

follow me

**The disciples of  
JESUS**

## Contents:

		Page
<b><u>Leader's letter</u></b>		3
<b><u>Lesson 1</u></b>	Jesus calls us to follow	5
<b><u>Lesson 2</u></b>	Andrew brings others to Jesus	10
<b><u>Lesson 3</u></b>	Simon Peter gets it right/wrong	14
<b><u>Lesson 4</u></b>	Jesus came for sinners like Matthew	19
<b><u>Lesson 5</u></b>	John & James have a change of heart	23
<b><u>Lesson 6</u></b>	Judas Iscariot & Thaddaeus (good Judas) say they love Jesus	28
<b><u>Lesson 7</u></b>	Thomas stops doubting and believes	32
<b><u>Lesson 8</u></b>	Philip & Nathanael (Bartholomew) learn that Jesus knows everything	36
<b><u>Lesson 9</u></b>	James (the less) & Simon the zealot glorify Jesus	41
<b><u>Lesson 10</u></b>	Jesus chooses YOU as His disciple	45

## Follow me

### LETTER TO THE LEADERS

The History behind each of these events makes the disciples come to life and reveal how ordinary people are chosen to follow and be used by Jesus. The life-changing lessons that Jesus intends for us to learn from each of them is what we want the children to walk away with. As leaders, be ready to be inspired as you grow in your own understanding of what it means to be a disciple, using every opportunity this term to put it into practice.

**Each week you will be introducing one or more disciple, sometimes as a skit, other times in the lesson. General facts have been given about each. Consider your age group to decide which facts are relevant to achieving the learning outcome.**

**There is an activity booklet summarising each lesson to be used each week - how many will your site require (it works best for children who can read; we recommend keeping these booklets at your site allowing children to work in it on the Sunday)?**

Each site has been given a set of laminated, coloured footprints. These can be used as décor as well as for a few different games each week.

**Option 1:** Use whiteboard markers to write “Jesus” on some of the footprints and not on others. Children must follow the ones that say “Jesus” and hop over the ones that don’t.

**Option 2:** Use a whiteboard marker to write the names of the disciples on each footprint. Children can say the name of the disciple as they hop from foot to foot. (They could even try to say a fun fact about the disciple they are standing on!) Eg. Matthew: He was a tax collector.

**Option 3:** Write one word of a memory verse on each footprint. Children say the memory verse as they hop from foot to foot.

**Option 4:** The six colours of salvation: Use the footprints to follow the path to salvation.

Green – God created the world and us













Black – But we sinned

Red – Jesus died for us on the cross

White – To wash away our sin and forgive us

Blue – The Holy Spirit fills us

Yellow – So we can spend eternity in heaven

<p><b>I am Matthew</b></p> 	<p>I was a tax collector but left <b>everything</b> to follow Jesus.</p> <p><b>Remember: God loves everyone</b></p>	<p><b>I am James</b></p> 	<p>I wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan village (Luke 9:52-56)</p> <p><b>Remember: Jesus can change our hearts</b></p>	<p><b>I am Andrew</b></p> 	<p>I brought my brother to Jesus. John 1:42 I brought the boy with 2 fish &amp; 5 loaves to Jesus. John 12:12</p> <p><b>Remember: Preach the good news to everyone.</b></p>
<p><b>I am Thomas</b></p> 	<p>When Jesus rose from the dead I doubted that it was really Him.</p> <p><b>Remember: Bring your doubts to Jesus &amp; He will take them away</b></p>	<p><b>I am Philip</b></p> 	<p>I found Nathanael (Bartholomew) and told him about Jesus. John 1:45</p> <p><b>Remember: It is important to tell others and bring them to Jesus.</b></p>	<p><b>I am Nathanael (Bartholomew)</b></p> 	<p>Jesus knew me before He even saw me under the tree! John 1:47</p> <p><b>Remember: God knows everything about you and chose you to follow Him</b></p>
<p><b>I am Judas Iscariot</b></p> 	<p>I betrayed Jesus. Luke 22:48</p> <p><b>Remember: Our words AND actions need to show love to Jesus and others.</b></p>	<p><b>I am Thaddaeus</b></p> 	<p>I learnt that anyone who loves Jesus will obey His teachings. (John 14:23)</p> <p><b>Remember: The Holy Spirit will help us remember and teach us all the important lessons we need to obey.</b></p>	<p><b>I am Simon</b></p> 	<p>After Jesus ascended into Heaven I went with the other disciples to pray. (Acts 1:9-14)</p> <p><b>Remember: It is important to pray together for J-O-Y (Jesus; Others; Yourself)</b></p>
<p><b>I am John</b></p> 	<p>I taught others to love each other because love comes from God. 1 John 4:7</p> <p><b>Remember: Jesus is the perfect example of love.</b></p>	<p><b>I am Simon Peter</b></p> 	<p>I was the first to say that Jesus is the son of God yet I denied Jesus three times.</p> <p><b>Remember: Sometimes we get it right, sometimes we get it wrong but when we do – God forgives</b></p>	<p><b>I am James (the less)</b></p> 	<p>No one knows much about me.</p> <p><b>Remember: Do everything to make Jesus' name famous – not your own.</b></p>

## Lesson One: Jesus calls us to follow Him

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus wants you to be a fisher of men
- Following Jesus can help you be a fisher of men
- What it means and practical ways to be a fisher of men

### 1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 4:19

***“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse

*You can have the game going as the children arrive.*

-Use the templates from craft option 1 to make fish for a fishing pond. Add a metal paper clip so that they can be picked up with a magnet

-Join a magnet to the end of a string and tie it onto a dial stick for the fishing rod.

Children say the verse before they have a turn to fish out the fish.

For a bit of added fun let each leader have one or more of the “fish/people” pinned to them. Once the child has fished one out of the pond they have to find the leader with that fish/person, catch them and tell them the memory verse. Jelly beans work well as a little well done.

The same pond can be used as a review questions game. See details later.

### 2) Hands on

#### Perform the following game/s:

##### 2.1) Game

Have footprints cut out and placed on the floor. The children must only follow the ones that say Jesus on them. The end can lead to the fishing pond or a marshmallow fish hanging from a string for them to eat using only their hands. Have the memory verse and other verses along the way.

##### 2.2) Puppet script:

Bobo	(Bobo throws all kinds of things out of the stage while mumbling where could it be ...maybe under here, behind this ...)
Cindy	Bobo, is that you?
Bobo	Yes, but I can't chat now I'm VERY busy! (pop up) Hi kids - I'm VERY busy gotta go
Cindy	But Bobo, you're making a huge mess, What are you doing back there?
Bobo	I have to find it - I have to find it! I just HAVE to find it (pop up)
Cindy	What do you have to find Bobo? What are you looking for?
Bobo	My fishing rod of course (sarcastic).
Cindy	Oh of course ... your fishing rod ... <i>your fishing rod?</i> Bobo you're a circus clown. Why do you need a fishing rod?
Bobo	I read my Bible last night
Cindy	Well done Bobo!

Bobo	Well in there it told me I HAVE to be a fisherman! So I can't talk now I HAVE TO find my fishing rod! (go down)
Cindy	Children do you think Jesus says we all HAVE to be fisherman? Do you think Bobo has made a mistake? I think so. Let's ask him why he thinks Jesus wants him to be a fisherman. Bobo? Bobo? Can you come up here for just a minute? It won't take long.
Bobo	Well just for a minute... cos I really need to find that fishing rod so I can be a fisherman
Cindy	Bobo why do you think the Bible wants you to be a fisherman?
Bobo	I read in Matthew 4:19 ..ughm(clear throat) Jesus said ... FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERMEN... <b>&amp; I want to follow Jesus so I have to be a fisherman.</b>
Cindy	Oh Bobo, that's not what it says. Matthew 4:19 reads... Jesus said, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.
Bobo	What?? I'm not gonna catch fish?
Cindy	Nope
Bobo	I'm gonna catch PEOPLE!
Cindy	Yip
Bobo	Pretty odd,but ok. Oh look these kids are people. What kind of bait do they like... sardines?
Cindy	Bobo Jesus didn't mean we must catch people with a fishing rod and a hook?
Bobo	HE didn't? Then what does He mean? I'm so confused.
Cindy	Would you like me to tell you the whole story to help explain it to you?
Bobo	Yes please. I'm so confused
Cindy	You see one day Jesus was walking by this big beautiful lake and there were many men there in their boats catching lots & lots of fish! Jesus walked passed many of the boats and stopped at one in particular. This was the boat of Simon and Andrew. In those days they didn't use a fishing rod to catch fish, they used a big net. But Simon Peter and Andrew had not caught EVEN ONE fish.
Bobo	What kind of fisherman are they? ... Not even ONE fish!
Cindy	Well Jesus asked them if He could climb on their boat, push it out into the water and teach all the people on the shore and in the boats around about God. Of course they said yes and so that is what He did.
Bobo	Maybe He should have taught them how to fish!
Cindy	After Jesus was finished teaching all the people he told Simon Peter and Andrew to go out a little deeper and let down their nets and try and catch some fish
Bobo	Did they tell Him that they had been trying and hadn't even caught one fish!
Cindy	They did - but they agreed to do it anyway because they believed that Jesus had some authority and was worth listening to.
Bobo	And did they catch something? Please tell me they caught at least a small guppy!
Cindy	Well they threw their nets over and this time ... they caught so many fish that their nets even began to break! They had to call over to the other boats around them to come fetch some before they started to sink. It was after this that Jesus said in Matthew 4:19 Follow me and I will make you fishers of men! You see, when Jesus wasn't there, had Simon Peter and Andrew caught any fish?

Bobo	No not even one
Cindy	But when Jesus WAS there?
Bobo	They caught gabillions!
Cindy	Jesus asked Simon Peter and Andrew to follow Him so they could learn from Jesus how to teach others about God and learn how to be fishers of men. Instead of pulling in nets of fish for Jesus, He wanted them to bring crowds of people to know about Him and His Father in Heaven
Bobo	So let me get this right... Jesus wants us to follow Him
Cindy	Yes
Bobo	So that we can learn from Him
Cindy	Yes
Bobo	So that we can tell gabillions of people about Him and they can come to know about Him and God the Father
Cindy	Sounds about right!
Bobo	Well why didn't you just say that in the first place. Cindy, did Simon Peter and Andrew follow Jesus?
Cindy	As a matter of fact they did Bobo. They left everything, their friends family and everything and followed Him
Bobo	Even their fish?
Cindy	Even their fish! They became disciples of Jesus
Bobo	Oh I remember hearing about them - didn't Jesus have twelve of them
Cindy	Well done that's right Bobo. Not all of them were fisherman but we are going to learn about them this term and hopefully <b>we</b> can learn how to follow Jesus too.
Bobo	I'd like that! I'm sure glad I don't have to become a fisherman! I like being a circus clown
Cindy	And we like you just the way you are too Bobo
Bobo	Well I better be off ... looks like I have some cleaning up to do. Bye my little guppy friends.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

*Have three nets as in craft, one empty, one full of fish and one filled with people*

How many fish had Simon and Andrew caught before Jesus had come there?  
NONE! (*demonstrate by pulling up the net with nothing in it*)

Do you know when Jesus said to Simon, "Go out in deeper water and put your nets down into the water." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked all night trying to catch fish and we haven't caught anything. **But only because you said so, I will let the nets down.**"

How many fish did they catch when **Jesus told them** to cast their nets?  
So many that the nets started to break and they had to quickly wave for their friends in the boat next to them to help. (*demonstrate by pulling up a net filled with fish*)  
Simon trusted Jesus even though to him it seemed impossible! Simon cast his nets

and this time he caught so many. (*full net*) How many would he have caught had he not trusted Jesus and not cast his nets again? NONE! (*demonstrate none again*) When Jesus tells us to do something – even if it seems impossible – we need to trust Him and do it anyway.

