



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Following Jesus  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 35

# Fishermen Follow Jesus

**Take Home Point:** \*Follow Jesus.

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

**Bible Event:** Matthew 4:18-22 & Luke 5:1-11

**We will help children know:**

- Jesus wants us to follow him.
- To follow Jesus means to do what he says.
- To follow Jesus means to tell others about him.

**We will help children feel:**

- Happy that Jesus wants them to follow him.
- Secure that Jesus loves them.

**We will help children do:**

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack of fish crackers.
- Make a craft of fish in a net.
- Play a learning game called *Are We Following Jesus?* and a movement game of *Follow the Leader*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce learning today's Take Home Point: \***Follow Jesus**.

Kingdom Quest Year 2 - Lesson 35 - 1

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Warm-Up</b> (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• toys of your choice</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group Opening</b> (5-10 minutes)  	3  3  4	Sing (Optional)  Puppet Presentation  Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• songs of your choice</li> <li>• Bubba puppet</li> <li>• Bubba's pet elephant with string tied around it</li> <li>• children's picture Bible</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> (10 minutes—each activity)  	6  8  9  10 11	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event  Activity 2: Snack  Activity 3: Craft  Activity 4: Learning Game Movement 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>• napkins</li> <li>• cups of water</li> <li>• fish crackers</li> </ul> <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of Appendix A on card stock</li> <li>• fish crackers or foam fish</li> <li>• glue</li> <li>• tape</li> <li>• crayons or markers</li> </ul> <i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul> <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hula hoops</li> <li>• 8' length of rope</li> <li>• 3 bean bags</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group Wrap-Up</b> (5-10 minutes)  	13  13  13	Review Lesson and Take Home Point  Pray  Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• songs of your choice</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: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and 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.*

**Singing:** Use music of your choice.

## **Puppet Presentation**

*Supplies:*

- children’s picture Bible
- stuffed elephant with string attached

### **Bubba Learns to Follow**

**Presenter:** Boys and girls, let’s call out Bubba.

Kids call out Bubba, Bubba, Bubba.

*Bubba enters with elephant tied to a string.*

**Presenter:** Good morning, Bubba. My goodness, what do you have there?

Bubba: It’s my special friend.

**Presenter:** I can tell.

Bubba: Do you know why he’s special?

**Presenter:** Because he’s your favorite elephant.

Bubba: Other than that.

**Presenter:** Why?

Bubba: Because my elephant follows me.

**Presenter: Is that why you have a string tied to him?**

Bubba: Yes, my elephant follows me everywhere, even to church.

**Presenter: Did you know that Jesus wants us to follow him?**

Bubba: Is he going to tie a string around us?

**Presenter: No. It doesn't mean we will walk around where he walks. Actually, we cannot even see Jesus, but we know he is right here.**

Bubba: Then how do we follow him?

**Presenter: We follow him by doing what he says.**

Bubba: What does he want us to do?

**Presenter: He wants us to love others and tell others about him. Would you like to hear the Bible Event where he tells some fishermen to follow him?**

Bubba: Yes, I like fish stories.

**Presenter: See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.**

Read the Bible Event from a children's Bible.

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

**Presenter: Bubba, will you help us sing our song of the week?**

Bubba: Sure, I love to sing.

**Song:** to the tune of *Frère Jaques*

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

**FOL-low JE-sus.**

**FOL-low JE-sus.**

**ALL the TIME.**

**ALL the TIME.**

**WE can SAY to OTH-ers.**

**WE can SAY to OTH-ers.**

**FOL-low HIM.**

**FOL-low HIM.**

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

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Help us follow Jesus. Help us follow Jesus.

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 three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six 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 up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

## Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible

### Jesus Says Follow Me

Matthew 4:18-22

#### Introduction

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.**

#### Jesus teaches by the lake.

- One day Jesus was preaching and teaching the people. Let's pretend like we are explaining something.
- The people really wanted to hear what Jesus was saying. Put your hand behind your ear and scoot closer and closer to me.
- Jesus felt the people crowding around him, closer and closer. He was standing by a lake. He backed up into the water. Then he noticed two fishermen's boats by the water's edge. He got into the boat belonging to Peter, and asked him to move the boat away from the shore. Let's pretend we are stepping into a boat and now the boat is being pushed away from the shore.
- Now more people could hear and see Jesus.

#### Jesus tells Peter to drop his nets.

- After Jesus preached for a while, he told Peter to go out into the deep water. Let's pretend to row the boat until we get into deep water.
- Then he told Peter to drop the fishing nets into the water so he could catch some fish. Let's pretend to throw the nets overboard.

- Peter didn't believe that they would catch fish. He told Jesus that he and his brother Andrew had been fishing there all night and did not catch even one fish. Hold up your finger for one fish and shake your head.
- But Peter obeyed Jesus and threw the nets down into the water anyway. Let's pretend to throw our nets into the water again.

#### A big catch.

- Right away they felt something tugging on their nets. Let's start pulling in our nets.
- Do you think they caught a whale? No, they did not. Do you think they caught an octopus? No, they did not. Do you think they caught a tiny little goldfish? No, they did not. Let's look into our nets.
- There were so many fish that their nets could not hold all of them. They caught so many fish that their nets began to break. Let's pull the nets in the boat and see all the fish flopping around. Let's pretend we are fish flopping around in the boat.
- There were so many fish that they filled two boats so full that the boats began to sink!

