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CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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LEADER GUIDE
FALL 2026

Preview Guide



KIDS PREVIEW GUIDE

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God's Word for Life Kids Community



[Pinterest.com/GodsWordforLife](https://www.pinterest.com/GodsWordforLife)



WELCOME TO RHYTHMS

ALIGNING YOUR HEART WITH GOD IN EVERY SEASON

Each January while I was pastoring in Mount Vernon, Ohio, I printed off the calendar on 11 x 17 sheets of paper for the next twelve months. I took those sheets to Wendy's, found the biggest available booth, opened up my Jr. Cheeseburger Deluxe (no onion) and prayerfully planned my teaching and preaching for the year. It was one of my favorite outings because it was the time for me to dream and plan what I would feed Jesus' sheep.

As I planned, I discovered natural rhythms within our church, the calendar year, even in our own family. There are seasons of life and actual seasons: fall, winter, spring, and summer. Each January we focused afresh on spiritual formation and drawing closer to God. By mid-spring, we were looking toward the Cross as we readied for Easter Sunday. Then in May or June, we were celebrating and experiencing Pentecost Sunday just as the disciples had in Acts 2.

Those rhythms are built-in throughout the year and around the world. The 2026-2027 God's Word for Life curriculum is called Rhythms: Aligning Your Heart with God in Every Season.

Rhythms is based on a two-year scope and sequence. Each month of these twenty-four months focuses on a biblical series. The series often align well with a church's calendar and rhythm so what is being preached in the sanctuary is close to what is being taught in the classrooms. We will walk and grow together through seasons of mission, seasons of celebration, seasons of gratitude, seasons of sacrifice.

By the end of these twenty-four months, Rhythms will provide a balanced spiritual diet of biblical literacy (what we know) and spiritual formation (how we live). All the while we'll be following the natural rhythms of life and church life. Some of the overall themes will repeat—such as Christmas lessons in December—but the content will be from a different passage and offer a different perspective.

In keeping with our God's Word for Life mission, Rhythms is whole-church aligned, meaning every age group—in English and Spanish—is learning the same lesson on an age-appropriate level. Whole-church alignment makes it easier to have holy conversations in the car or at home because all students are learning the same lesson.

It is a joy to have you with us on this two-year journey. On behalf of all of us at PRG, welcome to Rhythms!

Sincerely,

Curriculum Director
Pentecostal Resources Group



SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

FALL 2026 CONTENTS

FOLLOW ME

1.1	September 6, 2026	I Am a Disciple	8
1.2	September 13, 2026	Some Salt and a Lamp.	16
1.3	September 20, 2026	The Church in Action	24
1.4	September 27, 2026	Water in the Desert	32

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

2.1	October 4, 2026	Building God's Church.	40
2.2	October 11, 2026	His Church Is Marching On	48
2.3	October 18, 2026	God's Power for All Nations	56
2.4	October 25, 2026	The Road to Rome	64

JOY IN THANKSGIVING

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3.2	November 8, 2026	Grateful for Spiritual Gifts.	80
3.3	November 15, 2026	Let Love Lead	88
3.4	November 22, 2026	Faithful and Fruitful	96
3.5	November 29, 2026	Fruit of the Spirit	104



SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

WINTER 2026-27 CONTENTS

GOD WITH US

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1.2	December 13, 2026	Blessed Art Thou	16
1.3	December 20, 2026	A Gift of Joy	24
1.4	December 27, 2026	Visitors from the East	32

SHAPED BY GOD

2.1	January 3, 2027	When Ye Pray	40
2.2	January 10, 2027	When Ye Fast	48
2.3	January 17, 2027	Rediscovered!	56
2.4	January 24, 2027	Worship Is Never Wasted	64
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LOVE LIVED OUT

3.1	February 7, 2027	Between Two Thieves	80
3.2	February 14, 2027	Cross the Road	88
3.3	February 21, 2027	All for One and One for All	96
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SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

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THE ROAD TO THE RESURRECTION

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1.2	March 14, 2027	The Choice	16
1.3	March 21, 2027	The Power of Pressure	24
1.4	March 28, 2027	The Gospel	32

PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

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2.2	April 11, 2027	The Tabernacle	48
2.3	April 18, 2027	Saved By Grace	56
2.4	April 25, 2027	Born Again	64

ALIVE IN CHRIST

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3.2	May 9, 2027	Washed	80
3.3	May 16, 2027	Filled	88
3.4	May 23, 2027	Healed	96
3.5	May 30, 2027	Called	104



SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

SUMMER 2027 CONTENTS

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

1.1	June 6, 2027	Revival in Samaria	8
1.2	June 13, 2027	Transformed by Conviction	16
1.3	June 20, 2027	A Preacher and a Soldier	24
1.4	June 27, 2027	Questions and Answers.	32

OLD TESTAMENT ADVENTURES

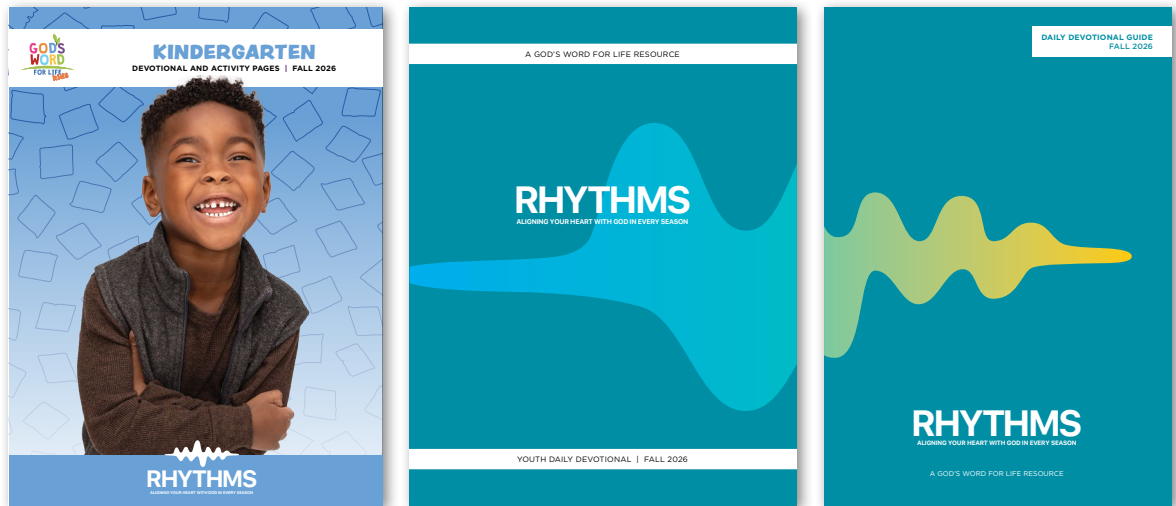
2.1	July 4, 2027	Three Days in a Whale.	40
2.2	July 11, 2027	Stand in the Fire	48
2.3	July 18, 2027	Daniel in the Den	56
2.4	July 25, 2027	Tear Down This Wall.	64

KINGDOM STORIES

3.1	August 1, 2027	Birds, Rocks, and Weeds.	72
3.2	August 8, 2027	Ready or Not.	80
3.3	August 15, 2027	Investing in the Kingdom	88
3.4	August 22, 2027	Lost and Found.	96
3.5	August 29, 2027	Prayer's Secret Recipe	104



DAILY DEVOTIONALS



Creates a Strategic Partnership between the Home and Church

Devotional resources help create everyday disciples by joining the Word of God at church with the Word of God at home. Children's Devotional and Activity Pages equip parents with a resource to help disciple their own children, and the activities keep the children engaged as they have fun and learn God's Word. Daily Devotional Guides for the Youth and Adults provide ways to dive deeper each day into the Bible passage they learned on Sunday.

Whole-Church Alignment

For a church who uses Rhythms across all classes, all age groups are learning the same Bible story on an age-appropriate level, so the entire family can have holy conversations about that same passage throughout the week at home.



GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE LEVELS



How do I know which level of God's Word for Life to use for my students?

For children, God's Word for Life is intentional to teach five levels: Little Learners, Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, and MOVE! (children's church). While a recommended age is provided, each level is distinguished by the style of teaching.

- **Little Learners** (ages 2–3) is written for toddlers who have not yet entered preschool. In this level, the content is student-driven.
- **Kindergarten** (ages 4–5) is written for children who are currently in preschool or kindergarten. These children have been introduced to a classroom setting, but still require large amounts of playtime. In this level, the content is a mix of being student- and teacher-driven.
- **Early Elementary** (grades 1–3) is written for children who have entered elementary school. Because these students' thinking skills are still largely concrete and literal, the life lesson applications focus on the here and now, with some introduction to abstract thinking. The content is teacher-driven, with a focus on hands-on activities, games, and object lessons.
- **Late Elementary** (grades 4–6) is written for older elementary students who will eventually be transitioning into youth. As children mature, they develop the ability to think abstractly and comprehend the deeper meaning of things. In this level, the content is teacher-driven, with a focus on discussion and hands-on application.
- **MOVE!** (ages 5–12) is written for classes containing a wide range of ages from 5–12. If your church places all children in one classroom or gymnasium, small or large, MOVE! is designed for you.

Students who haven't entered preschool may be best served using the Little Learners curriculum, even if they are four or five years old. Similarly, if a three-year-old has learned to read and has entered preschool, the child may be best served using the Kindergarten material. If your students are older (grades 4–6), but do not seem to be grasping the deeper concepts of the Late Elementary material, consider switching to Early Elementary.



DISCIPLES COME IN ALL SIZES

**I WILL HAVE FAITH IN GOD AND
BELIEVE WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE.**
(YOUTH AND ADULTS)

**I WILL BELIEVE GOD AND TRY
TO DO WHAT HE SAYS TO DO.**
(LATE ELEMENTARY)

**I WILL BELIEVE GOD AND TRY
TO DO WHAT HE SAYS TO DO.**
(EARLY ELEMENTARY)

I WILL TRUST GOD'S PLAN.
(KINDERGARTEN)

I WILL TRUST GOD'S PLAN.
(LITTLE LEARNERS)

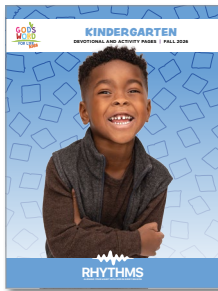


Each *God's Word for Life* lesson is built around an age-appropriate **Truth for My Life** designed to introduce students of all ages into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

KIDS RESOURCES

Leader Guide – Print \$10.99, Digital \$10.99, Print & Digital \$13.99

The Leader Guide provides streamlined but option-rich lesson content for leaders and teachers to present in Sunday school, home school, or any teaching environment. It is available in both print and digital formats.



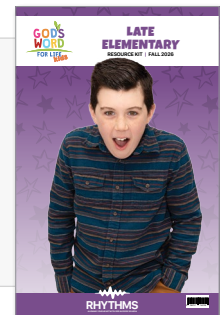
Devotional and Activity Pages – \$5.99

In each lesson, every student needs a Devotional and Activity Page. Prompts in the Leader Guide will help you incorporate the activity page into class, and then you can send it home with students as they leave.

› [Special pricing for 5 or more](#)

Resource Kit – \$27.99

The Resource Kit provides essential materials to make the lesson come alive. It includes posters, extra craft pieces, a fun video for each lesson, a Special Needs Supplement, and a Spiritual IEP to help teachers better understand challenges students may face.