Next Jesus said to all of them, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men." What do you think it means to be a fisher of men?  
(*to help others know and love Jesus so they can become Christians and follow Jesus and love and obey Him like we do*)

What happened next was quite amazing! What do you think you would do if Jesus said that to you? Maybe, instead of fishing, you're playing with a friend. Jesus comes to you and says, "Come, follow me." Maybe you would say, "Just a minute, we're not quite done playing yet." Or maybe you would walk your friend home, tell your parents you're leaving, sms someone, Google where He wants you to go to check it out...

Well these men immediately left everything they were doing and went with Jesus. They left their boat, their nets, and all the fish they caught. They left without a worry in the world. They somehow knew they could trust Jesus. **NB THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU MUST JUST FOLLOW A STRANGER SOMEWHERE IF THEY SOUND INTERESTING. These men spent some time with Jesus and saw what he did and taught and chose to follow him from that.**

All together Jesus asked twelve men to be His disciples to follow Him and all twelve men agreed. All these men believed what Jesus said and followed His example. They helped Jesus tell others about God - they were fishers of men.

These are the names of the twelve disciples: Simon (who Jesus liked to call Peter, which means rock), his brother Andrew; brothers James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James and Thaddaeus; Simon and Judas Iscariot, who would later betray him.

These men were not all fishermen before they became disciples. They all did many different things and came from different types of families. They were not perfect either, they just wanted to try to be like Jesus and spread the good news about who Jesus was. Jesus would like us to be His disciples too. Some people do leave their families when they're older and become missionaries, other people are missionaries right where they live. They help in church or tell their friends about Jesus. There is a way you can be a disciple right now, right where you are.

**If we are going to be fishers of men ... if we are going to teach others about Jesus ... then we need to follow Jesus first. We need to love Jesus, know Jesus and trust Jesus. When we do these things Jesus will help us help others know about Him too. This is what it means to be a disciple!**

Each week we are going to learn about one of these disciples so that



we can learn how to follow Jesus the best we can!

#### 4) Questions and discussion points

##### Review question game:

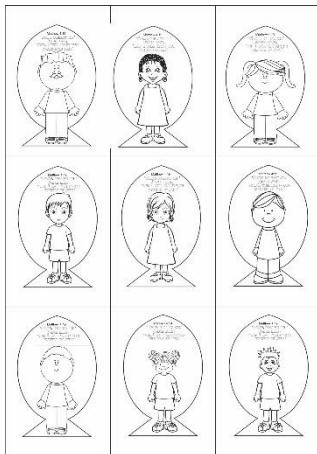
Write a review question on each of the blank fish templates from Craft Option 1. Using the rods and ponds from the memory verse game, let the children fish for a question and work as a team to answer it. Let older children use their Bibles to help them.

- How many fish did they catch before Jesus was there?
- Say the memory verse
- What does Jesus want us to do?
- Name what we can do to be a fisher of men.
- Who must we follow?
- What does it mean to be a fisher of men?
- Where can you tell people about Jesus? (*school, home, church, shops, ANYWHERE*)
- Name someone you are going to pray for/ tell about Jesus
- How can you be a disciple of Jesus today?

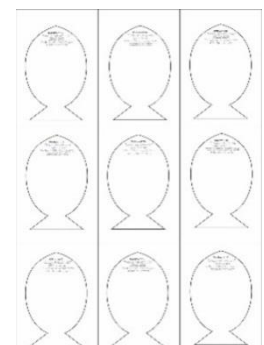
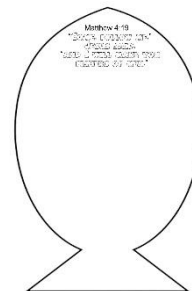
#### 5) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

##### Option 1:



Use the following templates to make fishing nets or fishing poles for the children to name specific people they are going to pray for or tell about Jesus. Help them come up with specific things they will say or do. E.g. I'm going to invite Paul to children's church; I'm going to teach Joan the lesson I learnt today; I am going to pray for my teacher.etc



##### Option 2: Review question Game

Let the children work as a group to come up with questions that they could ask their family about what they learnt today. Name of the disciple on the boat, where story from, what fisher of men means etc. Use straws, wool and a magnet to make the rod and fish with paper clips for the questions. Encourage them to play the game with friends that were not a children's church today.



##### Option 3: Follow in Jesus footsteps

Children make this craft to remind them that the best way to be a fisher of men is to follow what Jesus did. Tell others, pray, love others etc.



## Lesson Two: Andrew brings others to Jesus

### Main focus for the lesson:

- We need to bring others to know Jesus
- We have GOOD news to tell everyone
- Bring people to Jesus and watch Him do miracles

### 1) Memory Verse

- Mark 16:15

***and he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone"***

### Idea to teach the memory verse

Jesus gave his disciples this special commission to go into all of the world and tell people about Jesus. Andrew was already doing this and had been bringing people to Jesus.

Can you help bring people to Jesus?

Cut this picture into pie pieces. Hide pictures of people all over your area. Divide the children into two groups and have them lined up in two rows next to each other. They must first tell you the scripture and then run around to fetch a picture. Once they are back with the person, they must build the puzzle and then sit down. The first group where everyone is back is the winner.



### 2) Hands on

#### 2.1) Introduce today's disciple Andrew:

Andrew arrives in his fishing gear and tells everyone that he has some very exciting news to tell everyone. He then chooses 5 volunteers.

He asks: "Should I tell these five volunteers or the rest of you what my exciting news is?"

Of course they will all want to know the exciting news first.

He then sends the 5 out of hearing distance and excitedly tells the others his news.

*(e.g. have brought them each a sweet/marshmallow fish/treat or we're doing a baking activity etc)*

When he calls the other 5 in, ask the rest of the group who would like to share the exciting news with them. *(some will shout out already, others will throw up their hand)*

Conclude: Isn't it just amazing having great news to share. We just can't wait to blurt it out.

Today you are going to learn about the time I learnt the best news ever and what I did next!

I'm hoping that when you hear this news you will want to share it with everyone too!



### Andrew

- ☞ **Came from a little fishing village called Bethsaida. Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. (Mark 3:14-19)**
- ☞ **I was a fisherman**
- ☞ **I brought my brother, Simon Peter, to meet Jesus (John 1:40-42)**
- ☞ **My brother, Simon Peter, & I were the first disciples to be called by Jesus (Matt 4:18)**  
**I was known for bringing people to Jesus.**  
**We left our business & family to follow Jesus**
- ☞ **I sat on the Mount of Olives with Jesus, Peter, James and John. (Mark 13:3)**
- ☞ **I told Jesus about the boy who had 2 fish and 5 loaves at the feeding of the 5000 (John 6:8-9)**  
**I didn't just tell Jewish people about Jesus I also told Greeks (John 12:12)**

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Using a puppet either made with a brown bag or with felt or even a Ken Barbie dressed in a robe. Tell the story below about Andrew



How do you feel when you've discovered a secret or something great? How long does it take you to share good news like getting an "A" in an exam or winning a match? We're bursting to tell someone straight away, right?

One day, I, Andrew, heard John the Baptist saying, "Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:40-42). I was like WHAT! This man Jesus is the Messiah! He is finally here! The Messiah we had been waiting for soooooo many years was here! The man that was coming to save us was here! Ok, so you can see I was SUPER excited. **(NB You need to explain quickly what Messiah means: he is the saviour of the world who God promised would come to rescue people from evil.)**

When you've got great news like this you can only do one thing and that's ... go for a nap! Right?? No ways! Great news like this has to be told! So the first thing I did, before **anything else**, was find my brother and tell him about Jesus. But I couldn't just tell him. I had to bring him to Jesus so he could meet him too.

So I **RAN** straight away to find Simon Peter and when I told him of course he

came to meet Jesus. He was so excited too.

Jesus then said to us "Andrew and Simon Peter I want you to follow me and be my disciples" (Matt 4:18) Us! WOW! Immediately, straight away, without hesitating we left our fishing business and the rest of our family to follow Jesus. There wasn't time to worry about anything else. It was Jesus! Where else could be a better place to be. All we wanted to do was follow Him.





And following Him was the best thing I ever did! And to think ... if I had never told my brother Simon Peter or introduced him to Jesus he would have never got to know and love Jesus like he did. That would have been AWFUL!














So if you know who Jesus is and what He has done won't you PLEASE share that exciting news with someone? Will you do that?











Andrew also brought someone else to Jesus – the little boy at the feeding of the 5000. (John 6:8-9) When all the other disciples were saying there was nothing that could be done, Andrew was at least trying to find a solution. He knew that the boy's lunch was not enough to feed everyone but he brings him to Jesus anyway. This shows me that he knew he couldn't do anything but Jesus on the other hand could do something! Jesus of course does an amazing miracle & many people then realise that He really is the Son of God! (John 6:14)


Remember you can't save people, you can't take away their sin, you can't even make a person believe in Jesus. All you have to do is introduce them to Jesus and Jesus will do the rest. Share the exciting news that the one who saves us is Jesus and He is here for us today.

## Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

Jesus went to a place near the . More than   followed Jesus there. They wanted Jesus to teach them. Jesus taught them many things. When it was time to ,

most of the  did not have . The  told Jesus He should send the  to the nearby  to buy . Jesus asked the  to see if anyone had . One  had  loaves of  and  small .

Jesus told all the  to . He blessed the  and the  and broke it into pieces. The  gave the  and  to the . Because of the miracle Jesus performed as He blessed the  and ,

 there was enough for everyone.

For fun recap the story using the picture above. For each picture have different people saying the word with an action. E.g "people" group stand; "eat/food" rub belly, "disciples" call out "we follow Jesus." Etc.

#### 4) Questions and discussion points

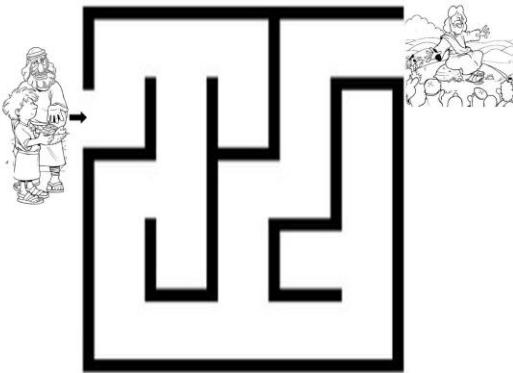
- What lessons can we learn from Andrew?
- Andrew brought people to Jesus. How do you think that you can bring people to know Jesus?
- What do you do if you have told someone about Jesus but they aren't ready yet to give their heart to Jesus?

#### 5) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

##### Option 1: Maze and Colour pages

Help Andrew take the boy with 5 loaves and 2 fishes to Jesus.

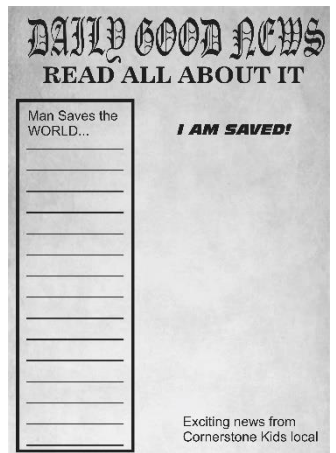


##### Option 2: Invitation

Let the children make and decorate invitation cards inviting friends to come to Cornerstone Kids next week.

##### Option 3: Newspaper Headlines

Children can make their own "read all about it" posters or newspaper article about what Jesus has done for them.



