



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Series:** Jesus Chooses His Followers  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 36

# Jesus Chooses a Tax Collector

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus said, "Follow me."

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

**Bible Event:** Matthew 9:9-13

**We will help children know:**

- Matthew thought money was the most important thing.
- Matthew was accepted by Jesus but not by other people.
- Matthew learned that following Jesus was more important than money.




**We will help children feel:**

- Confident in choosing to follow Jesus.
- Happy to lead others to Jesus.

**We will help children do:**

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds them of coins.
- Make a craft of shoes to follow Jesus.
- Play *Follow the Leader*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the leaning of today's  
Take Home Point: **Jesus said, "Follow me."**

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Warm-Up</b> (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• your choice of toys</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group Opening</b> (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judy puppet</li> <li>• small plastic bag with a few coins</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children's picture Bible</li> </ul> <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• round crackers or cookies</li> <li>• napkins, cups and water</li> <li>• <i>option</i>—squirt cheese</li> </ul> <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix A copied on cardstock, one per two children</li> <li>• 8" length of yarn, tied in bow, two per child</li> <li>• double-stick tape</li> <li>• crayons or washable markers</li> <li>• <i>option</i>: balloons and permanent markers</li> <li>• <i>option</i>: magnetic strips</li> </ul> <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group Wrap-Up</b> (5-10 minutes) 	11	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• your choice of music</li> <li>• craft example from Activity 3</li> </ul>

## **Warm-Up** (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

*Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.*

## **Large Group Opening** (5-10 minutes)



*Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.*

## **Puppet Presentation:**

*Supplies:*

- Judy puppet holding a few coins in a plastic bag

### **Judy and the Bag of Money**

**Presenter:** Boys and girls, let's call out Judy.

Kids call Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.** Judy comes out with a small plastic bag with some coins, shaking them to make noise.

**Presenter:** Hi, Judy. What have you got in your hand?

Judy: Oh, this is a bag of money I found back here.

**Presenter:** Oh, Judy, that was the bag of money I was going to use to talk about today's Bible Event.

Judy: Well, it's mine now since I found it.

**Presenter:** No, Judy, it's mine since I lost it and I need it to tell today's story.

Judy: Well, can you share it with me?

**Presenter:** I'll do that, Judy. How about this? Why don't I take the money out and set it here and let's share it? Take the bag of money and set it on the ledge.

**Here is one coin for you** (pushes coin to Judy's side) **and one coin for me... but I think I'd better have another coin** (takes two coins). **Here is one coin for you** (pushes coin to Judy's side) **and one coin for me... and another one** (takes two coins). **Here is one coin for you** (pushes coin to Judy's side) **and one coin for me... and another one for me** (takes two coins).

Judy: Wait!!! You are getting more than me. That's not fair.

**Presenter: Boys and girls, do you think it seems fair that I give one coin to Judy and I take two for myself? No. You are right. It's not fair. But that is just what Matthew, a man in our Bible Event, was doing. He was making extra money for himself by taking it from others. This man Matthew was in charge of collecting money from people. But when he did, he counted out extra money for himself.**

Judy: Were the people mad?

**Presenter: They were.**

Judy: Did they want Matthew to give the money back?

**Presenter: Yes, they did. But Matthew didn't give the money back.**

Judy: The people probably didn't like him.

**Presenter: You are right. The people did not like Matthew, the tax collector. But he didn't care. He thought money was more important than people liking him. One day, Jesus saw Matthew at a table collecting people's taxes. Taxes are money. Jesus said, "Follow me."**

Judy: Did Matthew follow Jesus?

**Presenter: Yes, he followed Jesus. Matthew became one of Jesus' special friends, called disciples. Jesus taught Matthew that following him was more important than money. Jesus showed him that God did not want him to take other people's money. Matthew was so happy to learn about God that he gave a big party to celebrate.**

Judy: What did they do?

**Presenter: They talked about how wonderful God is and that it is much better to follow Jesus than to take money that does not belong to you. It reminds me of our Take Home Point today: \*Jesus said, "Follow me." Boys and girls, will you repeat that after me?**

Children: **\*Jesus said, "Follow me."**

**Presenter:** That was great. We will learn Jesus wants us to follow him today.  
Now, Judy, can you help us sing a song?

**Judy:** Sure, I love to sing.

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*  
*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

**J**esus **S**AID come **F**ollow **M**E,  
**F**ollow **M**E, **F**ollow **M**E.  
**J**esus **S**AID come **F**ollow **M**E  
And **H**ELP me **S**HOW God's **L**OVE.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,  
We love you. We love you.  
Help us follow you Help us follow you  
And do what's right. And do what's right.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

# Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



**Purpose:** Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

## Activity 1: Bible Event

*Supplies: Children's picture Bible*

### Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read from a children's picture Bible about Jesus choosing Matthew, the tax collector, as a disciple.

### Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

*Supplies: Children's' Picture Bible*

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

**This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.**

Tax collectors stole people's money.

- Pretend to hold some money in your hand.
- In the time when Jesus lived, men called tax collectors took money from the people. Let's pretend I am a tax collector and you have to pay me money. Please pay me your money now.
- Some of the tax collectors were very mean and took more money than they should. They were stealing people's money. They loved money more than God. Watch me take some of your pretend money.

Jesus tells Matthew to follow him.

- Jesus was walking along the street. Let's walk around the room. Take a short walk around your room.
- He saw Matthew sitting at the tax collector table. Let's sit down.

