view our lives and the world around us. True faith in who God is always produces a response. Course 1 began with the idea that God is our owner because He created all things (Genesis 1:1). As we continued our journey through the Old Testament God's character was revealed in even greater detail.

How has the truth about the nature and character of God impacted your life?



### Read Psalm 24:1-2

Has the concept of God being your owner affected the way you view your time, finances and lifestyle? How so?



### Read Genesis 12:1-3

God made several promises to Abraham in this passage. We can see over five thousand years later that God kept every promise with great diligence. He is a promise keeper! How has this given you faith in God's Word?



### Read Deuteronomy 8:2-4

One of the main principals in the Bible is that God is the sole provider for His people. Has belief in this truth given you confidence that God will provide for you and your family no matter your circumstances? How so?

Changed thinking and behavior is the evidence that faith has taken root in our hearts. One of the best questions we can ask ourselves is, "Am I responding to the truth of God's Word in faith?"