Value Pack – \$62.99 (per level), Children's Ministry Value Pack – \$224.99

Everything you need to begin teaching any age level is available for purchase in a conveniently bundled kit. Each Value Pack includes 1 Leader Guide, 5 Activity Pages, and 1 Resource Kit. The Children's Ministry Value Pack includes each of the above resources for every age level. With the purchase of a Value Pack, additional activity pages can be purchased for a discounted rate.



MOVE! – \$39.99

This kids' church curriculum is written for classes containing a wide range of ages from 5–12. If your church places all children in one classroom or gymnasium, small or large, MOVE! is designed for you.

› [Special pricing for 2 or more](#)



LITTLE LEARNERS

AGES 2-3



LITTLE LEARNERS SAMPLE LESSON

1.1 I AM A DISCIPLE



SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 FOLLOW ME

TRUTH ABOUT GOD
Jesus wants us to be His disciples.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will be a disciple.

LESSON TEXT: Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16
SERIES MEMORY PASSAGE: Matthew 4:19
 "And he saith unto them, Follow me."
SERIES MEMORY WORDS:
 Jesus said, "Follow Me."
FOCUS PASSAGE: Luke 5:11
 "And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."

8 FALL 1.1

PAGE 1

Lesson Text: The Bible passage shared across all age levels from Little Learners to adult

Series Memory Passage: Bible verse per series to help students apply what they learn

Focus Passage: The verse or verses that focus on the key elements of the lesson

Memory Words: For younger students, an age-appropriate rephrasing of the Memory Verse

Truth About God (TAG): What the Bible story reveals about our relationship with God

Truth for My Life (TML): The lesson application and what students go home proclaiming and enacting

PAGE 2

WELCOME: Activities to introduce the lesson

Opener: Fun activity to introduce the TAG and the Bible lesson

WELCOME

SUPPLIES: Series 1 MW poster 

Preparation

- Rearrange some items in the classroom, creating a bit of disarray so students will easily notice.

Instruction

- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- Ask if students notice anything out of place in the classroom.
- Ask:** Who is a good worker? Can you work with me to put things back in order?
 - Work together to put the classroom in order. Compliment students' efforts.
- Say:** You are good workers. God's house needs good workers to keep it looking nice.
- Introduce the Series 1 MW poster .
- Have students repeat after you as you read the Memory Passage or Memory Words aloud.

Application: Jesus wants us to follow Him and be His disciples.

Opener: Follow-the-Leader

SUPPLIES: Jump rope

Preparation

- Gather a jump rope or something students can hold on to as they follow the leader (teacher). Choose an area of the church where you can lead students without disrupting other classes.

Instruction

- Help students line up and grab hold of the rope.
- With everyone facing the same direction, take the front end of the rope and lead students on a preplanned path through the halls of the church.
- Once you return to the classroom, compliment students on following you so well.

Application: Just like you followed me, when we follow Jesus, we must stay close to Him and follow where He leads.

LITTLE LEARNERS SAMPLE LESSON

TODDLERS (AGES 2–3)

SUPPLIES: Drum and drumstick or pot and wooden spoon

Preparation

- Gather a drum and drumstick or a pot and wooden spoon.

Instruction

- Create a rhythm with the drum and drumstick.
- Call out a few of the disciples names as you lead students in a march around the room.
 - » "John followed Jesus."
 - » "Simon Peter followed Jesus."
- Then call out each student's name as you march around the room.
 - » "(Student's name) follows Jesus."
 - » Continue until each student's name has been called out.

Application: Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, and He wants us to follow Him too.

PRESCHOOLERS (AGES 3–4)

Instruction

- Help students take off their shoes and place them in a pile. Mix them up.
- Then call out students' names, one at a time, to find their two matching shoes from the pile.
- Once students have their shoes back on, lead them in a march around the room.
- **Say:** With our shoes on, we can walk and follow the leader. Just like you came when I called, found your shoes, and followed me, the disciples came when Jesus called and followed Jesus everywhere He went.

Application: Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, and He wants us to follow Him too.

LEARN

Lesson Lead-In: Footsteps

SUPPLIES: Construction paper (various colors), pair of shoes, pencil, scissors, double-sided tape, Activity Pages, crayons

Preparation

- Trace a pair of shoes onto various colors of construction paper and cut out the footprints. Make enough for each student to have a few footprints.
- Put double-sided tape on the back of each footprint.

10 FALL 1.1



PAGE 3

Options: To further illustrate the Truth about God, two options to choose from based on your students' abilities

LEARN: Section that tells the Bible lesson

Lead-In: Short transitional activity or discussion to prepare the minds of children to hear the Bible story

PAGE 4

Bible Lesson: Age-appropriate telling of a story from God's Word

Review Questions: Questions to review the Bible lesson

Instruction

- Allow students to make paths with the paper footprints.
 - » Walk together on the paths.
 - » **Say:** Jesus wants us to be His disciples and follow Him.
- Hand out page 2 of the Lesson 11 activity page.
 - » Allow students to color the Bible art picture.

Application: Just like Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, He wants us to follow Him.

Bible Lesson: Jesus Calls His Disciples (Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16)

"And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him" (Luke 5:11).

SUPPLIES: "Disciples Follow Jesus" visuals 600B, Bible

Preparation

- Cut apart the "Disciples Follow Jesus" visuals 600B and place them in your Bible.

Instruction

- Show your Bible and sing "The B-I-B-L-E."
- Open your Bible to Luke 5.
 - » **Say:** The Bible is God's storybook. Our story comes from the Bible.

One day Jesus was teaching near a lake. A lot of people gathered to hear Jesus teach. *(Have students gather near you.)* It was really crowded with all the people. Jesus saw a boat in the water. The owner of the boat was named Simon.

(Show visual 1.) Jesus said, "Simon, will you row me out into the lake in your boat? Then the people will hear Me better."

Simon did what Jesus asked. He rowed the boat out into the water. Then Jesus taught the people from the boat.

After Jesus finished teaching, He talked to Simon and the other fishermen. Their names were Andrew, James, and John. Jesus said, "Go out into the lake and throw your nets into the water to catch fish."

Simon said, "We have fished all night long. We didn't catch any fish. But we will do what You say, Jesus." So the fishermen did what Jesus said. *(Show visual 2.)*

- **Ask:** Do you think they caught any fish this time?

(Show visual 3.) Yes, they caught lots of fish. They caught so many fish that their nets broke. Other people had to come help them.

Then Jesus said, "Come, fishermen. I want you to help Me. I want you to be My disciples."

- **Ask:** Do you think they told Jesus they would be His disciples?

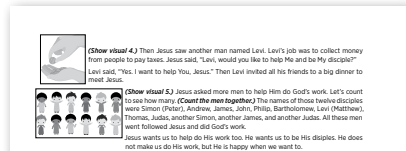
Yes, they wanted to help Jesus. They said, "We want to work with You, Jesus. We will follow You."



11



LITTLE LEARNERS SAMPLE LESSON



Review Questions:

- Show the "Jesus Chose His Disciples" visual. Ask students to describe what they see and answer the review questions.
- Who called some fishermen to help do God's work? Jesus
- How many men did Jesus call to help Him? Twelve
- Name one disciple. Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Levi (Matthew), Thomas, Judas, another Simon
- Who else does Jesus want?

Follow-the-Leader

SUPPLIES: Stuffed animals

Preparation:

• Gather a variety of stuffed animals

Instruction:

• Set out the stuffed animals in a line

• Play follow-the-leader with the animals

• Have students walk behind you

• Matching

• Hopping

• Clapping

• Then move on to stopping by the animals

• Do you need prayer?

• Will you come to Sunday school?

• Did you know Jesus loves you?

• As a class, say the Truth for My

Application: We can be Jesus' disciples

TODDLERS (AGES 2-3)

Preparation:

• Clear space for students to move around in the classroom.

Instruction:

• **Clap on each syllable as you slowly say:** Follow me.

• Have students mimic you.

• Repeat, doing something different each time, such as stomp on each syllable, jump on each syllable, and so on.

• Then call students' names, one at a time, and have them come to you.

• Explain that just like you called each one of them, Jesus calls each one of us to be His disciples.

Application: Jesus calls us to follow Him. I will be a disciple.

PRESCHOOLERS (AGES 3-4)

SUPPLIES: Push or toy fish, upbeat music

Preparation:

• Have students sit in a circle.

• Give one student the push or toy fish.

• As the music plays, have students pass the fish.

• When the music stops, the student holding the fish shouts, "I will follow Jesus."

• Play until all students have a turn.

Application: Just like Jesus called the fishermen to be His disciples, Jesus calls us to be His disciples. I will follow Jesus and be a disciple.

Prayer and Response

SUPPLIES: Little Learners Devotional and Activity Page

Preparation:

• Gather students for a quiet, heartfelt moment of prayer and reflection.

• **Say:** How are we going to take a moment to talk to Jesus. Everyone bow your head. Say this prayer after me from your heart. (Have students repeat the words.)

Thank You, Jesus, ... for calling us ... to be Your disciples.

We want ... to follow You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

• Send each student home with a Little Learners Devotional and Activity Page.

PAGES 5-6

ACT: Activities to apply the TML

Options: Two options to further illustrate the TML (with your time limits, teaching style, and students in mind, prayerfully decide the best way to help your students apply the TML)

Prayer and Response: Simple ideas to pray and do with students as parents pick them up

PAGES 7-8

The end of each lesson offers two-pages of Additional Options that can be worked into a lesson's plan. The Worship section suggests age-appropriate songs and activities to supplement the lesson. Memory work, game, snack, and craft options are also provided.

BONUS MATERIAL

WORSHIP

SUPPLIES: Video Quick Link Document

Preparation:

• As you gather students for worship, remind them to keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves. Consider putting squares on the floor to mark each student's space as a deterrent to problems that can arise.

• Lead students in worship as they praise Jesus and learn the names of the twelve disciples as they sing along with these songs:

• "This Little Light of Mine" by Wesley's

Waggoners

• "Every Heart a Palace" by Cadamort Kid

• "There Were Twelve Disciples" by

Johnston

• "There Were Twelve Disciples" by Kids Ministry Tools

MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Passage: Matthew 4:19

(Read the entire passage from the Bible.)

Memory Words

Jesus said, "Follow Me."

Supplies: Series 1 MW poster

Preparation:

• Point at each word on the Series 1 MW poster

• **Read:** If you need it, with students reading the

• Using hand motions can help children remember and recall words. Teach students the following motions:

• For the Memory Passage:

• And he said unto them, (cup hands around mouth)

• Follow me, (hand motion "Follow me")

• For the Memory Words:

• Jesus said, (cup hands around mouth)

• Follow Me, (hand motion "Follow me")

• At several times,

Jesus will follow Jesus and be His disciple.

SNACK OPTION

Supplies: Apple wedges, cheese slices, pretzel sticks, Teddy Grahams, plates, napkins, drinks, cups

Preparation:

• Wash and cut apples into wedges.

• Cut cheese slices into triangles.

Instruction:

• Show students how to make snack boats.

• Use the apple wedge as the boat.

• Press the cheese triangle to the top of a pretzel stick as a sail. Stick it down into the boat.

• Use the Teddy Grahams to represent the disciples.

• Play together and enjoy the snack.

Application: Jesus wants us to be His disciples, just like the fishermen were.