##### Option 3: Wordsearch

###### Jesus Feeds the 5000

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:11 (NIV)  
The puzzle is based on John 6:1-14



H J F W W W H F J S S X N N V  
V B B O A T T B K X A Y C D D  
X P T J M F L N A M T H Q P J  
C D Q F E A A C K K I E N T R  
T H C L O H V R E U S G K W Z  
O E U U T L G I T Z F C P E V  
W A X T J R L P X Z I L A L V  
N L H T X E Z O L S E P M V B  
S E I C Y H S V W P D B V E I  
L D C R G S C U L E E S F S K  
J O T A E M I M S J D O D K C  
F B A S K E T F U L S W P S K  
P I B V T T A K B D O H S L W  
P S S L E B D U I R K M X M E  
Q D J H K S F K C L M E H A O

JESUS	BASKETFULS	SATISFIED	CROWDS	LOAVES
THANKS	LEFT	FOLLOWED	PEOPLE	TOWNS
TWELVE	HEALED	FISH	BOAT	SICK

## Lesson Three: Simon Peter gets it right/wrong

### Main focus for the lesson:

- We need Jesus ... he shows us how to live.
- Sometimes we get it right, sometimes we get it wrong... BUT JESUS ALWAYS FORGIVES

### 1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 25:4

*Lord, help me to learn your ways; show me how to live.*

### Idea to teach the memory verse

Lay the pictures out in the garden and let the children hop from one to the other as they say the verse. Get Simon Peter to go over it with them again.



### 2) Hands on

#### 2.1) Introduce today's disciple, Simon Peter:

*Simon Peter can come in rushing in wearing his jail clothes and carrying chains.*

**SAY:** Phew I am so chuffed to be here with you today ... I almost wasn't able to come. You see King Herod put me in prison for telling other people about Jesus. When the people from my church heard about my arrest they started praying for me. They prayed and prayed and prayed. And do you know what ... well there were guards at the entrance and I was sitting all chained up with one guard on my right, who had the biggest spear ever and another guard on my left who had the biggest muscles I've ever seen ... and the stinkiest feet I have ever smelled.... WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...

An angel of the Lord appeared! He told me to follow him and as I did my chains just fell off. We then walked right past ALL of the guards... right out of the jail. At first I thought I was DREAMING! But then I realised without a doubt the Lord had rescued me!

I quickly ran to where my friends were praying and they couldn't believe it! I don't know why because Jesus always hears our prayers. And so eventually I made it here. Phew!






So today you are going to learn some things about me. Some of them good and some of them not so good. But if I can teach one thing... It is that WE NEED JESUS! He is the one that always looks after you. He is the one that forgives you when you make mistakes. He is the one that listens to your prayers and He is the one that NEVER leaves you in times of trouble. All we need is Jesus.

We need Jesus to show us how to live every day!

Do you think you can teach me the memory verse you learnt today?

(Psalm 25:4 see above)

2.2) **Object Lesson:** Jesus takes away our sin  
**(We recommend you do this in the small group session so all children are able to see)**  
 What you will need: candle, matches, dirty water, plate, coin, tumbler

ACTION:	SAY:
Place a coin on a flat plate 	This coin is us and we were made to follow and love Jesus
Pour a little dirty water on the plate 	But sometimes, just like Peter, we mess up and we do the wrong thing. Can you remember what some of the things are that Peter did wrong? (doubted when walked on water, denied Jesus 3 times, told Jesus he wouldn't let him die for others) What are some of the things we do wrong... ( <i>lie, disobey parents, get angry, cheat, don't do what God asks us to do, are jealous etc.</i> ) This is SIN
Place candle on the plate and light it 	This candle is like Jesus as the Bible tells us He is the light of the world
Place the tumbler over the candle 	But people tried to stop Him. They killed Jesus by crucifying Him. They smothered out His light .... BUT this was all part of the plan!
The dirty liquid is sucked up into the tumbler 	As He died all our sin was taken away  When you lift the tumbler off say that without Jesus' death our sin would still be there.



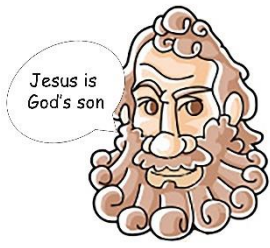

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

For each picture let the children discuss what Simon Peter did and decide if he “got it right” or “got it wrong” by placing it under the respective heading. Have older children look up some of the verses to see what Simon Peter did.








Once you have allocated all the pictures then do the object lesson (see hands on 2.2) Move each of the pictures from the “Got it wrong” column to the “forgiven by Jesus” column as you explain that all of these things have been forgiven by Jesus because of what He did on the cross.

Got it Right	Got it Wrong	Forgiven by Jesus
--------------	--------------	-------------------

Note: There is not always a clear decision to whether he was right or wrong so let the children give their reasons. E.g. Peter wrong to sink but was only one that got out of boat. Cut off ear because wanted to defend Jesus but had been told that Jesus’ death was planned and for a reason and so was trying to do it his way not Jesus’ way.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐟 <b>Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me (Mark :14-19)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>My brother, Andrew, and I were the first disciples to be called to Jesus. (Matt 4:18)</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>I walked on water to Jesus (Matt 14:29) and began to sink when I had little faith.</b></p>
	<p><b>I was the first disciple to openly say that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God (Matt 16:16)</b></p> <p>(Should we tell others that Jesus is God’s son?)</p>
	<p><b>I fell asleep when Jesus was praying (Mark 14:37) even though he asked me to keep watch and pray.</b></p> <p>(The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak)</p>



	<p><b>I objected to Jesus washing my feet and then wanted Him to wash my hands and head too. (John 13:8)</b></p> <p>(Discussion points: It is important to submit to Jesus, Peter refused because only slaves washed feet, when Jesus said: “unless I do you will have no part with me” then Peter wanted even more)</p>
	<p><b>I was present at the transfiguration of Jesus (Matt 17:1-9) And when I saw Jesus turn into His Godly form I said ... “should I put up a tent for each of us?”</b></p> <p>(what would you have said?)</p>
	<p><b>I was present when Jesus was arrested and I took out my sword and cut off the servant's ear. (Matthew 26:40-46)</b></p> <p>Jesus healed the ear</p>
	<p><b>I denied Jesus 3 times, just like He said I would. John 18:15-27</b></p>
	<p><b>When Jesus visited us after He rose from the dead I jumped off the boat and swam to Him. I told Jesus I loved Him, three times. (John 21:4-17)</b></p>
	<p><b>I told others about Jesus and encouraged them to follow Him. (Acts 2:14-36)</b></p>
	<p><b>Aeneas was healed when I said to him “Jesus Christ heals you” (Acts 9:32)</b></p> <p><b>I got on my knees and prayed to Jesus to raise Dorcas from the dead and He did. Many people believed in Jesus (Acts 9:40-43)</b></p>



**King Herod puts me in prison for telling others and God sends an angel to break me free. I tell others what God has done. (Acts 12:7-8)**

Here is a man who was the first to be called as a disciple, the first to openly say that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, the only one to even attempt walking on water, the only one who tries to resist Jesus' arrest by chopping off the servant's ear and yet he is the very same man that – even though he swore he would NEVER – denies even knowing Jesus - **three times!**

One lesson to be learnt is that there will be times when we get it all right. We follow Jesus well, we tell others about Him, we have faith etc. There will also be times when we get it all WRONG! The comforting thing is that our God is a forgiving God. Not only does he forgive Simon Peter but He is there protecting, guiding and helping him long after: just like Simon Peter told us about how God sent the angel to miraculously help him escape from prison.

So remember to ask God daily ...

*Lord, help me to learn your ways; show me how to live. Psalm 25:4*

#### 4) Questions and discussion points

Children can use the pictures to recap the story. Ask:

- 1) Can you remember some of the things that Simon Peter did wrong?
- 2) Do you think God lays out all the things you have done right and wrong like this?
- 3) Do you think God remembers your sins?

Hebrews 8:12 says "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

**God chooses to forgive and remember your sins no more. That is why He gave us Jesus.**











#### 5) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

**Option 1: Draw/write examples of when you got it right or wrong!**

Got it Right	Got it Wrong	Forgiven by Jesus

**Option 2: Match the columns**

		Jesus called me to follow Him. (Matt 4:18)			I saw Jesus turn into His Godly form I said, "should I put up a tent for each of us?" (Matt 17:1-9)
		I walked on water to Jesus (Matt 14:29) and began to sink when I had little faith.			I cut the servants ear when they were arresting Jesus. (Matthew 26:40-46)
		I was the first disciple to openly say that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God (Matt 16:16)			I told Jesus I loved Him, three times. (John 21:4-17)
		I fell asleep when Jesus was praying (Mark 14:37)			I told others about Jesus and encouraged them to follow Him. (Acts 9:32)
		I objected to Jesus washing my feet and then wanted Him to wash my hands and head too. (John 13:8)			God sent an angel to set me free from jail (Acts 12:7-8)

## Lesson Four: Jesus came for sinners like Matthew

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Children learn who Matthew was and what he learnt from following Jesus
- Always put Jesus first
- Jesus came to Earth for sinners like me

### 1) Memory Verse

- Mark 2:17

***I have not come to call the righteous but sinners***

### Idea to teach the memory verse as the children arrive

As in the game “Wolfy wolfy...”

One leader stands in the front of the children with his/her back turned. The children shout “Matthew! Matthew! What’s the time?” and he can answer “1 o’ clock!” and the children take a few steps forward.

Again the children shout “Matthew! Matthew! What’s the time?” and he can answer “2 o’ clock!” the children edge forward.

Eventually after a few turns of telling the time, the leader shouts “TAX COLLECTING TIME!” and all the children run away while he tries to catch them.

The child that is caught has to sit down until all the children shout out the memory verse and frees him.

### 2) Hands on

#### 2.1) Skit:

Prepare the following monologue where a leader is dressed up like Matthew. He can be sitting behind a desk with piles of money stacked around him. As the story goes, he can get up showing the children how he leaves it all behind him to follow Jesus.

*Hello everyone! My name is Matthew, also sometimes known as Levi. I am a Jew but I used to be a Tax Collector for the Roman government. Tax collectors were sneaky and would often take more money than the Jewish people could afford.*

*Because of my position with the Romans I lived a very luxurious lifestyle. I had everything of the best. This made me very unpopular with my own people, though, and that made me sad.*

*One day while I was sitting behind my desk collecting money, this man named Jesus came up to me. He said “Matthew, leave all of this and come follow me.” And do you know what? I did! I left behind all my wealth and my position and I went to follow Jesus! (act out)*


*Deep down I knew that this man and His mission were more important than all my wealth and status. This was the best decision I have ever made!*

*That same day, Jesus came to my house to enjoy a meal that I had prepared for Him and His friends. Of course the religious leaders of my people did not like this one bit and they questioned Jesus for sitting and eating with us. Jesus was so wise in His answer. He told them that sick people need a doctor, not the ones who are well. And that He had come to the earth to help sinners (like me) be forgiven for the bad things they have done. Those religious leaders thought they were already perfect and did not think they too needed Jesus. After this I became one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. We followed Jesus around and listened as He taught different people in different towns. I learnt so many things about Jesus and our Heavenly Father. I decided to write everything down because it seemed so important. I*

wanted all my people to hear the things Jesus was teaching and I wanted generations to come to learn these things too. When you read the book in the Bible named Matthew, you will be able to learn about these things as well!

The main thing that I learnt from following Jesus around was that Christianity is not only for good people but also for sinners. And also that deciding to follow Jesus is the best choice you could ever make for your life!