- Matthew took money that was not his. Not very many people liked Matthew. Maybe it was because Matthew loved money best of all. Jesus called out to Matthew, "Follow me." Boys and girls, call out with me, "Follow me". Children repeat.
- When Jesus said, "Follow me," Matthew was surprised. He did not think Jesus wanted to be his friend. He thought people like Jesus did not like him. He did not think that Jesus would choose him to be one of his special friends. Let's look surprised.

Matthew follows Jesus.

- Do you think Matthew followed Jesus? Yes, he did. He left everything to follow Jesus. Let's pretend to drop your pretend money.
- Now Matthew realized that Jesus is more important than money.
- Matthew had a big party with a big, big dinner for Jesus. Lots of other tax collectors came to the dinner. Let's pretend you are eating a big dinner.
- Matthew told all of his friends that Jesus wanted to be his special friend. He told them he would follow Jesus and asked us to follow Jesus, too.

We can follow Jesus.

- Point to children and say: You can follow Jesus, too.

### **Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point**

**Prayer:**

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,  
 We love you. We love you.  
 Help us follow you Help us follow you  
 And do what's right. And do what's right.  
 Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
 In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
 Amen. Amen.

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*  
*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

JESUS SAID come FOLLOW ME,  
 FOLLOW ME, FOLLOW ME.  
 JESUS SAID come FOLLOW ME  
 And HELP me SHOW God's LOVE.

## Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me.

\*Jesus said, "Follow me." Jesus said, "Follow me."

## Activity 2: Snack

*Supplies: round crackers, napkins, cups and water. Option: squirt cheese*

Boys and girls, today we are going to eat a snack that reminds us of coins, or money. Before we eat, let's fold our hands and say a prayer.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,

We love you. We love you.

Help us follow you Help us follow you

And do what's right. And do what's right.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Pass out napkins, cups of water and a few crackers. If you wish to decorate the "coin" crackers, you can use canned squirt cheese.

Go ahead and eat your cracker coins now. Remember to say *please* if you want more.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. \*Jesus said, "Follow me." Jesus said, "Follow me."

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

JEsus SAID come FOLlow ME,

FOLlow ME, FOLlow ME.

JEsus SAID come FOLlow ME

And HELP me SHOW God's LOVE.



## Activity 3: Craft

*Supplies:*

- Appendix A, copied on cardstock, one copy per two children
- two pieces of yarn per child cut into 8" pieces and tied into a bow
- double-stick tape
- crayons or washable markers
- Option 1—balloons and permanent markers, regular tape
- Option 2--self-stick magnet strips

Cut out Appendix A before class so that each child has two pair of shoes.

**Boys and girls, today we are going to make some shoes to remind us that Jesus said to follow him. We will keep one for ourselves and give one to a friend after you get home. First, I want you to color the shoes any way you want to. Next we will tape the bows to the shoes.**

If you are using option 1, blow up and tie one balloon per pair of shoes. Teacher will draw a smiley face on the balloon with a permanent marker. Poke a hole through the shoes in the middle, about 1" from the back. Put the tied part of the balloon through the hole and tape it from underneath. Craft will look like a person standing up. If using option 2, attach the magnetic strips to the back of the craft. Children will make two if there is time—one to keep and one to give to a friend.

**Caution:** Balloons can be a choking hazard. Supervise closely.

**Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. \*Jesus said, "Follow me." Jesus said, "Follow me."**

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

**JESus SAID come FOLlow ME,  
JESus SAID come FOLlow ME.  
FOLlow ME, FOLlow ME  
JESus SAID come FOLlow ME  
And HELP me SHOW God's LOVE.**

**Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:**

**Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,  
We love you. We love you.  
Help us follow you Help us follow you  
And do what's right. And do what's right.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.**

## Activity 4: Learning Game

*Supplies: none*

**Boys and girls, today we are going to play the game *Follow the Leader*. You will follow me and when I say, “*Stop*,” you will stop and do the action I tell you. Now, everyone, follow me.**

Lead the children around the room and stop every few feet to do the actions you describe. Begin again with the words “Follow me” and lead the children in walking until you stop again for the next action.

1. Follow me. Stop and clap your hands. Follow me.
2. Stop and jump up and down. Follow me.
3. Stop and turn around. Follow me.
4. Stop and bark like a dog. Follow me.
5. Stop and touch your toes. Follow me.
6. Stop and wave your arms high in the air. Follow me.
7. Stop and touch your knees. Follow me.
8. Stop and shake your head back and forth. Follow me.
9. Stop and flap your arms like a bird. Follow me.
10. Stop and hop like a frog. Follow me.
11. Stop and hug yourself. Follow me.
12. Stop and show me your teeth. Follow me.

**Let’s practice the Take Home Point. I’ll say it first and you repeat after me. \*Jesus said, “Follow me.” Jesus said, “Follow me.”**

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

**JEsus SAID come FOLlow ME,  
FOLlow ME, FOLlow ME.  
JEsus SAID come FOLlow ME  
And HELP me SHOW God’s LOVE.**

**Let’s pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:**

**Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,  
We love you. We love you.  
Help us follow you Help us follow you  
And do what’s right. And do what’s right.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus’ name. In Jesus’ name.  
Amen. Amen.**

# Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



## Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: **\*Jesus said, “Follow me.”**

## Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,  
We love you. We love you.  
Help us follow you Help us follow you  
And do what's right. And do what's right.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

## Lesson Song:

**Song:** to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*  
*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

**J**ESUS SAID come **F**OLLOW ME,  
**F**OLLOW ME, **F**OLLOW ME.  
**J**ESUS SAID come **F**OLLOW ME  
And **H**ELP me **S**HOW God's **L**OVE.

*Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.*

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