CRAFT OPTION

Lacing Fish Nets

Supplies:

• Fish template

• Construction paper, hole punch, yarn, masking tape, glue

• Per student: Paper plate

Preparation:

• Use the fish template to cut out fish from construction paper. Each student will need a fish.

• For each student:

• Use a hole punch to punch holes around a paper plate about one inch in from the edge.

• Cut a length of yarn long enough to lace through each hole in the paper plate. Use masking tape to tape one end of the yarn to make it easier for students to fish it through the holes of the plate. Tie a knot in the other end.

Instruction:

• Help students place a few fish in the center of their plate.

• Show students how to lace the yarn through the holes on the edge of their plate.

• Review the lesson while students are creating their fish net.

Application: Jesus chose fishermen to be His disciples. I will be a disciple too.

GAME OPTION

Rock the Boat

Supplies: Masking or painter's tape

Preparation:

• Use masking or painter's tape to mark off an area of the floor to be used as a boat.

Instruction:

• Gather students to sit in the "boat."

• **Say:** We are going to pretend to be fishermen and boat. We're men in our B&B lesson.

• Show students how to pretend to row the boat.

• Have them rock from side to side as the "wind" blows.

• Show them how to pretend to fish.

• **Say:** Fishing in the sea, we're fishing in the sea.

• **Then surprise them and say:** Follow me.

• Everyone stands together and follows you out of the boat.

• Repeat as time and interest allow.

Application: Jesus called some fishermen to be His disciples.

ADDITIONAL PAGES

Students in saying the

"I will be a disciple"

in front of the left

girls count the fish

later the design on

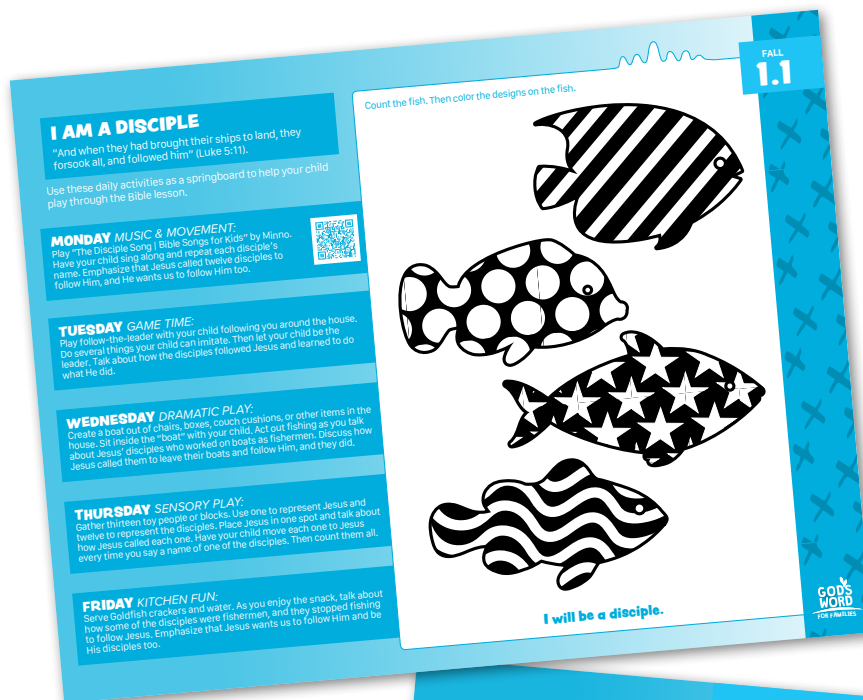
when the Bible story

let students read it in their own words.

ACT: The disciples chose to follow Jesus. I

love a disciple and follow Jesus too.

LITTLE LEARNERS DEVOTIONAL AND ACTIVITY PAGES

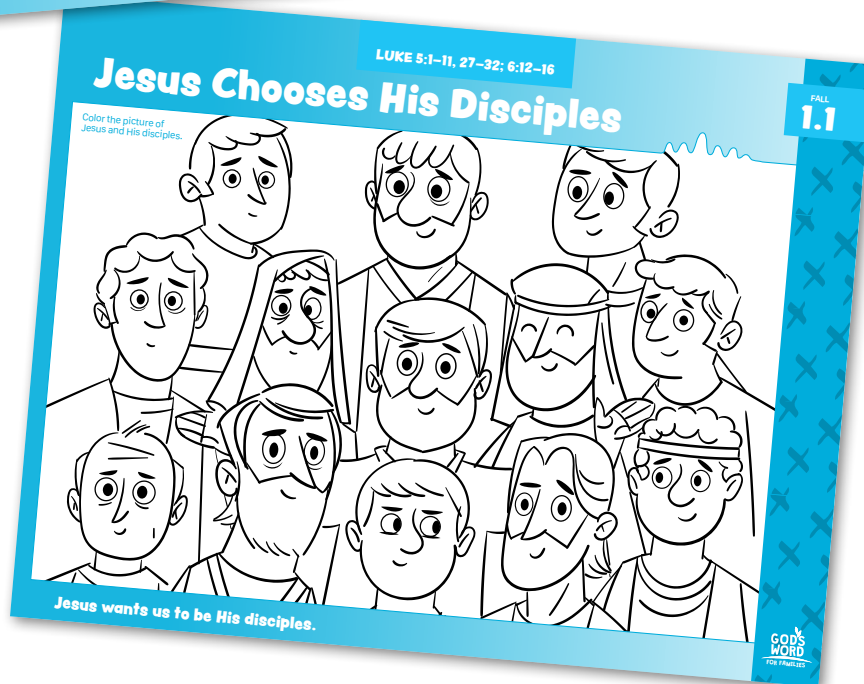


Many teachers begin each lesson by doing the front-page activity. By focusing children on an opening project, the teacher is able to gain control of the classroom, introduce the Truth About God, and prepare students to hear the Bible story.

Devotional pages provide fun, age-appropriate activities to drive home the lesson material, helping parents disciple their own children at home.

After the Bible story is shared, a coloring activity can help children retell the story as the teacher introduces the Truth for My Life statement. Once children show they understand the Bible story, they are ready to play through a variety of fun activities to relive the story.

These papers are a great way to show parents what their child learned in class each day.





KINDERGARTEN

AGES 4-5



KINDERGARTEN SAMPLE LESSON

1.1 I AM A DISCIPLE



SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 FOLLOW ME

TRUTH ABOUT GOD
Jesus wants us to be His disciples.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will be a disciple.

LESSON TEXT: Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16
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8 FALL 1.1

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Truth for My Life (TML): The lesson application and what students go home proclaiming and enacting

PAGE 2

WELCOME: Activities to introduce the lesson

Opener: Fun activity to introduce the TAG and the Bible lesson

WELCOME

SUPPLIES: Gummy worms, plate, Series 1 MW poster **6008**

Preparation

- Place a plate of gummy worms where students will see them when they enter.

Instruction

- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- Introduce the Series 1 MW poster **6008**—Matthew 4:19.
 - **Say:** When Jesus called His disciples, He said to them, “Follow me.”
- Point out the plate of gummy worms.
 - **Ask:** Do you know what worms are often used for? *Fishing*

Application: Today we will learn about a time when Jesus taught His disciples to become “fishers of men.” Jesus invites us to be His disciples and be “fishers of men” too.

Opener: Going Fishing

SUPPLIES: Partial “wall” (puppet stage or rope and sheet), fishing pole or stick, string, clothespin, bag of small prizes (toys or candy); optional: gummy worm

Preparation

- Create a partial “wall” by setting up a puppet stage or hanging a rope from wall to wall and placing a sheet over it.
- If you do not have a fishing pole, create one by tying string to the end of a stick. Add a clothespin to the end of the string or fishing line. You could attach a gummy worm to the clothespin.
- Place a bag of small prizes on the other side of the wall.
- Have a helper on the side of the wall with the prizes.

Instruction

- One at a time, students drop the fishing line over the wall.
- The helper will clip a toy or piece of candy with the clothespin and give the line a tug letting the student know he or she has caught something.
- The student then pulls the fishing line back over the wall.
- **Say:** You went fishing today and caught a surprise. Jesus called His disciples to be fishers of men. We will find out what that means in our Bible lesson.

Application: Jesus wants us to be His disciples.

KINDERGARTEN SAMPLE LESSON

LEARN

Lesson Lead-In: Match the Disciples

SUPPLIES: Disciples Matching Game cards **6063** Activity Pages, crayons

Preparation

- Cut apart the Disciples Matching Game cards **6063**

Instruction

- Show the game card pictures of the disciples to students.
- **Say:** These people wanted to follow Jesus. They wanted to be His disciples.
 - » **Ask:** Do you know what a disciple is?
 - » **Say:** A disciple is someone who follows a leader or teacher.
- Mix up the matching game cards and place them face down on a table.
 - » Allow students to take turns searching for a match until all matches are found.
 - » Repeat as time and attention allow.
- Hand out page 2 of the Lesson 1 activity page.
 - » Allow students to color the Bible art picture.

Application: Jesus invited twelve men to be His disciples. Let's find out what He told them.

Bible Lesson: I Am a Disciple (Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16)

"And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him" (Luke 5:11).

SUPPLIES: Large cup, 12 small cups, Jesus and Disciples figures **6063**, 13 craft sticks, tape or glue, 2 toy boats or shoeboxes, Bible, "Jesus Chooses His Disciples" visual **6063**

Preparation

- Cut out the Jesus and Disciples figures **6063**. Attach each one to a craft stick.
- Turn the cups upside down, cut a slit in the bottom of each cup, and insert each craft stick into a cup, with the Jesus figure in the large cup.
- On a table in the Bible lesson area, set two toy boats or shoeboxes (to represent boats). Place one disciple figure (Simon Peter) on one boat and two on the other boat. Place the Jesus figure on the table. Set the remaining lesson figures nearby.

Instruction

- Open your Bible to Luke 5–6.

10 FALL 1.1

Review Questions:

- Show the "Jesus Chooses His Disciples" visual **6063**. Ask students to describe what they see and answer the review questions.
 - » Why did Jesus choose friends to follow Him? So they could be "fishers of men."
 - » From whose boat did Jesus teach the crowd? A fisherman named Simon Peter
 - » How many disciples did Jesus choose? Twelve
 - » Why were people surprised by the men Jesus chose? They had made mistakes; some were known as bad people.

PAGES 3–4

LEARN: Section that tells the Bible lesson

Lead-In: Short transitional activity or discussion to prepare the minds of children to hear the Bible story

Bible Lesson: Engaging and age-appropriate telling of a story from God's Word

Review Questions: Before moving on to the application, these questions make sure students understand the story

PAGE 5

ACT: Activities to apply the lesson and the TML

ACT

I Will Follow Jesus

SUPPLIES PER STUDENT: Net (e.g., bug net, mesh produce bag, mesh laundry bag, scarf, plastic bag)

Preparation

- For each student, gather something that could represent a net.

Instruction

- As a class, say the Truth for My Life (TML): "I will be a disciple."
- Give each student a net.
- Show students how to use them as though they are catching fish.
- **Say:** When I say, "Fish," pretend to gather fish.
- **Say:** When I say, "Follow me," drop your net and come to me.

Application: The disciples left what they were doing to follow Jesus and be His disciples. I will be a disciple too.

12 FALL 1.1

KINDERGARTEN SAMPLE LESSON

Prayer and Response

SUPPLIES: Kindergarten Devotional and Activity Page

Instruction

- Have students repeat the echo prayer.
Thank You, Jesus, . . . for calling us.
We want to follow You . . . and be Your disciples.
We want to become . . . fishers of men.
In Jesus' name, . . . amen.
- Send each student home with a Kindergarten Devotional and Activity Page.