**Background info on today's disciple:**

	<p>Matthew</p>
	<p>☞ <b>Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. Mark 3:14-19.</b></p>
	<p>☞ <b>I was a tax collector. Matthew 9:9</b></p>
	<p>☞ <b>Jesus ate at my house along with many tax collectors and sinners. Matthew 9:9-10.</b></p>
	<p>☞ <b>I left everything for Jesus</b></p>
	<p>☞ <b>I wrote the book of Matthew</b></p>
<p>☞ <b>I learnt that Christianity is not only for good people but also for sinners</b></p>	

**3) Bible Story + Lesson**

Jesus went from town to town telling people about God. He also invited people to go with Him. Jesus had already asked 4 fishermen to come and follow Him.

One day, Jesus saw a **tax collector** named Matthew. Tax collectors were people who worked for the Roman government. Matthew's job was to collect taxes from people. Back then, they did not have computers or cash registers that added tax to a purchase. The tax collectors would go to everyone in town and demand taxes for things that they bought. Some tax collectors were sneaky and would ask for more than they would need. They would keep the extra. People hated tax collectors and did not trust them. Tax collectors had a bad reputation. This means that because some of them did wrong, people did not like any of the tax collectors. They were rejected by the people.

Jesus walked up to Matthew's money table. Jesus asked Matthew to come and follow Him. Immediately, Matthew left the table and followed Jesus! He knew that Jesus was more important than money. He freely gave up his job and possessions and began to walk with Jesus.

The Bible tells us that that night, Matthew invited Jesus and His disciples to eat dinner at his house. Matthew also invited many of his friends who were also tax collectors and "sinners" to come and listen and learn. Matthew knew that Jesus could change their lives too. He hoped that they could see that Jesus was more important than anything else in the world. Once again, the religious leaders criticized Jesus for eating with these people. Jesus responded by telling them that *sick people are the ones who need a doctor, not healthy people.*

**Ask: What did Jesus mean by this statement?**

Jesus wanted these leaders to know that He came to earth to help sinners be forgiven from their sins. The tax collectors and "sinners" knew that they needed Jesus' help to be forgiven

for the bad things they had done. And they were grateful that Jesus loved them in spite of their sin. But the religious leaders thought they were already perfect, so they did not realise that they needed Jesus to forgive them, too! Jesus also told the people that He came for sinners, “not those who already think they are good enough.”

Romans 3:23 says that **all people have sinned**. We **all** need God’s forgiveness. That is why Jesus came to earth and died on the cross—to pay the price for our sins. Jesus knew that Matthew needed forgiveness. And He knows that we need forgiveness for our sins.

Matthew became one of the twelve disciples, and he wrote the book of Matthew. Like Matthew, we can become a follower of Jesus and live our lives to serve Him!  
In another part of the Bible, Jesus shares what is most important. It is not money, clothes, or any “stuff.” **Jesus says that God must be more important than anything else**. Jesus also tells us not to worry about things. He tells us that God will take care of us.

Lastly, He shares that we should seek God first and everything else will work out. That means we should live for God and do things for Him and He will take care of all our needs. Matthew knew that God was more important than money. He left all the “stuff” that had controlled him and he followed Jesus.

What about you? Do you love God more than “stuff”? Are their things in your life that you love more than Jesus? Matthew walked away from the “stuff” and he lived for God. Do you have “things” in your life that distract you from living the way God wants us to live? Jesus died and came back to life to make a way for us to go to Heaven. If we believe in Him and trust Him with all our heart, He will come into our life and clean out all the sin that is there. He will make us clean. Jesus will help us do things God’s way and help us live for God instead of for the things we want.

### **Help the kids see how important it is to love God most of all.**

Talk about how “stuff” can distract us from the things God wants us to focus on. Those could be things like praying, reading the Bible, telling others about God, spending quiet time with God, coming to church, spending time with other Christian friends. These things will help us remember that God is more important than anything else!

## **4) Questions and discussion points**

### **Story Review Questions Game: Gold coin toss**

Children take turns tossing gold chocolate coins to try & land on a cut out story review card. If they get the question right they can eat the coin. Use jelly beans to eat if coins too pricey.

Question E.g.

1. What was the name of the tax collector Jesus called to be His disciple? (Matthew)
2. What is a tax collector? (a person who worked for the Roman government to get people’s taxes; many times they took too much and kept it for themselves)
3. Who did Matthew invite to his home for dinner? (Jesus and the disciples, other tax collectors and “sinners”)
4. Why did the religious leaders criticize Jesus? (because He ate with sinners)
5. Jesus responded that He came to earth to do what? (for sinners—to bring forgiveness)
6. What did you learn from the Matthew’s story? (children’s own answers)
7. What kinds of things distract us from focusing on God?

## 5) Craft

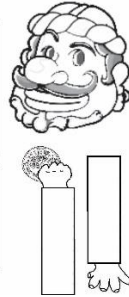
Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

**Option 1:** Matthew Tax collector money boxes (see *template provided*)

Inspire children to collect money for a worthy cause. E.g. buy someone a Bible.



Note: a milk bottle lid works well to seal the bottom of the toilet roll.



## Option 2:

Circle the things below that you need to be careful of getting in the way of you following Jesus. Remember simply doing these things does **not** make you a bad Christian!



## Option 3:

### The Calling of Matthew

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."  
Matthew 9:13 (NIV)  
Based on Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)

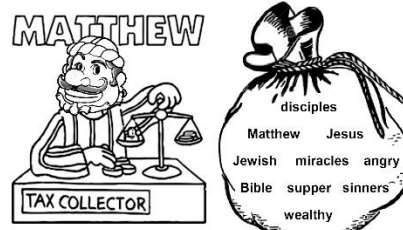


Z G U C Q R R B H Z V X S C R  
F J U S E C G I S X T K U N E  
N Q B N A N O E G U H O T O N  
R I N I I C L L D H K S P J U  
C I T T Q P R F L P T W I D P  
D M T E I Y S I A E R E U C D  
D I A C A Q E H F K C L O M K  
S H S T S C V B E I G T W U Y  
U I O Q T R H Z O A C O O T S  
D Q K U O H T E G O L E V R W  
Q E X T S P E W R L T T L K S  
H N C S C E A W O H S H H A  
P O B T N W G F K W C B U Y W  
D V T H Q A S I N N E R S G A  
M E R C Y D M U R T O K R G R

DISCIPLES	MATTHEW	DOCTOR	COLLECTORS
SACRIFICE	DINNER	HEALTHY	TEACHER
MERCY	SITTING	BOOTH	SINNERS
RIGHTEOUS	FOLLOW	HOUSE	SICK

## Option 4:

Use the words in the money bag to fill in the missing words in the story of Matthew:



- \_\_\_\_\_ was a tax collector.
- He collected money from the \_\_\_\_\_ people.
- He was very \_\_\_\_\_ but sad because nobody trusted him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ said "Matthew, leave this and follow me."
- Matthew became one of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.
- Matthew witnessed Jesus performing many wonderful \_\_\_\_\_.
- Matthew wrote down everything he saw and we can read his book in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Matthew invited Jesus to have \_\_\_\_\_ at his house.
- This made the religious leaders \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus said "I have not come to call the righteous but to save \_\_\_\_\_."

## Lesson Five: John & James (the great) have a change of heart

### Main focus for the lesson:

- As God loves us, we must love others
- Jesus showed us how to love
- God can change us if we spend time with Him
- Are we willing to choose Jesus over everything?

### 1) Memory Verse

- 1 John 4:16

***God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.***

### Idea to teach the memory verse

Shorten the verse to "God is Love" Children sit cross legged.

**God:** Pat your legs once

**Is:** Clap your hands once

**Love:** Click your fingers

*In reverse*

**Love:** Click your fingers

**Is:** Clap your hands once

**God:** Pat your legs once

**1:** Pat your legs once

**John:** Clap your hands once

**4:** Click your fingers

**16:** Clap your hands twice (six-teen)

### 2) Hands on

#### 2.1) Introduce today's disciple:

Make "BEFORE" and "AFTER" signs and tell the children to call out what they say when you hold them up. John and James then enter

John	Hey children my name is John and this is my brother James
James	James the great
John	James will do
James	<i>The great (wink wink; thumbs up)</i>
John	And we're known as the "sons of thunder" ( <i>for fun add in a planned handshake with lightning bolts and sound effects</i> )
James	Well that was before we changed.
John	Yes spending time with Jesus really changed us! Do you want to see how much we have changed?
James	Ok let's start with how we were BEFORE Jesus changed our hearts.

Leader then holds up "BEFORE" sign and children call out "*before*". James and John then act all angry and show no love.

Leader then swops to "AFTER" sign and children call out "*after*". James and John immediately switch to be loving and kind.

Swop signs back and forth a few times, making sure that it is easy to see the change from

anger to love.

Disciples then conclude that Jesus showed them how to love by loving them and everyone around them no matter what.

Examples of things John/James can say

BEFORE	AFTER
Let's call down fire on the Samaritan village. Yes lots of FIRE!	Let me help you Mary. Stay with me.
Argue about who is going to sit at Jesus' right hand side	Jesus can heal you, we'll pray for you
Argue who is the greatest. Of course I am – it's in my name	Do you know about Jesus? Can I tell you about Him?
That person doesn't believe – let's make them believe! ( <i>punch hand with fist</i> )	I want to write all the things down that Jesus taught me so others may know.

<p>John                  James(the great)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐟 <b>Jesus called us as disciples to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught. (Mark 3:14-19)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>We were known as the “sons of thunder”</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>We wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan village (Luke 9:52-56)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>We asked Jesus if I could sit at His right hand (Mark 10:35-40)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>We were on the mountain at Jesus' transfiguration. (Matt 17:1-2) &amp; at Gethsemane when Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:32-33,46)</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐟 <b>I was later known as the “disciple whom Jesus loved” and Jesus asked me to look after Mary once He died. (John 19:26-27)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>Together with Peter we witnessed Jesus raise Jairus' daughter from death.</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>I was with Peter when he healed a crippled beggar at the temple. (Acts 3:1-2,7)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>I wrote John; 1,2,3 John and Revelation</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>I am the only apostle who was not killed for my faith. I died of old age on an island after writing the book of Revelation</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐟 <b>I, James was with Jesus when He was arrested (Mark14:32-33)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>I did not write the book “James” in the Bible – that was Jesus' half-brother</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>I was killed by the sword of King Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:1-2)</b></li> </ul>



### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Today we met two disciples. They were brothers – can you remember their names? John and James (the great). If you want to read about them in the Bible you can read the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts.

Show me how the brothers acted BEFORE Jesus changed their hearts. And now how they acted AFTER their hearts were changed? Which way do you think Jesus wants us to act? Yes, Jesus wants us to be filled with love.

Jesus called John & James “the sons of thunder” what could that mean?

Jesus always knows our true nature, how we really are deep inside our hearts. So Jesus probably knew that the brothers might have been quick tempered, loud-mouthed & opinionated.

We even see this anger coming out in Luke 9:51-56

<sup>51</sup>The time was coming near when Jesus would leave and go back to heaven. He decided to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>He sent some men ahead of him. They went into a town in Samaria to make everything ready for him. <sup>53</sup>But the people there would not welcome Jesus because he was going toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>James and John, the followers of Jesus, saw this. They said, **“Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven and destroy those people?”**

<sup>55</sup>But Jesus turned and criticized them for saying this. <sup>56</sup>Then he and his followers went to another town.

But Jesus also knows who we can become! Both the brothers changed from fiercely natured men to men filled with love. Love for Jesus and love for others that they may also know and love Jesus. How did they change so much you may ask?

**They made mistakes all of the time but were willing to learn from them and keep on going.** James and John could have stormed off at any time but they kept on following Jesus. Do we take correction well? Are we willing to learn from our mistakes?

**From spending so much time with Jesus and learning from Him.** These men watched so many people say horrible things to Jesus. They saw so many people try and kill Jesus. Yet what did Jesus do? Was He filled with anger and revenge? NO! He loved them. He healed them. He died for them. Are you spending time reading about how Jesus showed love to others? Are you learning from Jesus how to love?

