

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS LOOKS FOR DISCIPLES (C.1.Spring.4)

Biblical Reference	John 1:38-51
Key Verse	John 1:35-37
Key Concept	From the time Jesus' ministry began, he has looked for men and women who can participate in God's mission and ministry here on the earth.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Tell the story of how the first disciples were called 2. Compare John's disciples to Jesus' disciples 3. Describe what type of person Jesus calls to be his disciple

Life Application

Each experience of Jesus' life teaches us something for our lives. Jesus invited different people to follow God's way and today he continues to invite us to be his disciples and follow his example. The lesson today will challenge the children to think about their own response to Jesus' invitation. Jesus continues to say to those who seek him, "Come and see."

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Introduction	Big pieces of white paper, letter sized white paper, pens	5 minutes
Worksheet	Worksheet, Bibles, pens	10 minutes
Group work	Bibles, paper, pens	15 minutes
Dialogue	Bible, information sheets, white board, markers	20 minutes
Conclusions	Paper, markers, Bible verse	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: On a big piece of paper, before class begins, write the names of some people from the Bible. Include the names of the 12 disciples. Hang the piece of paper up on the wall. When the children arrive, give them a blank piece of paper and a pen. They should find the names of the 12 disciples from all the names on the big sheet of paper. Tell them to work individually, until everyone has had the chance to find the names. When everyone has finished, circle the names of the disciples on the big sheet of paper: Simon Peter, Andrew, James of Zebedee, John of Zebedee, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot. There are many other names from the Old Testament and New Testament that you can include. When you've finished circling all the names of the 12 disciples have the children read them out loud together.

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 on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

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, for loving us, for 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 as we read the Bible we do that 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 the key verse Bible passage for the day two times 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 story?

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Worksheet: You will find a worksheet in the following pages. Make sure to have one for each child and have them work individually.

Group work: Form teams and give each one of the groups the worksheets you will find in the following pages. Encourage each person in the group to participate. Many times it's the same students who take control or do all the work. Make sure to walk around to the different groups as they are work to see if they have questions or need some help.

Dialogue: The focus of the dialogue will be the information that the groups have found during their time of investigation. You can also talk about the three words that they find in the Bible verse today: "Come, see and follow."

"Come": You can read the passage and then write on the board words that describe Jesus as a person. Why would someone want to follow Jesus? Why did they believe in what John the Baptist had said? Who would you believe?

Note: in this moment it would be good to review John 1:35-37 where John declares who Jesus is. The children should memorize these verses as they are key in the life of Jesus.

"See": What would the disciples have seen? (Where Jesus lived, how Jesus lived, the type of person he was.) What would they have done while they were with Jesus? (We don't know for sure, but maybe they talked together, ate, met some friends, etc)

"Follow": When Jesus says, "Follow me" what does this mean for his new friends? (leave their families and normal lives, it meant follow him without any promise of making money, they didn't know where they were going, maybe they would be rejected by their friends)

Make a list of words or ideas that the children give to answer the following questions: What qualities did Jesus look for in his disciples? (faith, desire to follow, willingness, trust in God, service, etc.) What were the differences between John the Baptist's disciples and Jesus' disciples? (John always said that someone else was coming who was more powerful and worthy of following, his disciples were following him until the other person came)

Note: At this time it's important to add to the timeline a symbol that represents Jesus calling his disciples.



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Jesus continues to call people to follow him today. He is looking for people, men and women, boys and girls that will accept his invitation. What about you? Are you following Jesus? Do you want to follow Jesus? What are the things that sometimes keep us from following Jesus?

Conclusions: Let them reflect for a few minutes on these questions. Maybe it would be good to give each child a piece of paper and some markers or a pen and let them draw or write their answers to the question. Or maybe they want to make a commitment to Jesus (see an example in the following pages). Spend time praying together and review the Bible verse.

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 and give them 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)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to 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, it 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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INFORMATION SHEET - New Friends

When John's disciples heard his declaration that Jesus was the lamb of God, what did they do?

Why did they follow Jesus?

1. Because of John's testimony. They trusted his word.
2. Because of the person Jesus was.
 - a. He treated people well
 - b. He showed interest in people
 - c. There was confidence in his voice
 - d. Maybe something in his eyes or smile that created confidence
3. They didn't respond to Jesus' question (which was a deep question), but they looked for the opportunity to spend time with him and get to know him. And not only that, but one of the people, Andrew, went to invite his brother, Simon Peter.
4. Jesus was a welcoming person: he invited them to follow him and see where he was staying. We don't know what the place was like where Jesus stayed, but he opened up his space to be with people he didn't even know. He made the time to be with them.

How did Jesus respond when he met Peter (even though it seems like Jesus knew him from before because he called him by name and talked of his family). Jesus doesn't say anything about his weaknesses, just points out the positive in him. (Jesus does the same with us. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows all of our weaknesses, but always treats us with love.)

After being with his three new friends, Jesus decided to go north, to the town of Bethsaida.

1. There was something in Jesus that made his friends want to invite him to their homes to meet their families.

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2. On the way they got to know him better. What would they have talked about? When we meet new people, what do we want to know about them?
3. When they arrived in Bethsaida they found a man named Philip.
 - a. What did Jesus tell him? (follow me)
 - b. How did he say it? (with confidence and gentleness)
 - c. Philip saw his friends with a stranger but thought he saw something in his friends that caught his attention. His heart was ready to hear Jesus' words, otherwise he wouldn't have responded in this way.
 - d. How did Philip respond? (he was so moved that he went to invite another friend as well)

When I find a good book, or try really good food, I always want to share it with my friends. That was the reaction of Philip. So, it makes me wonder, "Am I like him? Who have I shared with about Jesus?"