15

PAGE 6

Prayer and Response: Simple ideas to pray and do with students as parents pick them up

PAGES 7-8

The end of each lesson offers two-pages of Bonus Material that can be worked into a lesson's plan. The Worship section suggests age-appropriate songs and activities to supplement the lesson. Memory work, game, snack, and craft options are also provided.

BONUS MATERIAL

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links Document

Instruction

- Lead students in worship as they praise God and learn the names of the twelve disciples as they sing these songs:
 - "This Little Light of Mine" by Wesley's Wags (W)
 - "Every Move I Make" by Cidermont Kids (W)
 - "These Were Twelve Disciples" by JohnHunt (W)
 - "These Were Twelve Disciples" by Kids Ministry Tools (W)

Application: Jesus wants us to be disciples just like the twelve disciples He called in our Bible lesson.

MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Passage: Matthew 4:19

Read the each verse from: Follow me."

Supplies: Series 1 MW poster (W), various colors of construction paper, scissors, marker

Preparation

- Using different colors of construction paper, cut out seven simple fish shapes.
- Write each word of the memory passage on a separate fish.
- Hide the fish around the room.

Instruction

- Review the Series 1 MW poster (W).
- Matthew 4:19
- Say the memory passage together as a class several times.

Allow students to find the hidden fish and work together to put the memory passage in order. Read it together. Assist as needed.

Jesus wants us to be His disciples and

SNACK OPTION

Fisherman's Snack

Supplies: Pretzel sticks, string licorice, goldfish crackers, plates, napkins, cups, water

Instruction

- Give each student a plate with pretzel sticks, string licorice, and goldfish crackers.
- Encourage students to use their creativity to create a fisherman's snack.
 - Idea include creating a fishing pole from a pretzel stick and adding string licorice to the end to catch the goldfish or making a fishing net by crisscrossing strips of string licorice or pretzel sticks and placing goldfish on it.
- Let students share their creations with the class.
- Play over the snack. Then as students enjoy their snack, review the lesson.

Application: The disciples chose to follow Jesus and be "fishers of men." I choose to be a disciple too.

VIDEO REVIEW

To review the Bible lesson, show the following video:

- Every Disciple in the Bible (and How They Met Jesus) by Momo (Play from 2:20-4:00) (W)

CRAFT OPTION

Following Jesus

Supplies: "I Will Follow Jesus" handout (W), crayons, footprint stickers (W)

Preparation

- For each student, print the "I Will Follow Jesus" handout (W). The boy picture for boys and the girl picture for girls.
- For a large class, you may need to purchase more footprint stickers (W). Amazon has many options (W).

Instruction

- Give each student a handout to color.
- Then give students footprint stickers to make a path between the child and Jesus.
- Talk about how Jesus called His disciples and He also wants us to follow Him.

Application: The disciples chose to follow Jesus. I will follow Jesus too.

ACTIVITY PAGES

Students in saying "I will be a disciple"

in front of the AT.

Girls color the feet to

Jesus.

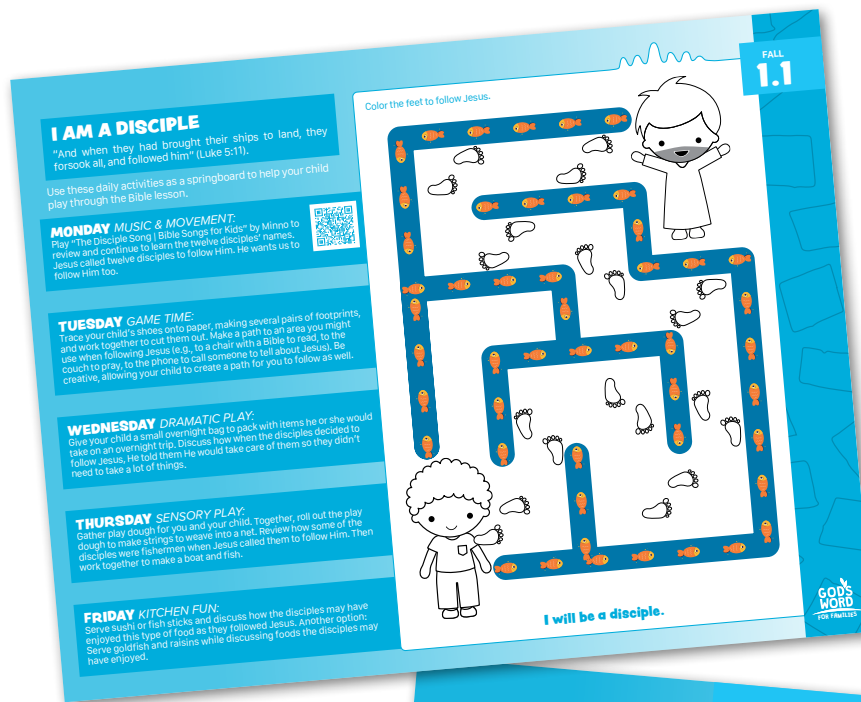
Let students tell a

their own words.

W: The disciples chose to follow Jesus. I

be a disciple and follow Jesus too.

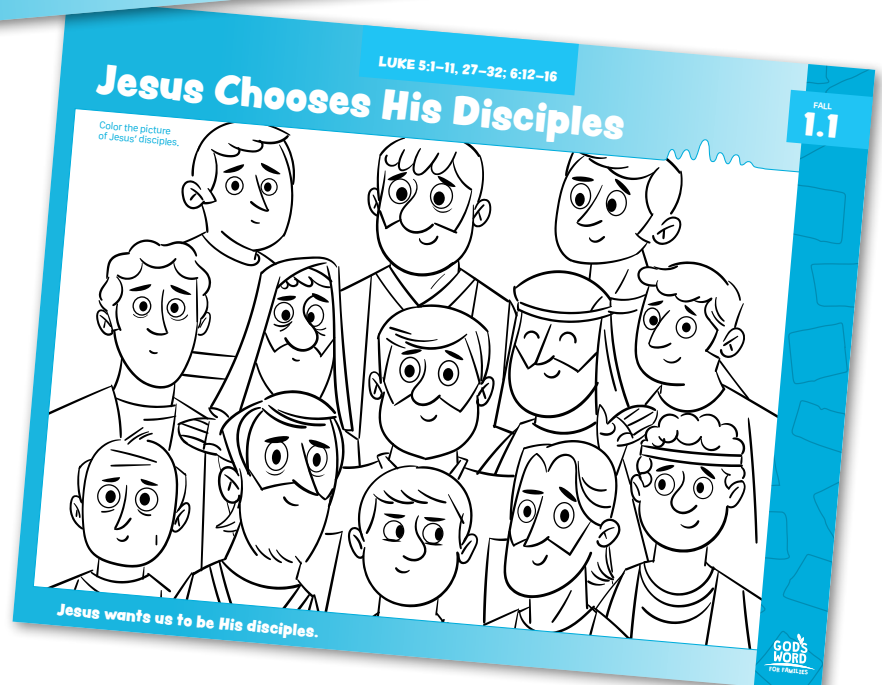
KINDERGARTEN DEVOTIONAL AND ACTIVITY PAGES



Many Kindergarten teachers begin each lesson by the front-page activity. By focusing children's attention, the teacher gains control of the classroom, introduces the Truth About God, and prepares students' minds for the day's adventure.

After the Bible story is shared, a coloring activity can help the teacher introduce the Truth about My Life statement.

These papers are a great way to show parents what their child learned in class each day.





EARLY ELEMENTARY

GRADES 1-3



EARLY ELEMENTARY SAMPLE LESSON

1.1 I AM A DISCIPLE



SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 FOLLOW ME

TRUTH ABOUT GOD
Jesus calls people to be His disciples.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will choose to be a disciple and follow Jesus.

LESSON TEXT: Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16
FOCUS PASSAGE: Luke 5:27–28
“And he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him.”
MEMORY PASSAGE: Luke 9:24
“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

8 FALL 1.1

PAGE 1

Lesson Text: The Bible passage shared across all age levels from Little Learners to adult

Memory Passage: Bible verse per lesson to help students apply what they learn

Focus Passage: The verse or verses that focus on the key elements of the lesson

Memory Words: For younger students, an age-appropriate rephrasing of the Memory Verse

Truth About God (TAG): What the Bible story reveals about our relationship with God

Truth for My Life (TML): The lesson application and what students go home proclaiming and enacting

PAGE 2

WELCOME: Activities to greet students and introduce the lesson

Video Introduction: An option for teachers to use video to introduce the TAG

Opener: Interactive activity to introduce the TAG and the Bible lesson

WELCOME

SUPPLIES: Lesson 1.1 MW visual 6028, whiteboard and markers

Instruction

- **As students enter, ask:** Who is someone you like to “follow,” perhaps in real life or on Instagram, YouTube, or other social media?
 - » List answers on a whiteboard.
- When it is time to start teaching, read through the list, letting students react to each name mentioned.
- **Say:** These are all people you enjoy following. Today Jesus will ask you to follow Him.
- Introduce the Lesson 1.1 MW visual 6028—Luke 9:24.
- Introduce the Truth About God (TAG): “Jesus calls people to be His disciples.”

Application: Today we will learn how Jesus calls people to be His disciples. Are you willing to answer His call?

Video Introduction

- Show “Follow Me!” 60

Opener: Choose to Follow

SUPPLIES:

- 2 choices (e.g., oranges, apples), plates, napkins
- 6 paper lunch bags, rice, 3 small prizes, stapler, table
- Chairs

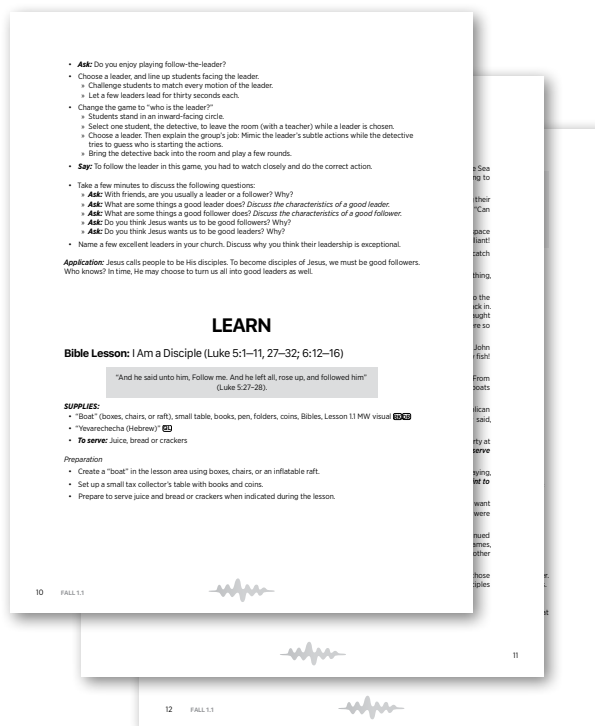
Preparation

- Prepare to offer two choices, such as oranges or apples.
 - » If serving oranges, be prepared to help students peel them.
- Fill three paper lunch bags with rice. In the other three lunch bags, place small prizes. Close and seal them, and then display the bags on a table.