## **And most importantly through the transforming power of Jesus' love!**

Let's read what John wrote in the Bible. 1 John 4:7

Dear friends, we should love each other, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become God's child. And so everyone who loves knows God

The same man that said ... shall we call down fire on people ... is now teaching us that we must love others. Wow! What a difference Jesus makes!

John loved Jesus so much and followed Him so well that Jesus even chose him to look after His mother, Mary, once He had died. James loved Jesus so much that he was willing to die telling others about Him! And eventually he did. Jesus wants YOU to **love Him**. Jesus wants YOU to **love others**.

Spend as much time as you can with Jesus and allow His love for you to make you the best you can be! Be available – to learn, to change and to be used.

### *Older children*

Although it is very rare that Christians actually die for their faith, it does happen in some countries and we must be praying for those people all the time. Ask yourself if you are willing to give up things that seem important to you so that you may follow Jesus with your whole heart. If there comes a point in your life where you are asked you choose between the comforts of life or Jesus – which will you choose?

#### **4) Questions and discussion points**

**Use moments such as craft time, free play etc to recap and highlight the main ideas.**

- Who must I love? (JESUS)
- Who is the perfect example of love? Why?
- James and John changed from having hearts of anger to hearts of love. How did their hearts change? (correction, Jesus' example, Jesus power)
- What kinds of things does God see in my heart that I could be changing?
- What kind of nickname would you like to be known as? You could even write this name somewhere on your craft.

## 5) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

### Option 1:



Fold paper in half. Child places their hand with forefinger and thumb along the fold. Trace the outline of the hand and then cut along the line. Add the verse onto the cutouts. When opened up, the cutout forms a heart.

### Option 2:



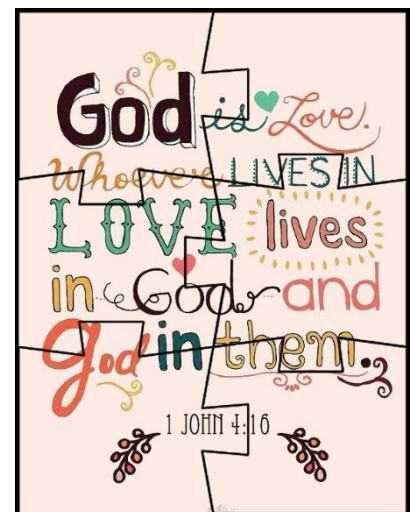
Hand prints that make a heart shape in the middle. Write the verse in the heart. Use a toilet roll to make heart-shaped stamps around the memory verse.



**Option 3:** Use coloured cardboard and letter stickers to form the words “love” and “God”. They can be used as bookmarks or add a strip of magnetic tape to the back to make a fridge magnet.

### Option 4: Puzzle Bible verse

Children cut up and rebuild the Bible verse



## Lesson Six: Judas Iscariot & Thaddaeus (good Judas) say they love Jesus

### Main focus for the lesson:

- There is a difference between saying you love Jesus and that you are following Him to actually loving Jesus and following Him.
- Children learn practical ways to show Jesus love through praying, spending time with him, loving others and obeying Jesus' teachings.

### 1) Memory Verse

- John 14:23

**Jesus said "Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching."**

### Idea to teach the memory verse

*Use the following actions to teach the verse. Start slow, getting faster each time.*

Anyone --- arms out wide

Who loves --- arms hug self

Me – arms up

Will obey my teaching --- point and wave finger



### 2) Hands on

#### Perform the following game/s:

**2.1)** Set up a TV interview scenario... Interviewer introduces two disciples and goes on to ask them some questions:

<i>Did Jesus choose you to be His disciple?</i>	
Judas Iscariot: <b>Yes Jesus chose me to be His disciple</b>	Good Judas: <b>Yes Jesus chose me to be His disciple</b>
<i>Did you see Jesus do miracles?</i>	
Judas Iscariot: <b>Yes, I saw Jesus do many miracles.</b>	Good Judas: <b>Yes, I saw Jesus do many miracles.</b>
<i>Who did Jesus say He was?</i>	
Judas Iscariot: <b>Jesus told me He was the son of God.</b>	Good Judas: <b>Jesus told me He was the son of God.</b>
<i>Who is Jesus to you?</i>	
Judas Iscariot: <b>Jesus was my Rabbi, which means teacher</b>	Good Judas: <b>Jesus is the son of God. He is my teacher and my Lord who I believe in and love.</b>
<i>What do you love most of all?</i>	
Judas Iscariot: <b>Money money money. OO how I love money!</b>	Good Judas: <b>Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Ooo how I love Jesus!</b>
<i>Did you do what Jesus wanted you to do?</i>	
Judas Iscariot: <b>No. I betrayed Jesus.</b>	Good Judas: <b>Yes, I loved Jesus and told others about Him.</b>

Conclusion: Both of these men saw what Jesus did, heard what He said and were told who He was. But only one believed in Jesus, loved Him and obeyed Him. It is not enough to just come to church and hear and see things happen. Jesus wants us to believe in Him, love Him and respond to Him. You have been called ... how are you responding? Is Jesus your most important love? Are you doing what He wants you to do?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ <b>Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. (Mark 3:14-19)</b></li> <li>✦ <b>Jesus knew I would betray Him! He identified me as His betrayer by handing me a piece of bread. (John 13:21-26)</b></li> <li>✦ <b>The chief priest paid me thirty pieces of silver. (Matthew 26:14-15)</b></li> <li>✦ <b>I gave Jesus a kiss at Gethsemane (Matt 26:47-49)</b></li> <li>✦ <b>A lesson from my life is that it is not enough to just be familiar with Jesus' teachings but to also love and obey Him as well.</b></li> <li>✦ <b>I am Judas Iscariot</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ <b>Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. Mark 3:14-19.</b></li> <li>✦ <b>I asked Jesus why He would reveal himself to His followers and not to the world (John 14:22)</b></li> <li>✦ <b>I learnt that we follow Jesus because we love Him and may not always understand His plans.</b></li> <li>✦ <b>I am referred to as Judas, Thaddaeus and Thaddeus.</b></li> </ul>

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Did you know that Jesus taught and led the disciples for three years? Imagine getting to see and hear Jesus every day for three years!

Over the three years both Judas' saw so many miracles and heard so many lessons on how to be a follower of Jesus. One of the many important things Jesus taught them was:

And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)

Listen to what John 12:1-8 tells us and see if you think these people showed this love for Jesus and for others or not...

It was six days before the Passover (this was a festival the Jews celebrated remembering how God saved them before), and Jesus would soon triumphantly enter Jerusalem, riding on a humble donkey, and have a great multitude express their praise to Him. His days of ministry were coming to an end. This would be His last Passover celebration because He would be crucified on the cross as our Passover Lamb (like the lamb that was used to save the Jews in the past).

Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Martha, Mary and Lazarus (whom He raised

from the dead) lived and attended a dinner in His honour.

Mary then came to Jesus. In her hand she had a jar of perfume. It was not just any perfume but one that was made out of very expensive ingredients. In fact it was so expensive if you sold it you could get the same amount of money as you would get for working for a whole year! Wow that's an expensive jar of perfume.

Mary then poured the perfume over Jesus's feet - she didn't just pour a drop or even two drops but poured it all over his feet - and then wiped his feet with her hair. The Bible says that the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house. (*demonstrate how a drop or two of essence gives off a little smell but how much would be needed to make the whole house be filled with the smell*)

Do you think Mary's actions shows she loves Jesus? (*discuss*)

Judas Iscariot was with them that day. When he saw Mary pouring all this perfume over Jesus' feet he said...*"That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor."* (John 12:5)

Do you think Judas Iscariot is showing love to Jesus? Why not? He is following the commandment to love others isn't he?

Judas' words are saying he loves the poor and he wants to look after them but ... (read John 12:6) *Judas did not really care about the poor. He said this because he was a thief. He was the one who kept the moneybag for the group of followers. And he often stole money from the bag.*

Do you think Judas Iscariot's **words** are showing love for the poor? Do you think Judas Iscariot's **actions** are showing love for the poor?

*(John 12:7-8) Jesus answered, "Don't stop her. It was right for her to save this perfume for today—the day for me to be prepared for burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have those who are poor with you. But you will not always have me."*

Jesus accepted the gift that Mary gave Him as she gave it out of love. Judas didn't fool Jesus by saying it was for the poor. Jesus knew what his actions would be.

To be a disciple is more than just *saying* you love Jesus. You need to believe in Him and truly love Him with all your heart.

In John 14:23 Jesus speaking to Thaddeus/Judas (the good one) and the other disciples and He says: **"Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching."**

Loving Jesus requires action! We can't say we love the poor and then steal from them. We can't say we are following Jesus but don't do what He asks us to do.

The disciples and other people that saw, followed and heard Jesus were able to learn from Him. He was their teacher.

What about us? Just like Jesus said His time to leave us came. Does that mean we don't have a teacher anymore? **NO!**

The Bible is filled with many of Jesus' teachings for us to read and learn from.

Jesus also tells Thaddeus/Judas (the good one) in John 14:25 some even greater news...  
<sup>25</sup> "I have told you all these things while I am with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper will teach you everything and cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name.

We have the Holy Spirit to teach us and help us remember all these important lessons we need to obey.

And even greater news ... <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am leaving, **but I will come back to you.** One day Jesus will return!

#### 4) Questions and discussion points

Jesus has given us the Bible to help teach us ... but if we are not reading it how will be able to obey them?

We also have the Holy Spirit to remind and teach us important lessons ... but if we're not praying or inviting the Holy Spirit into our life, how we will we be able to learn.

If we love Jesus we will obey His teachings. We need to make sure that what we are saying is actually what we are doing.

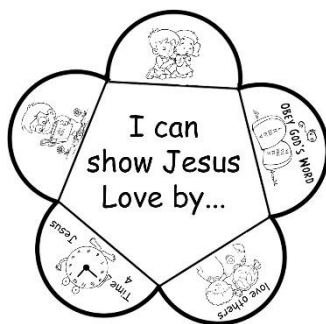
- I say I love Jesus ... I show Him love by ...
- I say I love others ... I show them love by ...
- I say I obey Jesus ... I obey Him by ...
- I say I learn from Jesus... I learn from Him by...

#### 5) Craft

**Option 1:** (Print the template on cardboard)



- Children decorate perfume bottle and perfume drops
- Let children fill in their own ways they have/are going to show Jesus love.
- Cut out bottle and drops
- Attach drops to a ribbon/string and then to bottle to look like it is pouring them
- The bottle can be attached to the feet picture if needed
- Spray the drops with perfume to remind them how showing love is like a sweet fragrance that everyone else can smell/see




- Children can make flowers where each petal folds open to show another way they can show Jesus love.
- Spray the flower with perfume to remind them how showing love is like a sweet fragrance that everyone else can smell/see

**Option 3:** Choose correct words to build the correct story. This option can also be printed larger and laminated.

Jesus went to dinner at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. John 12:1-8

Find the word in each droplet that does not match. Write it on the numbered line.

10 custard jelly money	1 _____ anointed Jesus'	7 wash sell dry
	2 _____ with	
9 loved talked sang	3 _____ 4 _____	3 stinky rubbish expensive
	Mary _____ 5 _____ Jesus	
2 cheese feet meat		9 fry steal bake
	6 _____ said to _____ 7 _____	
8 table chair peer	the perfume for money for	6 Judas Tom Jerry
	the _____ 8 _____ but wanted	
4 salt perfume pepper	to _____ 9 _____ it.	1 Jack Jill Mary
	Judas loved _____ 10 _____	

## Lesson Seven: Thomas stops doubting and believes

### Main focus for the lesson:

- We need to stop doubting Jesus and believe in Him.
- God provides for us. God heals us. He does these things because He loves us but He also wants the things He does to build our faith in Him.