- e. How did Nathanael respond? What was Philip's answer? (come and see). He said that if you don't believe what I'm telling you, you should come and see for yourself.
4. So Philip brought Nathanael (another name for him is Bartholomew)
 - a. What was he like? (a little skeptical, but his heart was ready)
 - b. How do we see something of Jesus' glory when he tells Nathanael where he was and a little about who he is. How does Nathanael respond? (even though he didn't understand everything, he too gave testimony to who Jesus is)

What does it mean for these five people to follow Jesus?

- They left their jobs
- They recognized his authority
- They left their families
- They had to give up some of their own ideas and dreams about how the Messiah would come and what he'd do
- They were invited to travel with Jesus

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WORKSHEET (INDIVIDUAL)

The disciples

1. Also known as Bartholomew
2. Son of Zebedee
3. Doubted the resurrection
4. Also known as Judas
5. The traitor
6. Peter's brother
7. Son of Alphaeus
8. The Zealot
9. "The rock" was his nickname
10. The beloved disciple
11. Brought Bartholomew to see Jesus
12. The tax collector
13. Replaced Judas

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WORKSHEET (INDIVIDUAL)

The disciples (answers)

1. Also known as Bartholomew - Nathanael
2. Son of Zebedee - James
3. Doubted the resurrection - Thomas
4. Also known as Judas - Thaddeaus
5. The traitor - Judas
6. Peter's brother - Andrew
7. Son of Alphaeus - James
8. The Zealot - Simon
9. "The rock" was his nickname – Simon Peter
10. The beloved disciple – John
11. Brought Bartholomew to see Jesus - Philip
12. The tax collector - Matthew
13. Replaced Judas - Matthias

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WORKSHEET

Group 1

Read Matthew 4:18-22

Explain in your own words what happened in this story?

Who were the disciples called in this passage?

What did Jesus do to call them? What did they know about him?

What was the reaction of those who were called?

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WORKSHEET

Group 2

Read Mark 3:13-19

Explain in your own words what happened in this story?

Who were the disciples called in this passage?

What did Jesus do to call them? What did they know about him?

What was the reaction of those who were called?

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WORKSHEET

Group 3

Read Luke 6:12-16

Explain in your own words what happened in this story?

Who were the disciples called in this passage?

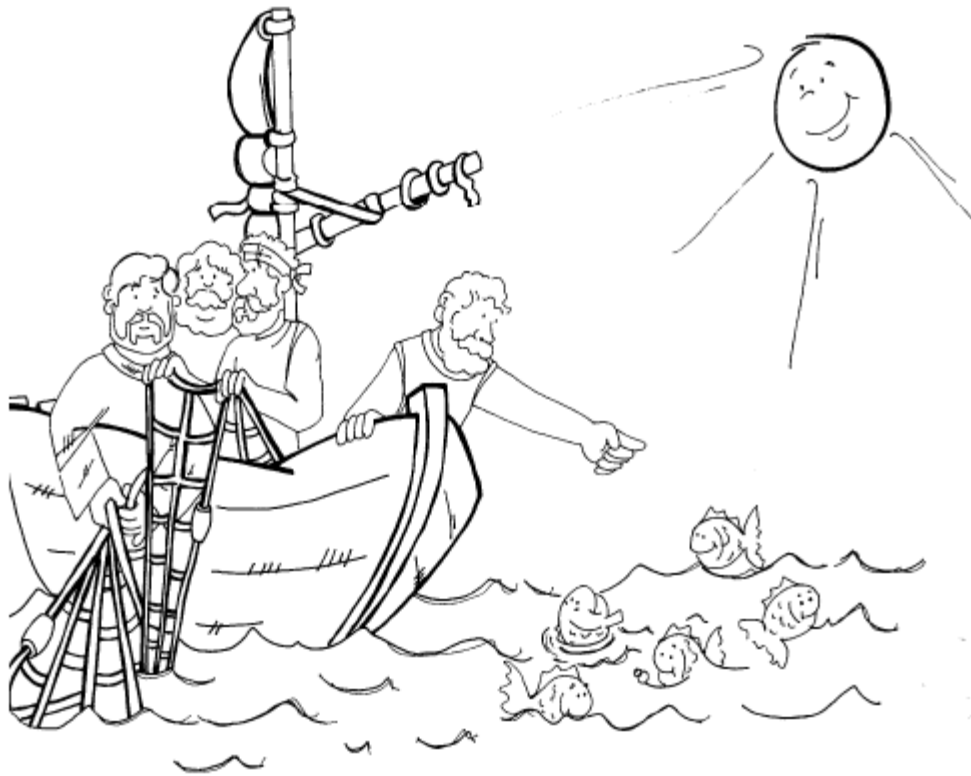
What did Jesus do to call them? What did they know about him?

What was the reaction of those who were called?

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ILLUSTRATION

Fishing was an important profession during Bible times. They fished with big nets. Some of the people Jesus called to be his disciples were fishermen.



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ILLUSTRATION

First disciples



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ILLUSTRATION

Tax collector



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ILLUSTRATION

Tax collector



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ILLUSTRATION

12 disciples