Instruction

- Let students decide between two options, such as an orange or an apple (or neither).
- As each student decides, announce the choice like it was a big decision: (Student's name) chose an (option).
- **Say:** Jesus calls people to follow Him, but following is not something that just happens. It is something we must choose to do. Like choosing the apple or the orange, we must choose either to follow or not follow Jesus.
- Choose three volunteers to each select a bag, but not to open them yet.
 - » Let the class give their opinions and try to influence which bags their friends choose.
- Once the volunteers have chosen, they take turns opening their bags and revealing the contents.
- **Say:** Sometimes choices can be difficult. All the bags looked similar. People offered suggestions on which bag to choose, but it was ultimately your choice. You had to decide. Similarly, Jesus calls people to be His disciples and follow Him. No one can make the decision for you; it is your choice.

EARLY ELEMENTARY SAMPLE LESSON



PAGES 3-5

LEARN: Section that tells the Bible lesson

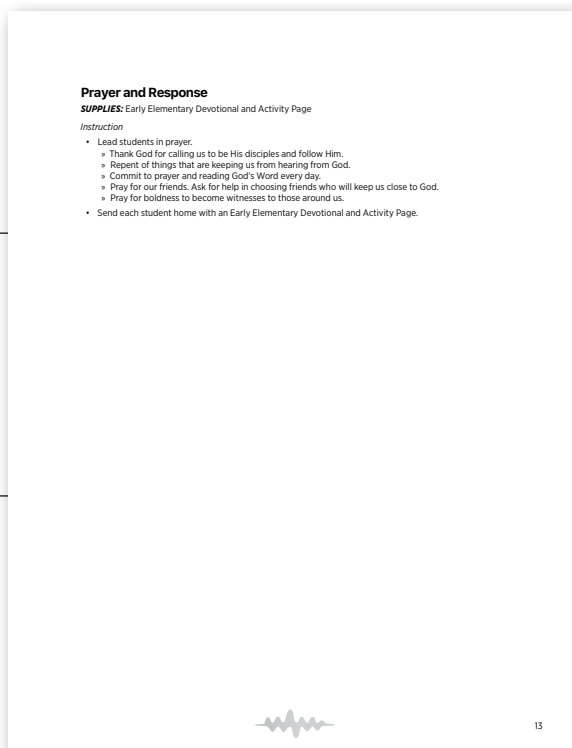
Bible Lesson: Engaging and age-appropriate telling of a story from God's Word

Review Questions: Before moving on to the application, these questions make sure students understand the story

PAGE 6

ACT: Activities to apply the lesson and the TML

Prayer and Response: Ideas to pray and do with students as parents pick them up



EARLY ELEMENTARY SAMPLE LESSON

PAGES 7-8

The end of each lesson offers two pages of Bonus Material that can be worked into a lesson's plan. The Worship section suggests age-appropriate songs to supplement the lesson. Memory work, Bible skills, games, snacks, activity pages, and craft options are also provided.

BONUS MATERIAL

ACTIVITY PAGES

- If time allows, let students complete the activity pages in class.
- Students will use a crayon to carefully follow the winding path all the way to Jesus. They should try not to let their crayon wander off the path.
- Along the left side, students will find the footprints that don't have a match.



MEMORY WORK

Lesson 11 Memory Passage

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." (Luke 9:24)

Supplies: Lesson 11 MW visual [60C8](#), Lesson 11 MW Phrases [68](#)

Preparation

- For each small group, print a set of Lesson 11 MW Phrases [68](#).
- Cut apart each group's phrases and shuffle them.

Instruction

- Review the Lesson 11 MW visual [60C8](#)—Luke 9:24.
- Form groups. Give each group a set of Lesson 11 MW Phrases [68](#).
- Ask them to scatter their phrases on a table or on the floor.
- Challenge groups to pick out only the phrases in the memory passage and put them in order.

was important to choose the memory passage, we want to show people the love

GAME OPTION

Do What I Say; Say What I Do

Supplies: Chairs

Instruction

- Have students scatter around the room.
- *During each round, give different instructions.*

DEEPER STUDY OPTION

Disciple Detectives

Supplies: Whiteboard and markers, Bibles or Bible apps, paper, pencils

Preparation

- Write these references on the board: Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 2:14; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:13-16; John 1:45; and Acts 1:13.

Instruction

- Form small study groups. Give students paper and pencils and access to Bibles or Bible apps.
- **Say:** In the Bible, some of the disciples were called by more than one name, like a nickname. In this activity, you will be Bible detectives, studying the passages to determine all the different names for each disciple. As a group, come up with a list of the twelve disciples by their various names.
- After groups finish, go over the list as a class and help students fill in anything they missed.
 - » Simon / Peter / Cephas
 - » Andrew, the brother of Simon
 - » James, the son of Zebedee / Boanerges or "Sons of Thunder"
 - » John the brother of James / Boanerges or "Sons of Thunder"
 - » Philip
 - » Bartholomew / Nathanael
 - » Matthew the publican / Levi
 - » Thomas
 - » James the son of Alphaeus
 - » Lebbaeus / Thaddaeus / Judas the brother of James
 - » Simon the Canaanite / Simon the Zealot / Simon called Zelotes
 - » Judas Iscariot

CRAFT OPTION

I Can Be a Fisherman

Supplies:

- Hole punch, markers, yarn, scissors
- *Per student:* Dowel rod, Fish templates [68](#)

Preparation

- For each student, print the three Fish templates [68](#).
- Cut out the fish and punch a hole near the top (mouth) of each one.
- Cut a length of yarn for each student to tie to the dowel rod and attach the fish to the other end.

Instruction

- Give each student a dowel rod, yarn, markers, and three fish.
- On each fish, students write the name of someone they could pray for and tell about Jesus. Then they can color the fish.
- Help students tie one end of yarn to their dowel rod and string the other end of the yarn through the holes on their fish and tie it.

Application: Jesus called the disciples to be "fishers of men." Jesus wants us to do the same. He wants us to share with others what it means to follow Jesus.



WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links Document [69](#)

Instruction

- Choose a student to lead the class in demonstrating ways to worship. Students do the same motions as the student leader.
 - » "Campfire Song (Come On, Everybody)" by PPH Kids Music [61](#)
 - » "Just Want You" by Brittani Scott [61](#)
 - » "I Don't Want It" by Elenee [61](#)
 - » "I Will Follow" by Chris Tomlin [61](#)
 - » "Trust and Obey" by CAIN [61](#)

Application: When we worship, we show Jesus He is in charge of our lives and we will follow Him.

EARLY ELEMENTARY DEVOTIONAL AND ACTIVITY PAGES

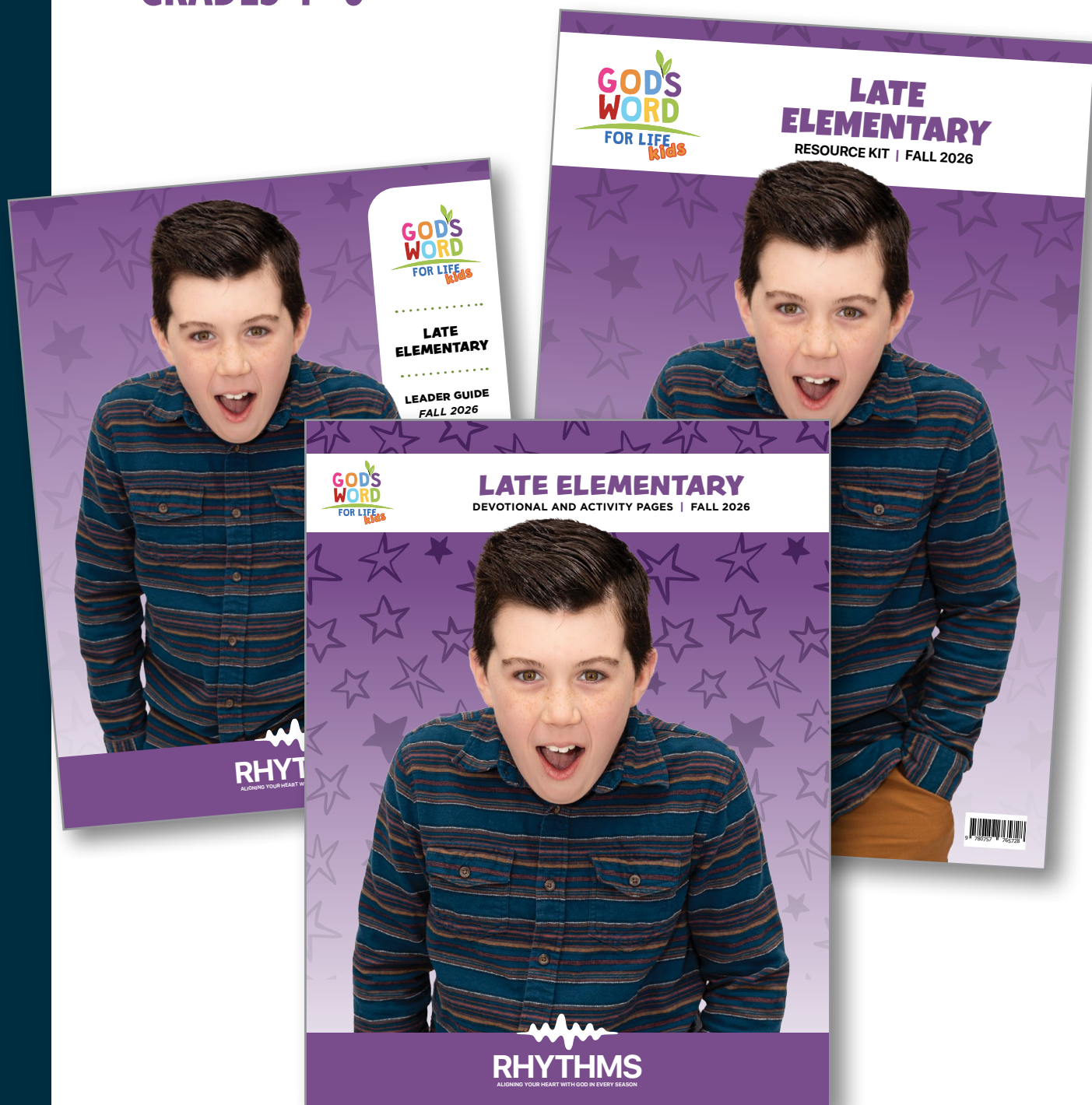


Kids will have fun with the activity pages, featuring mazes, puzzles, coloring pages, and more. The vibrant colors will keep students engaged, and the tear-out sheets are easy for teachers to keep organized.



LATE ELEMENTARY

GRADES 4-6



LATE ELEMENTARY SAMPLE LESSON

1.1 **I AM A DISCIPLE**



SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 **FOLLOW ME**

TRUTH ABOUT GOD
Jesus calls people to be His disciples.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will choose to be a disciple and follow Jesus.