### 1) Memory Verse

- John 20:27

#### **Stop doubting and believe**

#### Idea to teach the memory verse

Play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose.

Children sit in a circle.

One person is on and they walk around the outside of the circle saying “doubt, doubt, doubt”, as they touch the children’s heads gently. This child must then tap one head and say “believe”.

This child must get up and chase the other child that was on. The first child must try to sit in the place where the second child was sitting. When the child sits down get all the children to say. Stop doubting and believe.

Play a few rounds of this game.



### 2) Hands on

#### 2.1) Introduce today’s disciple Thomas:

*Tell the children that the disciple coming today needs help to remember to **stop doubting and believe** so every time he starts to doubt you will hold the stop sign up and they will say to him “**STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE**”*

Thomas arrives with his back to the children and says to the leader “see I **doubted** the children were coming today and I was right to doubt as I don’t see any kids” (**STOP doubting and believe**)

Thomas gets a fright and turns around “Oh yes thanks for the reminder!”

*I was asked to come today to teach you a lesson but I **doubt** you’re going to even listen never mind learn anything. (**STOP doubting and believe**)*

“Oh yes I keep forgetting!” (point to a child.) *I was told your name is Jane but I **doubt** that is your name as I can’t see your name tag from here” (**STOP doubting and believe**)*

“Oh man I forgot again! Um, now what was that important lesson I was going to teach you? (scratch head) (**STOP doubting and believe**)

“YES! That was it! Jesus taught me that I must stop doubting Him and believe in Him!”

*Jesus is so amazing I think we should worship Him...but I doubt any music will come out of the speakers because I can’t see it! (**STOP doubting and believe**)*

(worship together)





- 🐟 **Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. (Mark 3:14-19)**
- 🐟 **I was also called Didymus (the twin) (John 11:16)**
- 🐟 **After Jesus died on the cross, He appeared to me and said to me “stop doubting and believe.” (John 20:27)**
- 🐟 **Jesus cooked breakfast for me and 6 other disciples after His resurrection (John 21:1-2, 12)**
- 🐟 **After Jesus’ ascension I went to the Middle East and to India to tell people about Jesus.**
- 🐟 **I learnt to bring your doubts to Jesus and He will take them away.**

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Thomas was one of the disciples Jesus asked to follow Him and Thomas did. Thomas saw Jesus perform so many miracles and because of these miracles Thomas believed that Jesus was the son of God. Thomas saw people being healed, and food being multiplied, men raised from the dead and God providing for him in strange ways.

But one thing Thomas was not there to see was Jesus when He rose from the dead.

Read John 20:24 <sup>24</sup> *Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.* <sup>25</sup> *So the other disciples told him, “**We have seen the Lord!**”*

Do you think Thomas should believe or doubt? **Stop doubting and believe.**

But this is what he said (John 20:25) ... *“unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side I will never believe”.*

A **week** later (*all that time I am sure his friends would have tried to convince him and told them what they saw but he kept doubting*) and they are sitting in the house again but this time Thomas is with them. And listen to what the Bible says next ...

(John 20:26) Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

Wow, if he doesn’t believe it is Jesus now! But without Thomas even asking or telling Him what will make him believe Jesus says to him...

(John 20:27) <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. **Stop doubting and believe.**”

And that is exactly what Thomas does as he calls Jesus his Lord and God. Now that he has seen he believes. Do you think Jesus wanted Thomas to believe that He was risen without feeling His wounds?

(John 20:29) “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

A common question Christians are often asked by non-believers is: "If I can't see God how do I know He is real?" A good start to answering this question is to focus on what we can see... the miracles that God has done.

### **The things He has created**

"The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies announce what his hands have made." Psalm 19:1

**The people He has made in His image** (Genesis 2:27)

### **The testimonies of others both in the Bible and today.**

The most exciting thing is that the Bible tells us that "You will seek me and **find me** when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

Here's a simple science experiment you can do with your family and friends to help them understand to have faith in something they cannot see.

What you will need: A 500ml bottle filled with 125ml of white vinegar and a balloon filled with 30ml of baking soda

(You can watch this YouTube clip to see how the experiment works but remember to practice it at home first!  
How to inflate a balloon with baking soda & vinegar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mCcFzcClvE>)

Today I am going to blow up this balloon without using my mouth or a pump. All I am going to use is what I have here in front of me. Do you believe I can do it? *Get a show of hands who believes.*

Some of you say yes ... either because you have seen it done before or because you trust me that what I say is true.

Some of you say no ... either because you haven't seen it done before or because it doesn't seem possible.

Well watch and see: *tip the balloon so that the baking soda falls into the vinegar and starts to inflate the balloon.*

Now do you believe that it can be done?

When the baking soda in the balloon mixed with the vinegar it made carbon dioxide and this gas filled the balloon. **But** we can't see the gas so is it real? How do we know? Even though we can't see the gas, we **can** see how it filled the balloon and so we **know** it is real.

In the same way we may not be able to see God but we can definitely see that He is real by what He does. He heals the sick, He provides for us, He protects us. The more we see or even hear what He has done the easier it is to believe in Him. Just like it is easier to believe this will work the next time you see this experiment done.

So keep on searching, keep on listening and you WILL find Jesus and then you will be able to do nothing else but believe.

#### **4) Questions and discussion points**

- Have you ever doubted God?  
If you are like most Christians, you probably have, and you may even be feeling guilty about it. Jesus welcomes you to bring your doubts to Him. Like Thomas, be honest to Jesus about your doubts. Ask Him to show you who He is and pray for faith to believe even though you cannot see.
- What testimonies do you have where you doubted things would be ok but God came through for you? Has this built your faith?
- Do you share those stories with other people to build their faith as well?

As you follow Jesus there will be times when you doubt He can pull things through, e.g. a friend coming to know Jesus, someone being healed. Remember God is with us all the time, even though we can't see him. He is a God of miracles and with Him ALL things are possible.

### 5) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

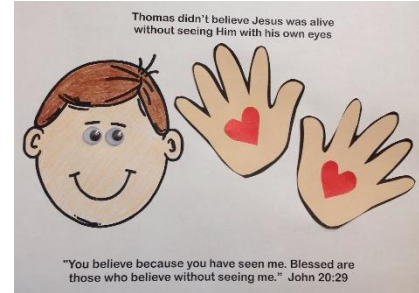
#### Option 1: You have seen me

Thomas didn't believe Jesus was alive until seeing the nail in his eyes.



"You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." John 20:29

Decorate with wool for the hair, googly eyes and torn paper for the face.



Thomas didn't believe Jesus was alive without seeing Him with his own eyes  
"You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." John 20:29

#### Option 2: Stop Doubting


John 20 "STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE" vs 24-29



#### Option 3: Activity Page

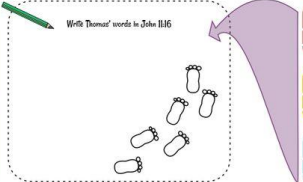
## Bible Heroes

### Apostle Thomas



**Bold Statements**  
Thomas may have been full of doubts and confusion but he made some fantastic statements about his belief in Jesus

Write Thomas' words in John 11:6



What do these words say about Thomas?

Trust in Jesus	Faith / Faith
Love	Understanding
Fear	Trust in the other disciples

The most famous passage about Thomas happens just after Easter. Thomas doubts the other disciples when they say Jesus has been resurrected (come back from the dead). Do you think all the amazing things Jesus did prepared his followers for his resurrection? Circle the proof Thomas said he needed before he could believe them.

To see his face

To touch his hand

To be told by others

To hear his voice

To touch his side

When Thomas does meet Jesus what does he call Jesus?



My \_\_\_\_\_ and My \_\_\_\_\_

These are powerful words. Look at both words and colour the words (blue or green) that mean something similar.

Ruler Authority Creator Divine Master Yahweh

Thomas is most remembered for doubting, do you think that is fair?

Which line joins Thomas and Jesus?

## Lesson Eight: Philip & Nathanael learn that Jesus knows everything

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Tell others who Jesus is
- Jesus knows everything about you
- When you follow Jesus you will see GREAT things

### 1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 139: 1- 18

***“Lord, You know everything about me.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse

***Philip and Nathanael can teach the important lesson today ...***Our verse for today is from Psalm 139:1. (*Show the children how to find chapter 139 and verse 1.*) It says “Lord, You know everything about me.” Can we all say that together?

*Have the verse written on a card and as you go along hold it up for them to repeat*

Everyone stand up where you are. Now sit back down again.

**- God saw you do that!** *“Lord, You know everything about me.”*

Now stand back up again and reach and try to touch the ceiling. Now reach and try to touch the floor. Now sit back down.

**- God saw you do that too!** *“Lord, You know everything about me.”*

Raise your hand if you slept last night?

**- God watched you fall asleep and kept watching all night long!** *“Lord, You know everything about me.”*

Think in your head about yesterday. Did you make someone happy? How about sad? Did you go somewhere in the car? Did you get in trouble for something you did that was wrong?

**- God watched you do those things!** *“Lord, You know everything about me.”*

Psalm 139 says that God knows when we sit down and stand up. He sees us when we go places and when we rest at home. God knows everything you do. God sees you when you are doing good things and He sees you when you are doing the things you know you shouldn't do. He can see you all the time. God knew you were going to be here today before you even were born!

**God sees you!!** *“Lord, You know everything about me.”*

Alright now I want everyone to think of something in your head. Don't say it or shout it out or tell your neighbour, just think of it inside your head about your favourite animal. Everyone have it? Okay, turn to your friend and tell them what your favourite animal is.

I don't know what animal you thought of, but God heard what you thought in your head even before you said it out loud! Psalm 139 says God knows our thoughts and what we are going to say even before we say it. God knows the good things you think and say; and He knows the bad things you think and say. He can even hear you when you pray silently in your head.

**God hears you!!** *“Lord, You know everything about me.”*

## 2) Hands on

Perform the following game/s:

### 2.1) Background info on today's disciple: Philip



- ✋ **Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. Mark 3:14-19.**
- ✋ **I am from the town of Bethsaida (John 1:44)**
- ✋ **I told Nathanael about Jesus. (John 1:45)**
- ✋ **At the feeding of the 5000 Jesus tested me by asking me where we would buy bread for the people to eat. (John 6:5-6)**
- ✋ **I learnt that God uses our questions to teach us. (John 14:8-11)**
- ✋ **Jesus asked me if I realised that to know and see Him was to know and see the Father**



- ✋ **Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. Mark 3:14-19.**
- ✋ **I am only mentioned as Nathanael in John but am known as Bartholomew in Matthew, Mark & Luke**
- ✋ **When Philip first told me about Jesus I did not believe He could be the Son of God as he was from Nazareth – and nothing good ever came out of Nazareth! (John 1:46)**
- ✋ **Jesus said I was a “true Israelite” and a man “in whom there is nothing false” (John 1:47)**
- ✋ **I learnt that Jesus knows everything & everyone**

## 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Here is a two and a half minute video on how Philip & Nathanael became disciples of Jesus. Remember Nathanael's other name is Bartholomew.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j5CPuAUCAg>

Bible Theater: John - Jesus knows Nathanael - LifeKids.tv

Idea: Have two separate leaders tell each disciple's story. It might help the children not to confuse the two.

