

Adventures with GOD!

THE DISCIPLES, CHOSEN HELPERS (B.3.SPRING.7)

Biblical Reference	Luke 5:1-11, 27-32, 6:12-16
Key Verse	Luke 6:12, 13
Key Concept	Jesus chose his disciples, and chooses me to be his disciple.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how Jesus chose his disciples 2. Give details about how Jesus called Matthew 3. Make a decision to be one of Jesus' disciples

Life Application

God gives us an amazing invitation to become disciples of Jesus. The Gospel of Luke tells us how Jesus chose his first disciples. These disciples learned from Jesus and participated in Jesus' mission on earth. We, too, can participate in God's mission as we choose to be disciples of Jesus.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Money	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, time machine	10 minutes
Key Verse	Card stock, markers, scissors, envelopes	10 minutes
Activity	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, loving us, forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Luke 5:1-11 twice and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Introduction: Pull out small bills and coins to show the class. Have a variety of different bills and ask children to identify how much money you have. Ask children what they think they could buy with that money; ask children what how much they would sell different objects in the classroom for (a pencil, a book, a snack, etc). Ask children if they have ever heard of a tax collector and what they imagine this person's job is like. After this introduction, hand out the questions for the Bible Exploration.

Bible Exploration: You may use the time machine this week along with the sample dialogue found on pages 5-6. As Matthew is walking out of the time machine, have him pretend to talk to someone about how much money they owe him. Then begin the dialogue.

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When the dialogue with Matthew is finished, talk about why it was so shocking that Jesus would pick someone like Matthew to be his disciple, or any of the other disciples, for that matter. Ask children to describe what a disciple is and what they do. Why were Matthew and the others considered disciples of Jesus? Read Luke 6: 12-15 together to learn the names of the disciples. Ask children to imagine what it was like to be a disciple and follow Jesus. Ask the children how they think the disciples felt when Jesus chose them. Ask children how it makes them feel to know that Jesus also chooses them to be his disciples. Have you thought about the privilege it is not only to learn about Jesus, but also to be one of his disciples? How can we be disciples of Jesus? Are you willing to be a part of God's mission on earth, sharing the good news of Jesus with others?

Key Verse: Write the Key Verse on the board or on a large piece of paper. Provide each child with a sheet of card stock (8 ½ x 11 inches) to copy the verse on. For the younger children, give them a piece of card stock with the verse already written on it. Give children time to decorate the paper, and then have them cut it up into big pieces to make a puzzle.

Activity: Provide several different activities for children to choose from. On page 7, you will find a "word find", where children can unscramble the names of the disciples found in Luke 6:12-15. This activity can be at one table, and have illustrations that the children can color and decorate for the mural at another table. In another area, have some dress-up clothes (a fishing pole, a money belt, etc) and allow the children to pretend they are the original disciples.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

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W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for others and us? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Questions for the disciple

Levi– (dressed accordingly, pretending to talk to someone) This is what the government says you owe. I want you to know that I’m being fair and not taking anymore than what is legal. My stealing days are over. Oh, hello, excuse me. I didn’t see you there. Where am I? What’s going on? I think I was having a dream.

Question #1 – It’s alright, you are in _____. We just wanted to meet you and ask you some questions. Who were you talking to? It sounded pretty important.

Levi: I was having a dream, kind of a nightmare. So thank you for getting me out of it.

Question #2 – Who are you?

Levi: Who am I? Who was I? Those are two different question. You wouldn’t have liked the old me, the old Levi. Nobody like him. He was a hated tax collector. I guess I wouldn’t have been as hated if just did my job and didn’t try to get more money out of people than what they really had to pay. I even started to dislike myself. I knew what I was doing wasn’t right, charging them more money and keeping it for myself, but it was what I did. There I was, Levi or Matthew as I was called, robbing my own people and working for Rome.

Question #3 – You are speaking in past tense. Did something happen that changed you?



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Levi: Yes! One day I was sitting at the table, collecting taxes like usual. I had heard that a prophet named Jesus from Nazareth had come to our town. They told me that this man healed a paralytic. I wasn't physically ill, but I felt that inside my heart I needed to be healed. I was so tired of the way I was living and I desperately wanted a way out. Then all of a sudden I saw him coming towards me, Jesus that is. He looked at me and it was like he could see my heart. Then I heard him say something that forever changed my life: "Follow me."

Question #4 – And how did you respond?

Levi: I stood up. It was like I forgot about the money on the table in front of me. It meant nothing to me. I knew that I had to follow him. So I did and that night I held a banquet and invited my friends to join Jesus and me.

Question #5 – And did everyone come?

Levi: Oh yes! And there was an entire other group that came that I hadn't invited.

Question #6 – Who else came?

Levi: Oh there was a whole group of them, hanging outside and making a fuss. They were the Pharisees, the scribes and the respectable Jews. They couldn't believe that Jesus would come to my house. Remember, I was a sinner.

Question #7 – What were they saying?

Levi: Well, they were criticizing Jesus. They criticized the other disciples, saying "Why in the world would you have dinner with tax collectors and sinners?"

Question #8 – And how did Jesus respond?

Levi: He told them that the healthy people didn't need a doctor. That he had come to heal people like me who were broken and sick inside. And he was right. I needed Jesus. From that day on I knew I had to follow him.

Question #9 – So were you considered one of Jesus' disciples?

Levi: Yes, I was. From that day I on, I followed him by obeying what he said and learning from him. Not long after, Jesus told us that he had been praying and God showed him that the 12 of us were supposed to be in a very special relationship with him, that we were to be his disciples

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and be a part of his special mission. We were going to learn from him and serve others in his name. Imagine my surprise when he chose me. I felt unworthy, but at the same time so overjoyed. I even had the opportunity to write about my experience with Jesus so that others could hear about Jesus and decide to follow him. Jesus invites you to be his disciple. Just like me, you can experience the joy of following Jesus and being a part of his mission. Well, I better leave you to it. Thanks for all your questions and for letting me share a bit of my story.

ACTIVITY

Levi has left us a list of the names of the 12 disciples, but they spelled backwards. Can you decipher the names? They can be found in Luke 6:12-15.

SEMAJ

James

WERDNA

NHOJ

PILHHP

NOMIS

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WEHTTAM

SAMOHT

WEMOLOHTRAB

SEMAJ

SADUJ

NOMIS

SADUS