LESSON TEXT: Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16
FOCUS PASSAGE: Luke 5:27–28
“And he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him.”
MEMORY PASSAGE: Luke 9:23–24
“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

8 FALL 1.1

PAGE 1

Lesson Text: The Bible passage shared across all age levels from Little Learners to adult

Memory Passage: Bible verse per lesson to help students apply what they learn

Focus Passage: The verse or verses that focus on the key elements of the lesson

Memory Words: For younger students, an age-appropriate rephrasing of the Memory Verse

Truth About God (TAG): What the Bible story reveals about our relationship with God

Truth for My Life (TML): The lesson application and what students go home proclaiming and enacting

PAGE 2

WELCOME: Activities to greet students and introduce the lesson

Video Introduction: An option for teachers to use video to introduce the TAG

Opener: Interactive activity to introduce the TAG and the Bible lesson

WELCOME

SUPPLIES: Lesson 1.1 MW visual , whiteboard and markers

Instruction

- **As students enter, ask:** Who is someone you “follow” on Instagram, YouTube, or other social media?
 - » List answers on a whiteboard.
- When it is time to start teaching, read through the list letting students react to each name mentioned.
- **Say:** These are all people you enjoy following. Today Jesus will ask you to follow Him.
- Introduce the Lesson 1.1 MW visual —Luke 9:23–24.
 - » **Ask:** Are you willing to follow Jesus?
- Introduce the Truth About God (TAG): “Jesus calls people to be His disciples.”

Application: Today we will learn how Jesus calls people to be His disciples. Are you willing to answer His call?

Video Introduction

- Show “Follow Me!” 

Opener: Called to Follow

SUPPLIES PER STUDENT: Paper, pencil

Instruction

- **Ask:** Do you enjoy playing follow-the-leader?
 - Choose a leader. Line up students facing the leader.
 - » Challenge students to match every motion of the leader.
 - » Let the leader lead for thirty seconds.
 - » Then choose a few other leaders, letting each lead for thirty seconds.
- Change the game to “who is the leader?”
 - » Have students stand in an inward-facing circle.
 - » Select one student, the detective, to leave the room while a new leader is chosen.
 - » The group’s job is to mimic the leader’s subtle actions while the detective tries to guess who is starting the actions.
 - » Play a few rounds.
- **Say:** To follow the leader in this game, you had to watch closely and do the correct action.
- Next, give each student a sheet of paper and a pencil.
- On their papers, have students draw twelve circles or stick people. Some students may need help.
- **Say:** Today we will learn how Jesus chose His circle of twelve friends. For each circle or stick person on your paper, try to name a person you spend a lot of time with. These can be family members, friends, teachers, but no animals or pets. Name the twelve people who are closest to you.
- **Ask:** Was it easy or hard to name twelve people?
 - **Say:** Motivational speaker Jim Rohn once said, “You become like the five people you spend the most time with.”
 - » **Ask:** Do you think that statement is true? Why or why not?
 - » **Ask:** Who are the people closest to you? Have you become like them in any ways?

LATE ELEMENTARY SAMPLE LESSON

- **Say:** Jesus wants us to be close to Him so we can become more like Him. He constantly calls disciples to Him, even today. His kingdom is all about people.
 - **Important:** Set aside the papers. Students will use them again during Prayer and Response (page 13).
 - Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions:
 - » **Ask:** When you join a group, are you usually a leader or a follower? Why?
 - » **Ask:** What are some things you look for in a good leader? Discuss characteristics of a good leader.
 - » **Ask:** What are some things you look for in a good follower? Discuss characteristics of a good follower.
 - » **Ask:** Do you think God wants us to be good followers? Why?
 - » **Ask:** Do you think God wants us to be good leaders? Why?
 - Name a few excellent leaders in your church and discuss why you think their leadership is exceptional.
- Application:** God calls people to be His disciples. If we want to become disciples of Jesus, we must be willing to be good followers. Who knows? In time, He may choose to turn us all into good leaders as well.

LEARN

Bible Lesson: Jesus Calls His Disciples (Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16)

"And he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him" (Luke 5:27–28).

SUPPLIES:

- "Boat" (boxes, chairs, or raft), small table, books, pen, folders, coins, Bibles, Lesson 11 MW visual 
- "Yevarechecha (Hebrew)" 
- **To serve:** Juice, bread or crackers

Preparation

- Create a "boat" in the lesson area using boxes, chairs, or an inflatable raft.
- Set up a small table collector's table with books, a pen, folders, and coins.
- Prepare to serve juice and bread or crackers when indicated during the lesson.

Instruction

- Ask students to look up Luke 5:1–11 in their Bibles.
- To begin, encourage students to gather and stand around you.

Early in His ministry, Jesus had not yet called any disciples, so He traveled alone. One day on the shore of Lake Genesaree, also known as the Sea of Galilee, a huge crowd surrounded Jesus. They wanted to hear Him teach. People bunched together trying to get close. It was very hard to teach. What should Jesus do?

Then Jesus noticed two empty boats sitting along the water's edge. The fishermen were on the shore washing their nets. Jesus had an idea. (**Walk to the boat and get in.**) Jesus stepped onto one boat and asked its owner, "Can you please take this boat out into the water?"

The fisherman, Simon (a.k.a. Peter), obeyed. He nudged the boat out into the water to put a little distance between Jesus and the crowd. From there, Jesus taught from the boat as the people sat on the shore. Brilliant!

10 FALL 1.1

PAGES 3–4

LEARN: Section that tells the Bible lesson

Bible Lesson: Engaging and age-appropriate telling of a story from God's Word

Review Questions: Before moving on to the application, these questions make sure students understand the story

PAGE 5

ACT: Activities to apply the lesson and the TML

ACT

Disciples of Jesus

SUPPLIES:

- Water bottle cap with push-pull closure, hot glue, old or blank CD, permanent marker, round balloon, New Birth poster 
- "Balloon-Propelled CD Hovercraft" Object Lesson by Martha Stewart 
- Pad of bright color sticky notes, pad(s) of different color sticky notes, pen

Preparation

- For the hovercraft activity:
 - » Locate an old or blank CD and a water bottle cap with a push-pull closure.
 - » On the CD, use permanent marker to draw a stick person, using the hole of the CD as the torso and adding a face, arms, and legs.
 - » Use hot glue to attach the cap securely over the center hole of the CD.
 - » Inflate a balloon, use permanent marker to draw a cross on it, and then let it deflate again.
 - » Practice the object lesson. Consider having multiple hovercrafts for more student interaction.
- For a demonstration, use "Balloon-Propelled CD Hovercraft" Object Lesson by Martha Stewart 
- On twenty bright color sticky notes, write a characteristic of Jesus on each note, such as loving, kind, obedient, forgiving, patient, humble, truthful, brave, serving, compassionate, faithful, wise, prayerful, gentle, fair, hopeful, welcoming, powerful, sacrificial, and caring.
 - » Randomly place the notes around the room in locations where students will see them, but only when looking for them—not in high-traffic areas.
 - » In addition, place a few blank different color sticky notes around the room.

Instruction

- Place the prepared CD on a smooth, solid surface. Point to the person drawn on the CD.
 - » **Say:** This CD represents us.
- Inflate the balloon and pinch the nozzle to hold in the air. Show the cross on the balloon.
 - » **Say:** We need help to follow Jesus. We find that help when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Attach the inflated balloon nozzle over the closed bottle cap on the CD.
 - » Review the New Birth poster .
 - » Discuss how repentance and water baptism prepare us to become Jesus' disciples.
- Pull up the bottle cap so the air from the balloon makes the CD hover.
 - » Compare this to how the Holy Spirit leads us to follow Jesus.
- **Say:** Disciples of Jesus are identified by their actions and attitudes. Jesus showed love, compassion, kindness, and mercy as He ministered to hurting people. Disciples of Jesus should do the same.

12 FALL 1.1

LE Leader Guide F20 new.indd 12

3/27/20 10:30 AM

LATE ELEMENTARY SAMPLE LESSON

- **Ask:** Do you feel you are letting God's Spirit guide you? How do you feel led by the Holy Spirit?
- **Ask:** What are some challenges you are facing right now? Let a few students share situations they are going through.
- **Say:** As we go through life's challenges—and we will always have challenges—we must listen for God's whisper. We must watch for His Spirit and move how and where He wants us to move.
- Show the remaining pad of bright color sticky notes.
- **Say:** To demonstrate, please help me search for God's clues. Around the room are twenty sticky notes of this color with characteristics of Jesus written on them. Can you help me find them?
- Let students search from their seats. If they spot one, they should raise their hand. Call on one student at a time to go retrieve a note.
- Read the characteristic on the note. Have students discuss ways to show this characteristic as they walk in the Spirit, following Jesus.
- **Say:** God expects His disciples to show these characteristics.
- When a student locates a different color sticky note, ask: Are we looking for this color?
 - **Say:** No, but sometimes things will come along to try to get us off the right path.
- **Ask:** What are some things that may try to get you to wander? Answers include fame, fortune, social pressures and acceptance, laziness, distractions, fear, grudges, doubt, confusion, and temptation.

Application: As Jesus' disciples, we should always search for His will, letting the Holy Spirit speak, correct, guide, and move us. As we spend time with Jesus, we will find opportunities to mirror His characteristics, being transformed into His image in hopes of showing others why they should also become Jesus' disciples.

Prayer and Response

SUPPLIES PER STUDENT: Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page, completed "friends" papers from Opener

Instruction

- Ask students to look at their "circle of friends" from the Opener activity (page 9).
 - **Ask:** Will it be hard to place Jesus in the center of the people closest to you? Why or why not?
- Lead students in prayer.
 - Thank God for calling us to follow Him to be His disciples.
 - Repent of things that are keeping you from hearing from God. Ask to be made sensitive to His voice.
 - Ask for His correction and guidance.
 - Commit to prayer and reading God's Word every day.
 - Pray for your friends. Ask for help in choosing friends who will keep you close to God.
 - Pray for boldness to become witnesses to those around us.
- Send each student home with a Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

PAGE 6

Prayer and Response: Ideas to pray and do with students as parents pick them up

The end of each lesson offers two pages of Bonus Material that can be worked into a lesson's plan. The Worship section suggests age-appropriate songs to supplement the lesson. Memory work, games, snacks, activity pages, craft, and deeper study options are also provided.

PAGES 7-8

BONUS MATERIAL

ACTIVITY PAGES

- On the left side of the page, students use a crayon to carefully follow the winding path all the way to Jesus. They should try not to let their crayon wander off the path.
- On the right side of the page, students move through the grid following the list of Jesus' twelve disciples found in Luke 6:14-16.
- Across the bottom, students find the footprints that don't have a match.

DEEPER STUDY OPTION

Disciple Detectives
Supplies: Whiteboard and markers, Bibles or Bible apps, paper, pencils

MEMORY WORK

Lesson 11 Memory Passage
And he said to them all, "In any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever will save his life shall lose it, but whoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

Supplies: Lesson 11 HW visual (P.10), Lesson 11 HW Prayer (P.11)

Preparation:

- For each small group, print a set of Lesson 11 HW Phrases (P.10). For each phrase, cut apart the phrases and shuffle them.

Instruction:

- Review the Lesson 11 HW visual (P.10).
- Form groups (give each group a set of Lesson 11 HW Phrases (P.10)).
- Ask them to scatter their phrases on a table or on the floor.
- Challenge groups to pick out only the phrases in the memory passage and put them in order.

Notes: Just as it was important to choose B's words to complete the memory passage, we B choose specific actions to demonstrate the likeness of Jesus and become more like Him. Important, we should spend time with Jesus (B) in prayer and studying God's Word.

SNACK OPTION

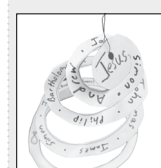
Fun in the Net
Supplies: Pretzels with a window-pane shape, chocolate frosting, Goldfish crackers, paper plates, plastic knives, knives, shrimp, cups

Instruction:

- Give each student a paper plate, pretzels, some frosting on a plastic knife, and Goldfish crackers.
- **Say:** These pretzels look like a fishing net.
- Let students spread chocolate frosting onto the pretzels.
- Then they can "catch fish" by topping the "net" with Goldfish crackers.