## Philip

Start with a big **WELL DONE PHILIP!** The first thing we read about Philip doing once he becomes a disciple is to find Nathanael and tell him about Jesus. This is exactly what Jesus wants us to do when we choose to follow Him – **TELL OTHERS. Can you remember who the other disciple was that introduced others to Jesus?**

We also learn from Philip that we are always learning as we follow Jesus. Don't be scared to ask questions. Don't lose hope or faith when God tests us and we fail. Just keep learning from your mistakes and your successes and keep following Him the best you can. Ask God to help you understand His word and things about Him that may be confusing. Remember God knows we have faults – the great thing is He wants us to work for Him anyway! We just need to be available and have FAITH.

## Nathanael

John 1:43-51 is where we can read about Philip and Nathanael meeting Jesus. The very first time Nathanael hears about Jesus he denies that He is the true Christ but once He meets with Him he acknowledges that He is the "Son of God" and "King of Israel". What causes Nathanael to change his mind?

Jesus told him something only Nathanael knew, that he had been sitting under a fig tree. When Nathanael heard Jesus say this he instantly believed. My favourite part of this story is verse 50 ...

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. **You will see greater things than that.**" Nathanael did see Jesus do many greater things than this, including His death and resurrection. If we meet with Jesus, by spending more time doing, listening, prayer and joining in, we too will see great things! You probably have already. Can you name some "great things" you have been witness to?

## 4) Questions and discussion points

**Use moments such as craft time, free play etc. to recap and highlight the main ideas.**

- Why did we say "*well done Philip!*" today?... he told Nathanael about Jesus.
- Did Nathanael know Jesus?
- Did Jesus know Nathanael?
- What things did Jesus know about Nathanael?
  - He was sitting under the fig tree
  - His name
  - That he was honest (he knew his thoughts were honest and the things he had done were honest)
  - That he would see great things
- Jesus knows all these things about us! Use craft option 2 pictures for Psalm 139 to recap all the things Jesus knows about us.
- Jesus knows who you will be when you are older and all the things He will use you to achieve for His glory. Just like Nathanael, if we come closer to Jesus - through spending time reading the Bible, praying to Jesus and worshipping Jesus - we will see GREAT things.
- Do you know Jesus? (who is Jesus?)
- Does everyone know Jesus? What should we do? (*tell others*)

## 5) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

**Option 1: Bedroom door sign** (Jesus knows my name)

Decorate a sign for their bedroom door to remind them that Jesus knows them and is always with them.



# JESUS KNOWS MY NAME



Jesus knows everything about me  
Psalm 139:1-18



**Option 2:** Decorate and colour the poster for the child's room

## JESUS KNOWS ME

Lord, you have tested me,  
so you know all about me.



You know when I sit down and when I get up.  
You know my thoughts from far away.



You know where I go and where I lie down.  
You know everything I do.



Lord, you know what I want to say,  
even before the words leave my mouth.



You are all around me—in front of me and behind me  
I feel your hand on my shoulder.



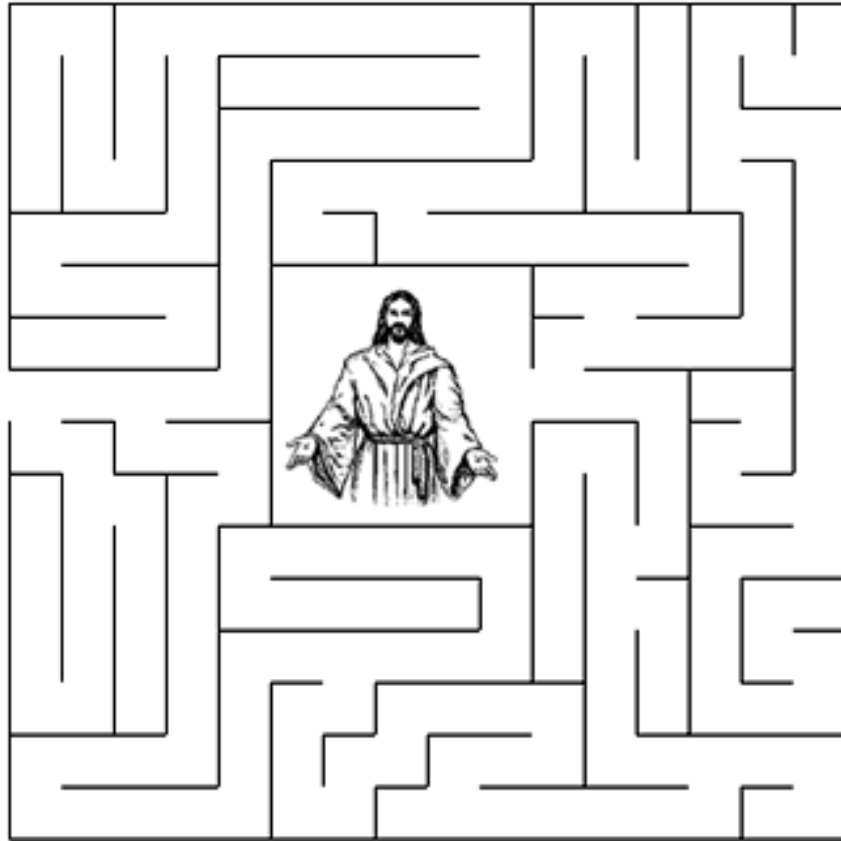
I am amazed at what you know;  
it is too much for me to understand.



Your Spirit is everywhere I go.  
I cannot escape your presence.

Psalm 139:1-7

**Option 3: Help Philip lead Bartholomew to where Jesus is**



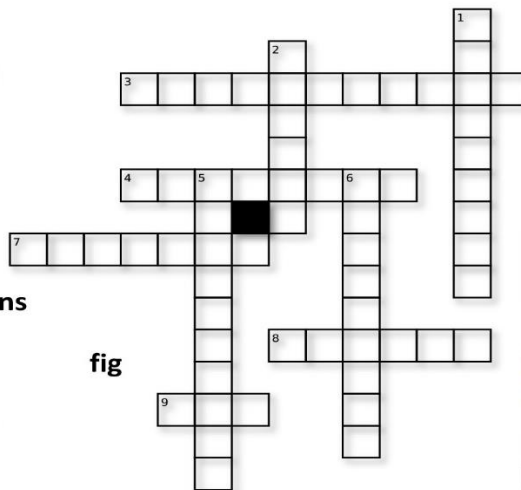
**Philip & Bartholomew**



**Philip**



**Bartholomew  
(Nathanael)**



- questions
- everything
- greater
- obedient
- honest

Down:

1. Jesus wants us to ask \_\_\_\_\_
2. an obedient disciple
5. Psalm 139:1 "Lord, you know \_\_\_\_\_ about me."
6. Bartholomew's other name

Across:

3. Philip told him to come and follow Jesus
4. Jesus chose Philip because he was \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jesus said "You will see \_\_\_\_\_ things than that"
8. Jesus chose Bartholomew because he was \_\_\_\_\_
9. Jesus saw Bartholomew sitting under a \_\_\_\_\_ tree



## Lesson Nine: James (the less) and Simon the Zealot glorify Jesus

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus calls us so that His name can be glorified – not ours
- Jesus wants us to pray.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 115:1

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us , but to your name give glory.*

### Idea to teach the memory verse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKe3Hc9fjMQ>

The Glory of God (lyric video) Shai Linne

You can either play the rap for the children or divide them into two groups and say the verse the way the chorus is sung.

### 2) Hands on

#### 2.1) Background info on today's disciple: James (the less)



- 🐟 **Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. Mark 3:14-19.**
- 🐟 **I did not write the book of James – Jesus' half-brother did**
- 🐟 **I was known as James the less because I was younger and shorter than the other James – OR WAS I?**
- 🐟 **I was stoned & clubbed to death in Jerusalem – OR WAS I?**



You will need either a whiteboard, black board or big piece of cardboard

Leader 1	Every week one of Jesus' 12 disciples have come and visited us. I can't wait to see who is coming this week... and today's disciple is ... ( <i>announce and gesture as if he is about to enter</i> ) James the less... um? ( <i>Look confused and announce again</i> ) it's James the less!
Leader 2	Uh sorry we don't know where James the less lives so we couldn't ask him to come
Leader 1	What about his parents why didn't you ask them
Leader 2	It doesn't say who his parents are
Leader 1	Did you go to where he works?
Leader 2	No, because we don't know what job he does
Leader 1	I see in the Bible there is a book called James. Did he write that book?
Leader 2	No. The book of James was written by Jesus' brother
Leader 1	Um sorry kids this is a little embarrassing. It doesn't seem like James the less will be coming
Leader 2	But I can tell you what we do know about him
Leader 1	Oh great. I've got this huge piece of card here. I'm ready. Children are you ready to remember all the things he did.
Leader 2	Jesus asked James the less to follow Him and he did

Leader 1	Awesome ( <i>write that down on the board right at the top</i> )... and
Leader 2	and that's it
Leader 1	What do you mean "that's it"
Leader 2	That's all the Bible tells us about him. Jesus asked him to follow Him and he did.
Leader 1	But we know so many things about what the other disciples did and only ONE thing about James the less... did he not do anything? Was that why they called him James the less.
Leader 2	Some people say his name was James the less because he was smaller than the rest of them others say it was because he was the younger brother.  But I think James teaches me a very important lesson ...it doesn't matter if people notice or even know what we do for Jesus. We <b>don't</b> need our name to go up in lights for people to see. We need people to know the name of Jesus and what He did. It's like Psalm 115:1 says <b>"not to us, O Lord, not to us , but to your name give glory"</b>
Leader 1	You're right. In fact James would have given up his home, friends, family, job and all the things he had just to follow Jesus and because of what these disciples did the Christian church was started and so many people got to know about Jesus -including me! Thank you James!

We do not know much about this James. We do not know what job he did, what Jesus said to him, what he accomplished. We only know that Jesus called him to be a disciple. We are not even sure that when they referred to "James the less" they were talking about him. We can however learn a lesson from his life. If Jesus calls you - do what He says and do it for His glory and not for your own gain. We don't need books written about us, medals given to us, we don't even need a tap on the back! Just be Jesus' disciple and do what He has asked us to do. Remember that Jesus knows everything about us. He sees everything we do and our reward is in Heaven. Don't worry what the reward is or if it's worth it. Just trust Jesus as He says ... Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven."

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🐟 <b>Jesus called me as a disciple to be an eyewitness to His ministry and to preach what He taught me. (Mark 3:14-19)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>I was called Simon the Zealot. (Luke 6:15)</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>A Zealot in that time was a military person who declared that God was their only King and would fight against any Roman laws that went against this.</b></li> <li>🐟 <b>After Jesus ascended into Heaven I went with the other disciples to pray. (Acts 1:9-14)</b></li> </ul>
	<p>Another disciple that we do not know much about is Simon the Zealot. (<i>put finger puppet on one hand</i>) A Zealot was someone who belonged to the army that was fighting against Roman rule.</p>



If you remember Matthew was a tax collector working for the Romans. (*put Matthew finger puppet on the other hand*)  
(*holding the puppets so they are far away from each other say...*)  
So Simon would have hated Matthew – and for good reason.  
And Matthew would have feared Simon – and for good reason.

So how could two people so different be on the same team?... the answer is Jesus! Before Jesus called them they would NEVER have worked together. But with Jesus they become like one (*bring puppets together*) ... working towards the same goal (to learn from Jesus so they can teach others to believe). Where Jesus goes they go (*move puppets around together*) What Jesus teaches they both are there to learn. What Jesus tells them to do they are both there to obey.

Some of the disciples were loud and daring while others were quiet or timid. But Jesus used each and every one of them. And as a team they were able to learn from each other, encourage each other and achieve so much for Jesus together.

After Jesus ascends back into Heaven the disciples all head home and do you know what they do next?

Read Acts 1:14 <sup>14</sup>They all **joined together** constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

### **They ALL PRAY together.**

They could have gone to their room and prayed alone but instead they decide to pray together. Jesus wants us to follow Him together! He wants us to pray together, worship together, learn together and bring others to know Him.