#### Jesus calls fishermen.

- When Peter saw this, he knew that Jesus was the one true God. He knew that Jesus did a miracle and helped catch all those fish. But Peter was afraid because he did not think he was good enough to be with Jesus. Let's bow our heads and look away.
- Jesus told Peter not to be afraid. He said, "You will be my special helper, from now on, you will catch men, not fish. Come and follow me." Peter and his brother Andrew and their two friends, James and John, stopped fishing, pulled their boats up to shore and followed behind Jesus. Follow me while we walk. Walk a short distance and return.
- Jesus told them that to follow him means more than walking behind Jesus. It also means telling others about Jesus' love for them.

#### We are disciples too.

- The disciples followed Jesus and did what he said. They learned to tell others about Jesus. Today Jesus wants us to follow him also. We can do what he says by telling others about Jesus' love. Let's tell one other person that "Jesus loves you."

### **Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point**

**Prayer:**

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

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Help us follow Jesus. Help us follow Jesus.

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

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Fréré Jaques*

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

FOL-low JE-sus.

FOL-low JE-sus.

ALL the TIME.

ALL the TIME.

WE can SAY to OTH-ers.

WE can SAY to OTH-ers.

FOL-low HIM.

FOL-low HIM.

**Take Home Point:**

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

## **Activity 2: Snack**

*Supplies:*

- *Napkins*
- *Cups and water*
- *Fish crackers*

*BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM ANY FOOD TO EAT.*

Today we are going to eat a snack that reminds us of the fish Peter caught in his nets. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,  
You are with us. You are with us.  
We love you. We love you.  
Teach us to follow you. We want to follow you.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

What did the fishermen catch after Jesus told them to drop the nets in the water? That's right, they caught lots of fish. Pass out cups of water, napkins and some fish crackers to each child. **Now you can eat the fish you caught.**

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

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Fréré Jaques*

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

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### **Activity 3: Craft**

*Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."*

*Supplies:*

- *Copies of Appendix A on cardstock*
- *fish crackers, option: foam fish cutouts*
- *glue*
- *tape*
- *crayons or markers*

**We have been learning that Jesus chose fishermen to become his first disciples or followers. The disciples followed Jesus and learned how to help others follow Jesus. We are going to catch some fish in our nets today. First you can color your picture. Next we will glue on some fish. Make sure to get your nets really full. When you are**

finished gluing your fish on, we will tape this net (9" x 3" piece cut earlier) over the top to keep your fish in.

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

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Fréré Jaques*

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

FOL-low JE-sus.  
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ALL the TIME.  
ALL the TIME.  
WE can SAY to OTH-ers.  
WE can SAY to OTH-ers.  
FOL-low HIM.  
FOL-low HIM.

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

Dear God, Dear God,  
You are with us. You are with us.  
We love you. We love you.  
Help us follow Jesus. Help us follow Jesus.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

## Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

## Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Today we are going to play a game called *Are we Following Jesus?*  
After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. Are we following Jesus when we kiss our mommies? Yes, we are. Let me hear you pretend to kiss your mommy.
2. Are we following Jesus when we do not share our toys? No, we are not. Let's give a pretend toy to someone near us.

3. Are we following Jesus when we feed our puppy? Yes, we are. Let's bark like a dog.
4. Are we following Jesus when we run away from our parents? No, we are not. Pretend I am one of your parents and run up here to me.
5. Are we following Jesus when we go to bed when Daddy tells us? Yes, we are. Let's close our eyes and snore.
6. Are we following Jesus when we whine and cry for a toy in the store? No, we are not. Pretend to cry.
7. Are we following Jesus when we give money to people who do not have any? Yes, we are. Let's pretend to give each other money.
8. Are we following Jesus when we talk really LOUD in church? No, we are not. Whisper "follow Jesus" to me.
9. Are we following Jesus when we eat the food on our plates? Yes, we are. Let's pretend to take a bite of a sandwich.
10. Are we following Jesus when we take our neighbor's ball? No, we are not. Pretend to throw a ball.

## **Movement Game**

*Supplies:*

- 2 hula hoops
- 8 foot piece of rope
- 3 bean bags

*Put one hula hoop at the beginning of course. Lay rope on the floor into a half circle about three feet away from hula hoop. Next, put bean bags just outside the other hula hoop. You may add to the course by adding small chairs or other objects in your room as space permits. Teacher should lead the children and may add other movements as you go.*

**Today we are going to play *Follow the Leader*, just like the disciples followed Jesus. We will start at this hula hoop by jumping into it, then jumping out of it. Next we will follow this rope by walking on it. Then we will throw these three bean bags into the hula hoop. Be sure to follow the person in front of you. Play as many times as you want by continuing to make up obstacles and challenges.**

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

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Fréré Jaques*

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

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We love you. We love you.

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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 reviews the lesson with questions or by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the answers as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

**See if you know the words I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event.  
If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.**

**Was Jesus preaching and teaching the people by a lake or a mountain?  
(Lake.) To teach the people, what did he get in to float in the water? (Boat.)  
He told Peter to take the boat to deeper water, then did he tell Peter to toss  
his nets or lunch in the water? (Nets). What did they catch in their nets?  
(Fish.) Jesus told Peter and Andrew to leave all their things and follow him.  
Did they do it? (Yes.) Does Jesus want us to follow him? (Yes.) What  
does it mean to follow Jesus? Does it mean that we obey him or does it  
mean we play hide-n-seek with him? (Obey.)**

## Lesson Prayer:

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

Dear God, Dear God,  
You are with us. You are with us.  
We love you. We love you.  
Teach us to follow you. We want to follow you.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.  
Amen. Amen.

## Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

**Song:** to the tune of *Frère Jaques*  
*Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.*

**FOL-low JE-sus.  
FOL-low JE-sus.  
ALL the TIME.  
ALL the TIME.**

**WE can SAY to OTH-ers.  
WE can SAY to OTH-ers.  
FOL-low HIM.  
FOL-low HIM.**

## **Take Home Point:**

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

*Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.*

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# Follow Jesus