Application: Jesus instructed Simon Peter to launch his boat, drop the net, and catch fish. Because Simon Peter chose to follow Jesus' instructions, he caught many fish. Jesus told Simon Peter he would become a "fisher of men." We have a choice to follow Jesus as His disciples and also become "fishers of men."

CRAFT OPTION



Disciples Spiral Notebook

- Supplies:** Markers, crayons, Bibles, scissors, hole punch, ribbon or yarn
- Preparation:**
- Make a sample craft.
- Instruction:**
- Give each student a paper plate and markers.
 - In the center of the plate, students write JESUS.
 - Starting at the end of the word JESUS, students draw a circle around His name and then spiral outward toward the edge of the plate, leaving approximately an inch between the lines of the spiral.
 - In marker between the lines, students write the names of the disciples from Luke 6:14-16.
 - Let students decorate their plates with colorful markers or crayons.
 - Then help students cut along the spiral line up to the word JESUS.
 - Put out the inside (JESUS) and punch a hole for hanging.
 - Thread ribbon or yarn through the hole and tie a knot.
- Application:** Jesus originally called twelve men to be His disciples. From there, He wanted the whole world to follow Him. Let's choose to be a disciple and follow Jesus.

GAME OPTION

Disciple Scramble
Supplies: Chairs

Instruction:

- Place chairs in an inward-facing circle. Have one chair fewer than the number of students.
- Quickly review the names of the disciples from Luke 6:14-16.
- Assign a disciple's name to each student.
- Multiple students can have the same name.
- Have one student stand in the center.
- The center student yells out any combination of disciple names.
- The student(s) with the name(s) must get up and switch seats as the center student chooses one of the open seats. Players may not keep the same seat.
- The student in the center can also yell out, "Disciple Scramble," at which point everyone must get up and switch seats.

Application: We know the names of the twelve men Jesus called to be His first disciples. Since then, thousands more names have been added as people choose to be disciples and follow Jesus. Are you one of those names?

LATE ELEMENTARY DEVOTIONAL AND ACTIVITY PAGES

GOD'S WORD FOR FAMILIES

Truth About God:
Jesus calls people to be His disciples.

Wednesday

Read: Luke 6:12–19.

6:12 What did Jesus do all night long?

6:13 What did Jesus do the following morning?

6:14–16 Name the twelve disciples Jesus chose.

6:17–19 Describe Jesus' ministry. What do you think the twelve disciples were doing as Jesus ministered?

● Why do you think Jesus prayed before choosing His disciples? Why is it important to pray before making important decisions?

● How do you think the disciples felt after being chosen by Jesus? How do you feel knowing Jesus has chosen you to follow Him?

Truth for My Life:
I will choose to be a disciple and follow Jesus.

Thursday

Read: Luke 9:23–27.

9:23 What must we do to follow Jesus? What must we deny?

9:24–25 What will happen to those who try to hold on to their old life?

9:26 What did Jesus say would happen to those who are ashamed or too embarrassed to follow Him?

9:27 What would those who follow Jesus see? What do you think Jesus meant by this?

● Have you fully responded to Jesus' call? What are some "old" things Jesus might be asking you to leave behind?

● Why might a person be ashamed of being a Christian? What are some things you can do so you are never ashamed of following Jesus?

Friday

● Do you believe God is calling you to follow Him? What are some things in your life that He might ask you to leave behind?

● Do you think following God's will for your life will make your life better or worse? What would you say to someone who is choosing not to follow after God?

● Pray about your future. Where do you think God will take you in five years? In ten years? In fifty years? What plans can you make today to help make those things possible?

● What did Jesus say about those who are ashamed to do His will? Who are some rejected or ignored people whom Jesus is calling you to befriend?

Devotional and Activity Pages provide fun, age-appropriate activities to help parents and teachers disciple their children. Each lesson has a two-page, five-day devotional with daily Bible reading and questions to guide children's understanding and application of the biblical text.

Kids will have fun with the activity pages, which feature mazes, puzzles, jokes, word finds, and more. The vibrant colors will keep students engaged, and the tear-out sheets are easy for teachers to keep organized.

I Am a Disciple
Jesus calls people to be His disciples.

Jesus called the disciples to follow Him. Can you help them carefully follow the winding path, staying on the line all the way to Jesus? Don't let your crayon wander off the path!

My new pen can write underwater.
VOTRE QUILLON ÉCRIT EN DESSOUS DE L'EAU.

FALL 1.1

Luke 6:14–16 lists Jesus' twelve disciples as SIMON (PETER), ANDREW, JAMES, JOHN, PHILIP, BARTHOLOMEW, MATTHEW, THOMAS, JAMES (THE SON OF ALPHAEUS), SIMON, JUDAS (THE BROTHER OF JAMES), and JUDAS ISCARIOT. Starting in the upper-left corner with Simon (Peter), move through the grid going up, down, left, and right to follow the names of all the disciples, end to end, including words in parentheses.

S	I	M	P	E		D	R	E	P	H
N	O	O	N	T	A	N	J	W	N	I
O	S	T	S	E	R	M	A	O	H	L
F	E	H	E	M	A	E	S	J	P	I
A	L	E	R	O	J	S	T	W	B	A
P	H		F		A	H	E	H	R	
A	H	T	O	J	A	M	O	T	T	
E	S	I	R	E	M	W	M	A	T	H
U	S	M	B	S	J	E	M	O	L	O
J	N	O	E	H	U	T	O	I	R	A
U	D	A	S	T	D	A	S	I	S	C

Which footprints don't have a match?

What do you call a train carrying bubble gum?
VOTRE TRAIN-CHARGE-BULLEZ.

FALL 1.1

I will choose to be a disciple and follow Jesus.

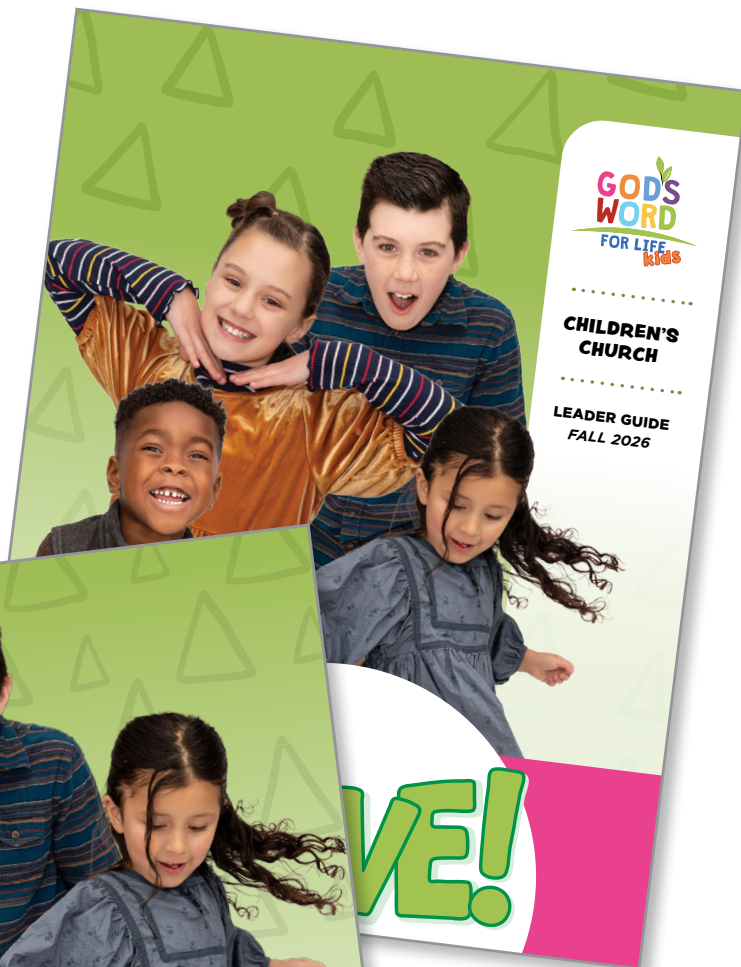
"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:23–24).

GOD'S WORD FOR FAMILIES



MOVE!

AGES 5-12





MOVE! SAMPLE LESSON

1.1 I AM A DISCIPLE



SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 FOLLOW ME

TRUTH ABOUT GOD
Jesus calls people to be His disciples.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will choose to be a disciple and follow Jesus.

LESSON TEXT: Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16
FOCUS PASSAGE: Luke 5:27–28
“And he said unto him, Follow me: And he left all, rose up, and followed him.”
MEMORY PASSAGE: Luke 9:23–24
“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

8 FALL 1.1

PAGE 1

Lesson Text: The Bible passage shared across all age levels from Little Learners to adult

Memory Passage: Bible verse per lesson to help students apply what they learn

Focus Passage: The verse or verses that focus on the key elements of the lesson

Memory Words: For younger students, an age-appropriate rephrasing of the Memory Verse

Truth About God (TAG): What the Bible story reveals about our relationship with God

Truth for My Life (TML): The lesson application and what students go home proclaiming and enacting

PAGE 2

WELCOME: Activities to greet students and introduce the lesson

Video Introduction: An option for teachers to use video to introduce the TAG

Opener: Interactive activity to introduce the TAG and the Bible lesson

WELCOME

SUPPLIES: Whiteboard and markers, TAG 1.1 slide 68, Lesson 1.1 MW slide 69

Instruction

- **As students enter, ask:** Who is someone you like to “follow,” perhaps in real life or on Instagram, YouTube, or other social media?
 - » List answers on a whiteboard.
- When it is time to start teaching, read through the list letting students react to each name mentioned.
- **Say:** These are all people you enjoy following. Today Jesus will ask you to follow Him.
- **Introduce the Lesson 1.1 MW slide 68—Luke 9:23–24.**
 - » **Ask:** Are you willing to follow Jesus?
- **Introduce the Truth About God (TAG):** “Jesus calls people to be His disciples.”

Application: Today we will learn how Jesus calls people to be His disciples. Are you willing to answer His call?

Video Introduction

- Show “Follow Me” 69

Opener: Called to Follow

SUPPLIES:

- 2 fruit choices (e.g., bananas, apples), plates, napkins, TAG 1.1 slide 68
- 6 paper lunch bags, dry beans, 3 small prizes, stapler
- *Per student:* Paper, pencil

Preparation

- Bring two types of fruit to offer students two choices, such as bananas or apples.
- Fill three paper lunch bags with dry beans. Place small prizes in three other lunch bags. Staple the bags closed. Display all six bags on a table.

Instruction

- Let students decide between the two fruit options (or neither).
- As each student decides, announce the choice like it was a big decision: (Student’s name) chose (option).
- **Say:** Jesus calls people to follow Him, but following is not something that just happens. It is something we must choose to do. Like choosing the fruit, we must choose either to follow or not follow Jesus.
- Read the TAG 1.1 slide 68: “Jesus calls people to be His disciples.”
- Choose three volunteers. Have each one select a paper lunch bag, but not open it yet.
 - » Let the class try to influence which bags they think their friends should choose.
- Once all volunteers have chosen, one at a time, they open their bags and reveal the contents.
- **Say:** Sometimes choices can be difficult. All the bags looked similar. People offered suggestions on which bag to choose, but it was ultimately your choice. You had to decide. Similarly, Jesus calls people to be His disciples and follow Him. No one can make the decision for you; it is your choice.