*If we are to follow Jesus we need to make sure that we are spending a lot of time praying to Him. A good thing to remember when praying is J.O.Y.!*

*J – Pray to Jesus for all that He has done & tell Him how awesome & great He is*

*O – Pray for Others asking Him to help them come to know, love and follow Him*

*Y – Pray for Yourself, for your needs, for forgiveness, direction, gifts, the Holy Spirit...*

Remind children of your site's corporate prayer meetings that they can attend.

#### **4) Questions and discussion points**

**Use moments such as craft time, free play etc. to recap and highlight the main ideas.**

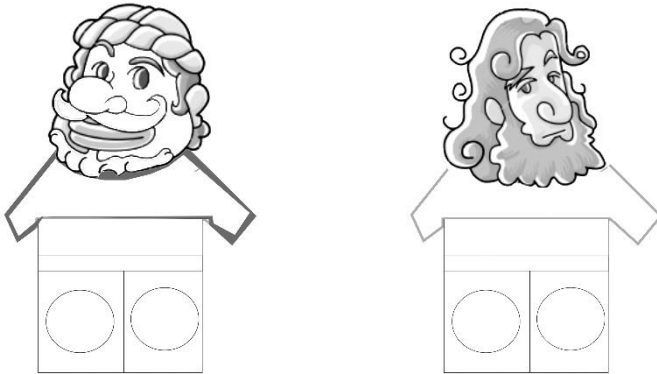
- What was the Memory verse today?
- How can you make Jesus' name known?
- Do you have people following Jesus with you?
- How can you make Jesus' name more known together? (prayer at school, Bible club.)

## 5) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson

### Option 1: Finger puppets

Let the children make their own Simon and Matthew finger puppets so they can teach the lesson to their friends and family.



### Option 2: Give glory to Jesus



Give children a piece of paper with the memory verse written on it.

Ask them who they should give glory to? Explain what that means.

Place a cross stencil over and let the children use pastels or paint to create the effect around it.

After they can write/draw things around that they can give Jesus the glory for.

### Option 3: Prayer cushion



If you are a keen sewer the above effect in Option 2 or the word "J.O.Y" or "PRAY" can be painted on material and made into a cushion. The children can use them to kneel on as they pray with their family each night.

# Lesson Ten: Jesus chooses YOU as His disciple

## Main focus for the lesson:

- We are also called to be Jesus' disciple
- Jesus has given us a message – Jesus is the way to Heaven
- Jesus has given us a mission – to tell others
- Jesus has given us a motive – because I love Jesus and I love others

## 1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 28:19-20

*Go and make disciples of every nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Go and teach them to observe all I've commanded and I'll be with you till the end of the age!*



## Idea to teach the memory verse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLISGZhdrVM&feature=youtu.be>

Go! Worship song on YouTube

Have this song playing on repeat as the children arrive. You'll be amazed how quickly they learn it and will be able to sing along with you.

## 2) Hands on

### 2.1) Play Re-cap games:

#### Laminated activity pages:

**Jesus' Disciples**

Jesus had 12 disciples. One appears twice in the picture. Find him.

**Jesus' Followers**

Re-arrange the letters to find the names of Jesus' followers

ERTPE    △

SMJAE    □

OJNH    ○

NDAEWR    ○

PLPIHI    ○

ARMEWTHOLOB    ♥

THMATWIE    ○

OMHSAT    ◇

MESAJ    ○

DTHDAESU    △

MISON    ○

ASJUD    ○

These were the names of the 12

○ △ ♥ ○ ○ △ □ ◇

#### Match the information and lesson learnt to the disciple

<p><b>I am Matthew</b></p> <p>Remember: God loves everyone</p>	<p><b>I am James</b></p> <p>Remember: Jesus can change our hearts</p>	<p><b>I am Andrew</b></p> <p>Remember: Preach the good news to everyone.</p>
<p><b>I am Thomas</b></p> <p>Remember: Bring your doubts to Jesus &amp; He will take them away</p>	<p><b>I am Philip</b></p> <p>Remember: It is important to tell others and bring them to Jesus.</p>	<p><b>I am Nathanael (Bartholomew)</b></p> <p>Remember: God knows everything about you and chose you to follow Him</p>
<p><b>I am Judas Iscariot</b></p> <p>Remember: Our words AND actions need to show love to Jesus and others.</p>	<p><b>I am Thaddeus</b></p> <p>Remember: The Holy Spirit will help us remember and teach us all the important lessons we need to obey.</p>	<p><b>I am Simon</b></p> <p>Remember: It is important to play together for J-O-Y (Jesus, Others, Yourself) No one knows much about me.</p>
<p><b>I am John</b></p> <p>Remember: Jesus is the perfect example of love.</p>	<p><b>I am Simon Peter</b></p> <p>Remember: Sometimes we get it right, sometimes we get it wrong but when we do – God forgives</p>	<p><b>I am James (the less)</b></p> <p>Remember: Do everything to make Jesus' name famous – not your own.</p>

### 2.2) Set the challenge for the older kids by showing them this YouTube clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQBAJccIZAo&feature=youtu.be>

Go make disciples

### 2.3) A simple explanation of becoming disciples for younger kids

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VdL\\_F6KKXQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VdL_F6KKXQ&feature=youtu.be)

Dot and Bouncy - The Great Commission

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Over the last few weeks we have been learning about these 12 men - the disciples.  
*(Stick a picture of the 12 disciples up on the wall.)*

These men were probably younger than 25 when Jesus called them. Among them were fishermen, a tax collector and even a revolutionary. They were just ordinary men who left behind **everything** to become Jesus' disciples, His students.

We have seen how they walked with Jesus and how He taught them so much. Who can remember some of the things that Jesus taught them? *(point to each disciple and see what lessons they learnt from Jesus)*

This term we've seen how these ordinary men messed up, struggled with things like anger and doubts but how by following Jesus and learning from Him were chosen for a great commission!

Who knows what these men went on to do when Jesus went back to Heaven?  
 That's right each of them except for Judas, spent their lives going around and sharing the good news of Jesus with others.

Now do you know that they have passed the baton on to us. Jesus now wants us to be His disciples.

There are 3 things that we have been given as Jesus' disciples.

<p>We have a <b>message</b></p> 	<p>Our message that we have to tell everybody else is that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. This is the good, no GREAT news of Jesus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jesus saves us!</b></p>
<p>We have a <b>mission</b></p> 	<p>Our mission is to go and make disciples of all nations. That means we have to tell others about Jesus so that they can follow and learn from Him too! We don't have to wait until we're old. God wants you to tell others starting right now! Tell the person next to you your message ... Jesus saves!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tell others!</b></p>
<p>We have a <b>motive</b></p> 	<p>Our motive is because we love Jesus. And because we love Jesus we do what He has asked us to do ... love one another.          Because I love Jesus and I love others I want them to know this message and go on this mission too!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Love Jesus and others!</b></p>

As you hold up each picture from above the leader in a bold army style voice calls out and kids reply the following:

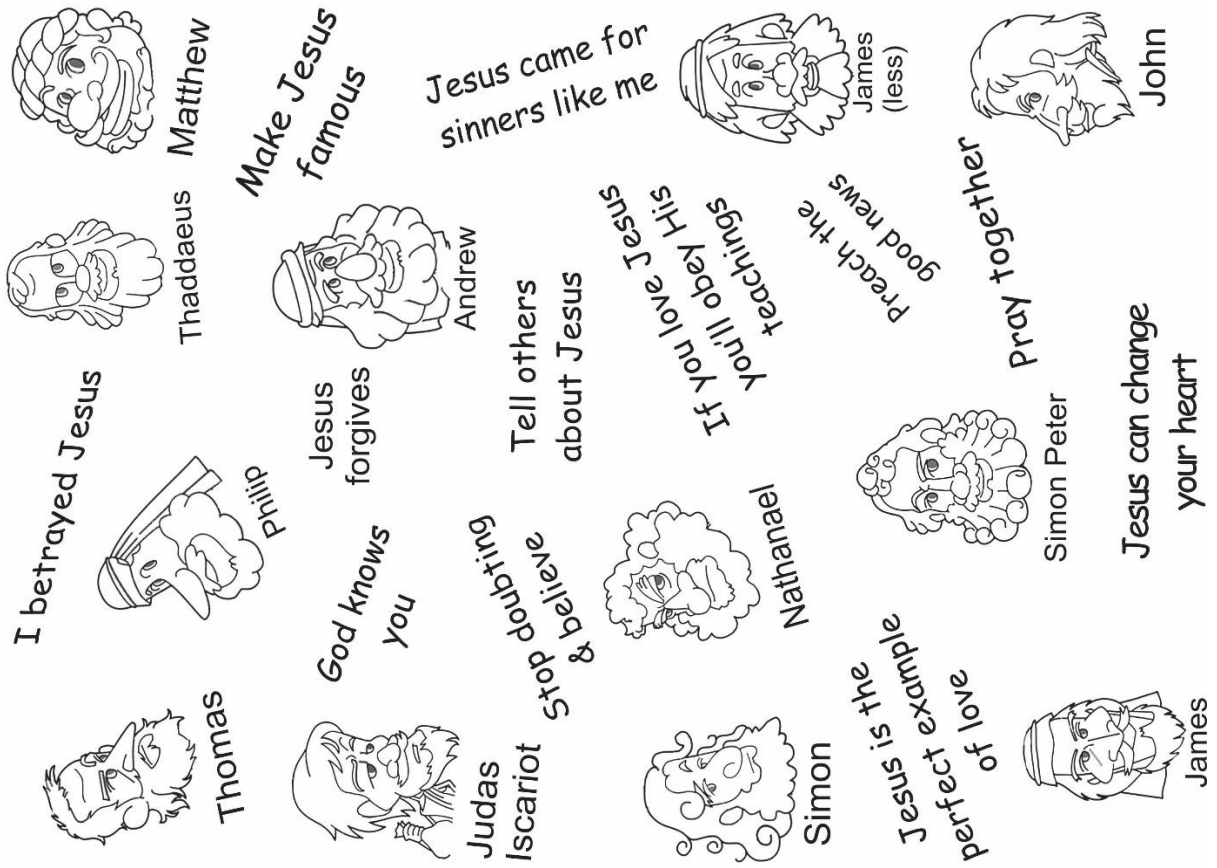
What's our **message** .... **Jesus saves!**

What's our **mission** .... **Tell others!**

What's our **motive** .... **We love Jesus!**

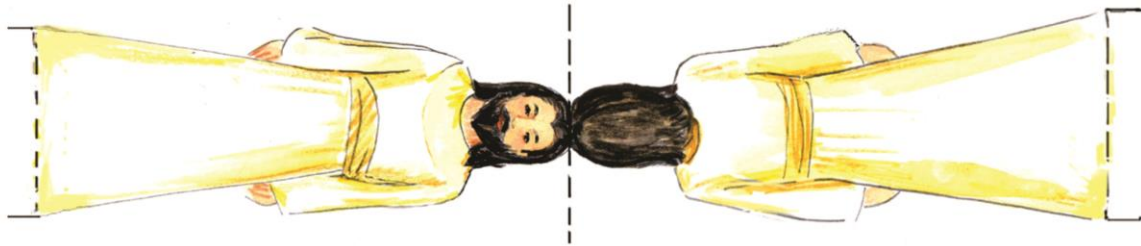
A trinket will be provided for them to take home to remind them of this important message.

4) Craft  
Option 1



Option 2  
Make paper doll with 14 people (Jesus, the twelve and YOU)

PAPER FIGURE OF THE LORD



PAPER DOLL CHAIN