MOVE! SAMPLE LESSON

- Next, give each student a sheet of paper and a pencil.
- On their papers, have students draw twelve circles or stick people. Some students may need help.
- **Say:** Today we will learn how Jesus chose His circle of twelve friends. For each circle or stick person on your paper, try to name a person you spend a lot of time with. These can be family members, friends, teachers, but not animals or pets. Name the twelve people who are closest to you.
- **Ask:** Was it easy or hard to name twelve people?
- **Say:** Motivational speaker Jim Rohn once said, "You become like the five people you spend the most time with."
- **Ask:** Do you think that statement is true? Why or why not?
- **Ask:** Who are the people closest to you? Have you become like them in any ways?
- **Say:** Jesus wants us to be close to Him so we can become more like Him. He constantly calls disciples to Him, even today. His kingdom is all about people.
- **Important:** Set aside the papers. Students will use them again during Prayer and Response (page 13).
- **Ask:** Do you enjoy playing follow-the-leader?
- Choose a leader, and line up students facing the leader.
 - » Challenge students to match every motion of the leader.
 - » Let a few leaders lead for thirty seconds each.
- **Say:** To follow the leader in this game, you had to watch closely and do the correct action.
- Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions:
 - » **Ask:** With friends, are you usually a leader or a follower? Why?
 - » **Ask:** What are some things a good leader does? Discuss the characteristics of a good leader.
 - » **Ask:** What are some things a good follower does? Discuss the characteristics of a good follower.
 - » **Ask:** Do you think Jesus wants us to be good followers? Why?
 - » **Ask:** Do you think Jesus wants us to be good leaders? Why?
- Name a few excellent leaders in your church and discuss why you think their leadership is exceptional.

Application: Jesus calls people to be His disciples. To become a disciple of Jesus, we must be good followers. Who knows? In time, He may turn us all into good leaders as well.

LEARN

Bible Lesson: I Am a Disciple (Luke 5:1–11, 27–32; 6:12–16)

"And he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, and rose up, and followed him" (Luke 5:27–28).

SUPPLIES:

- Disciple Name Tags (see tape, "boat" (boxes, chairs, or raft), Levi's table (books and coins), biblical robe (Jesus)
- "Yevarechecha (Hebrew)" (see)
- To serve: Juice, bread or crackers

10 FALL 1.1

PAGES 3–4

LEARN: Section that tells the Bible lesson

Bible Lesson: Engaging and age-appropriate telling of a story from God's Word

Review Questions: Before moving on to the application, these questions make sure students understand the story

PAGE 5

ACT: Activities to apply the lesson and the TML

ACT

As Jesus continued to teach and help people, He called twelve men to be His closest followers. (**Ask students with name tags to join Jesus as they are named.**) Jesus called four fishermen: Simon (Peter) and his brother, Andrew, along with the brothers James and John. Jesus asked the tax collector Matthew to follow Him. He also called Philip and Bartholomew. Adding to those men, Jesus called Thomas, another man named James (the son of Alphaeus), and another man named Simon Zelotes. Finally, Jesus called two men who were both named Judas, but one was known as Judas Iscariot.

Jesus was not looking for "perfect" people to be His disciples. Instead, He chose those who were willing to leave behind their old lives and choose to follow Him. One day, these twelve disciples would be responsible for leading the church and taking Jesus' message to the rest of the world.

Review Questions:

- What does it mean to be a disciple? To follow Jesus
- What were Peter, James, and John before they became disciples? Fishermen
- What was Levi (Matthew) before he became a disciple? A publican or tax collector
- How many disciples did Jesus choose? Twelve
- Name some disciples Jesus called: Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew (Levi), Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon Zelotes, Judas Iscariot

Disciples of Jesus

SUPPLIES:

- Pad of bright color sticky notes, pad(s) of different color sticky notes, pen
- Dominos (5 per student), "Cool Chain Reaction" (see) New Birth slide (see)
- Per student: Sheet of construction paper, markers

Preparation

- On twenty bright color sticky notes, write a characteristic of Jesus on each note, such as loving, kind, obedient, forgiving, patient, humble, truthful, brave, serving, compassionate, faithful, wise, prayerful, gentle, fair, hopeful, welcoming, powerful, sacrificial, and caring.
 - » Randomly place the notes around the room in locations where students will see them, but only when looking for them—not in high-traffic areas.
 - » In addition, place a few blank different color sticky notes around the room.

Instruction

- Say the TML: "I will choose to be a disciple and follow Jesus."
- **Say:** The disciples made a choice to follow Jesus. In Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost, the people received the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues. God wants to give you the same experience.
 - » Review the New Birth slide (see).
- Give each student five dominos.
 - » Have students line up their dominos in a straight line, leaving space between each one.
 - » Set up your own line of dominos.
- Demonstrate how to tap the first domino. Then let students do the same.
 - » **Ask:** What happened when you touched the first domino?

12 FALL 1.1



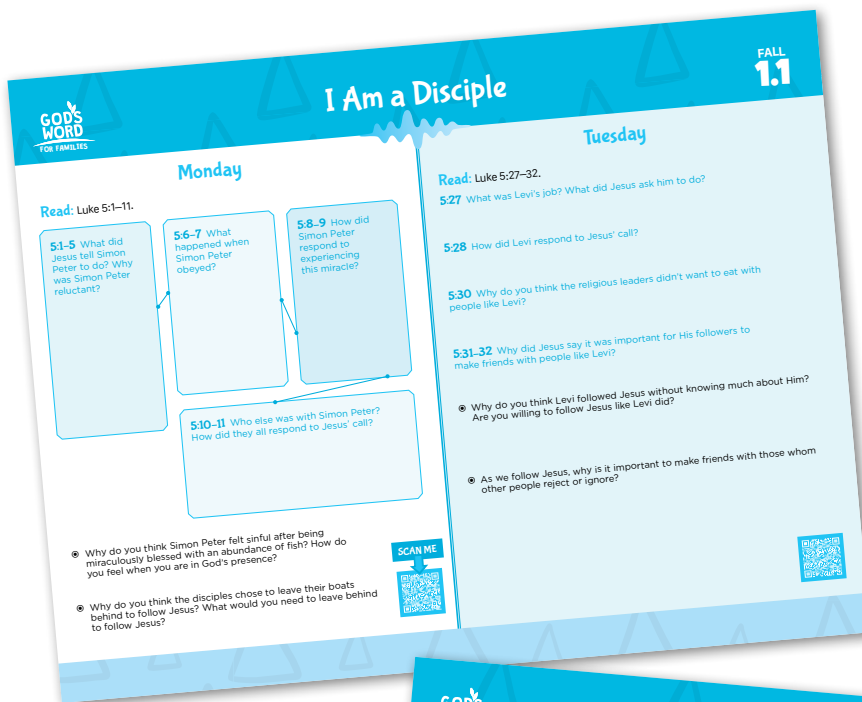
Prayer and Response: Ideas to pray and do with students as parents pick them up

- Ask students to look over their "circle of friends" from the Opener activity (page 9).
- **Ask:** Will it be hard to place Jesus in the center of the people closest to you? Why or why not?
- Have students pray as you play the song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" by Wesley's Wupperts [🎵](#) or by Lydia Walker [🎵](#).
- **Pray:** Jesus, we want to follow You. Just as You called the twelve disciples, we hear You calling each one of us. We will put aside the things in our lives that distract us from You so we can be Your disciples. Thank You for choosing us. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Send each student home with the MOVIE! Devotional [📖](#) and activity pages [📖](#) for this lesson.



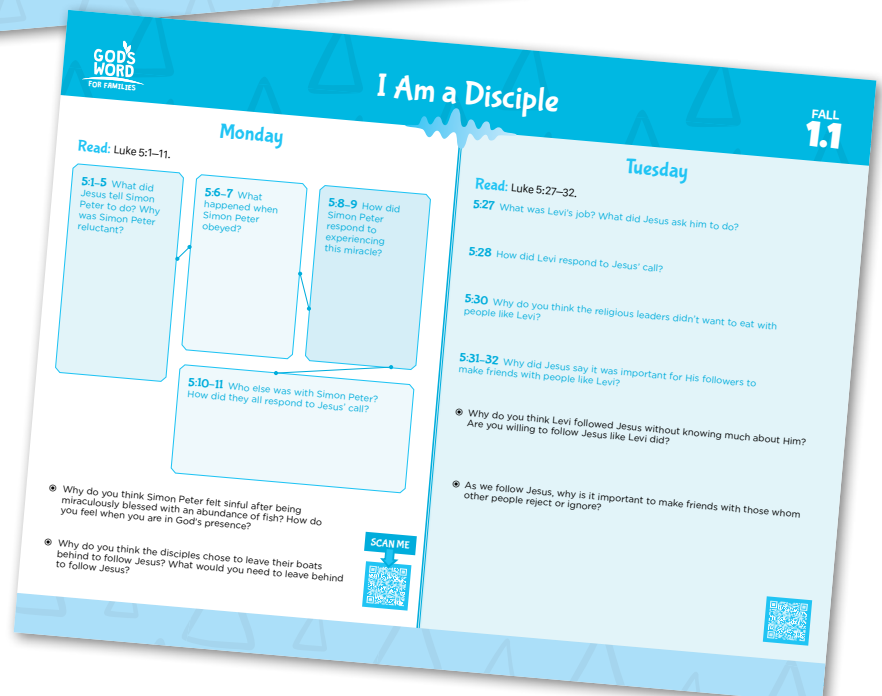
19

MOVE! DEVOTIONAL AND ACTIVITY PAGES



Each lesson has a digital two-page, five-day devotional with daily Bible reading and questions to guide children's understanding and application of the biblical text. Teachers can print these for students, or provide them to families via email or through social media.

Kids will have fun with the activity pages, which feature a reading of the Bible story, a fun word activity, as well as a coloring page of the lesson's Bible art. Teachers can print these for students, or provide them to families via email or through social media.



The collage features several educational and religious resources for children:

- Little Learners Attendance:** A blue and white attendance sheet with a grid and a cartoon bird.
- Jews and Gentiles:** A book cover with a Star of David and a globe, titled "Jews: Children of Abraham (Isaac and Jacob)" and "Gentiles: Any people who were not Jews".
- Gods Word for Life:** A book cover with a girl in a gold dress, titled "EARLY ELEMENTARY RESOURCE KIT | FALL 2026".
- The New Birth Plan:** A worksheet with a cartoon man pointing, titled "The New Birth Plan" with bullet points: "Repent" and "Get baptized in Jesus' name".
- Happy Birthday:** A colorful birthday card with a cake and balloons.
- Fruit of the Spirit:** A poster with a cartoon man pointing, titled "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law".
- Mediterranean Sea:** A map of the Mediterranean Sea with various cities labeled.
- Rhythms:** A book cover with a girl in a gold dress, titled "RHYTHMS".



ANNUAL HARBACK

All fifty-two lessons, Fall to Summer, in one place

The Rhythms 2026–2027 Annual Lesson Guide contains all the lessons in the quarterly softcover Adult Lesson Guides for the entire curriculum year: Fall–Summer. The Lesson Guide is a treasury of Apostolic insight into Scripture and an indispensable study and teaching tool. The hardback format includes the fifty-two adult lessons for the entire year. It is also available as a paperback quarterly with the thirteen lessons for each quarter and easily slides in and out of your Bible for convenient transport to church.

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