



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Following Jesus  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 36

# Matthew Follows Jesus

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

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

**Bible Event:** Luke 5:27-31

**We will help children know:**

- Matthew dropped everything and followed Jesus.
- Matthew learned that Jesus was more important than money.
- Everyone should follow Jesus.

**We will help children feel:**

- Special because Jesus wants them to follow him.
- Happy that Jesus loves everyone.

**We will help children do:**

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that looks like money.
- Make a puppet in craft.
- Play a learning game called *Follow Me* 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: \*Jesus says, "Follow me."

Kingdom Quest Year 2 - Lesson 36 - 1

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION  | PAGE #                              | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY  | SUPPLIES NEEDED   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Warm-Up</b><br>(5-10 minutes)   | 3                                   | Transition Time  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• toys of your choice</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Large Group Opening</b><br>(5-10 minutes)<br><br>                  | 3<br><br>3<br><br>4                 | Sing (Optional)<br><br>Puppet Presentation<br><br>Bible Reading  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• songs of your choice</li> <li>• Judy puppet, Bubba's stuffed elephant</li> <li>• children's picture Bible</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Small Group Application</b><br>(10 minutes—each activity)<br><br> | 6<br><br>8<br><br>9<br><br>10<br>11 | Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event<br><br>Activity 2: Snack<br><br>Activity 3: Craft<br><br>Activity 4: Learning Game<br>Movement Game | <i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children's picture Bible</li> </ul><br><i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• napkins</li> <li>• cups of water</li> <li>• round cookie (option: cracker)</li> </ul><br><i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of Appendix A on cardstock</li> <li>• Yarn cut into 2"-3" pieces</li> <li>• Glue</li> <li>• Crayons or markers</li> </ul><br><i>Activity 4: Games</i><br><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>• 3 bean bags</li> <li>• 8' piece of rope or yarn</li> <li>• 2 beach balls</li> </ul> |
| <b>Large Group Wrap-Up</b><br>(5-10 minutes)<br><br>                | 12<br><br>12<br><br>12              | Review Lesson and Take Home Point<br><br>Pray<br><br>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 & Bubba’s stuffed elephant.*

### **Judy Learns to Follow Jesus**

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

Kids call for Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.** *Judy arrives with Bubba’s elephant.*

**Presenter:** Hi, Judy, what do you have there?

Judy: It’s my new best friend, my elephant.

**Presenter:** I thought you always like to bring your pink pony.

Judy: Sometimes, but now I have an elephant.

**Presenter:** Wow, that looks just like Bubba’s elephant.

Judy: It used to be Bubba’s elephant but now it’s mine.

**Presenter:** It is? Did he give it to you?

Judy: No, he didn’t give it to me.

**Presenter:** Did you buy it from him?

Judy: No, I didn’t buy it from him.

**Presenter:** Judy, did you take it from him?

Judy: Oh, yes, I took it from him. But it's okay; he doesn't know I took it.

**Presenter:** Boys and girls, is it right to take something from someone else? (Boys and girls answer "No!") **That's stealing. Jesus does not want us to take something that doesn't belong to us, especially without asking.**

Judy: But I wanted it!

**Presenter:** Judy you need to give that back to Bubba and tell him you are sorry.

Judy: I do?

**Presenter:** Yes. Today we are going to find out about a man named Matthew who took other peoples' money. He learned that he should not do that. Instead he did what Jesus wanted--he followed Jesus.

Judy: Jesus? He followed Jesus after he'd been naughty?

**Presenter:** He sure did and you can too. Let's remember the special words Jesus said to him: "Follow me."

**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 picture Bible.

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

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

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.  
**P**lease **F**OL-low **M**E right **N**OW.

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.

We want 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.

# 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

### Matthew Follows Jesus

Luke 5:1-11

#### 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.**

Matthew is a tax collector.

- In Jesus' time there were men who had the job of collecting taxes. Taxes are money that the people paid to the king. People did not like tax collectors. Shake your heads "no".
- Some of the tax collectors made people give them lots of money for the king, but they kept some of it for themselves. This was stealing. It was wrong. Let's pretend to take money from someone and put it in our pocket.
- One of the tax collectors was named Matthew. Matthew loved money. He did not know or love Jesus. Shake your head "no".

Jesus chooses Matthew.

- One day, Jesus was walking along the street. Let's walk in place.
- He saw Matthew sitting at his tax collector's table. Matthew liked being a tax collector. He took money that was not his. Matthew loved money more than anything. Pretend to hold money and love it very much.
- Then Jesus looked at Matthew and said something very, very surprising. He said, "Follow me." Let's all say those words.

Matthew is surprised that Jesus chose him.

- **Matthew was very surprised that Jesus would choose him.** Mouth open, palms on cheeks.
- **Not very many people liked Matthew. Jesus wanted Matthew to be his special friend and disciple. Matthew jumped up and went with Jesus. He left the money on the table and followed Jesus. Let's stand up and pretend to follow Jesus wherever he goes.**

Matthew celebrates.

- **That night Matthew had a party and a big dinner for Jesus. Let's pretend to eat some food.**
- **Matthew invited all the other tax collectors to his party. Matthew told the other tax collectors that he was going to follow Jesus. They were very surprised. Show me your surprised face.**
- **Matthew would not take money from people any more. Now he would follow Jesus and do what is right. Let's shake our head up and down.**

Jesus loves everyone.

- **When people saw that Jesus was eating with the bad tax collectors, they were mad. They did not think it was right. (Shake head "no.")**
- **Jesus told them that he loves everyone, (extend arms in sweeping motion) even the people who do bad things. He can help change their hearts by forgiving them so they can do good things.**

We can follow Jesus.

- **Today we can follow Jesus, too. Let's pretend to walk around the room.**
- **We can invite Jesus to be with us wherever we go. Make a beckoning motion.**
- **We can remember that even if we do something wrong, Jesus will be there to love us and forgive us. Give yourself a hug.**
- **Jesus will help us to always do what is right and love others, even if they do bad things. That's how we follow Jesus today. Repeat after me, "Jesus says, 'Follow me'."**

## 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.

We want 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.

Let's sing our song of the week.

**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.

Please **F**OL-low **M**E right **N**OW.

### Take Home Point:

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

## **Activity 2: Snack**

*Supplies:*

- *Napkins*
- *Cups and water*
- *Round cookie (option: round cracker)*

*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 money. 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.

We want 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.

**Jesus chose Matthew to be his follower, even though people did not like Matthew. They did not like him because he stole money from them. Our snack today reminds us of coins. Pass out a napkin, cup of water and cookie. See how your cookie is round like a coin? When Jesus chose Matthew, he left all the money and followed Jesus.**

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

**Let's sing our song of the week.**

**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.  
Please FOL-low ME right NOW.**

### **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*
- *Yarn cut into 2"-3" pieces*
- *glue*
- *Crayons or markers*

*Before class, cut out circles on puppet so children's fingers can become legs.*

**Today we are going to make a puppet that can walk so it can follow Jesus, just like us. First we will color our puppet, then we will glue on some hair (yarn). When we are finished, we will make our puppets follow Jesus by putting our fingers through the holes (from the back). (Use a prepared sample puppet for the Jesus.)**

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

**Let's sing our song of the week.**

**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.  
Please FOL-low ME right NOW.**

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.  
We want 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.

## **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 *Follow Me*. You will follow me and when I say, "Stop!" you will stop and do the action I tell you. Lead the children around the room and stop every few feet to do the action you describe.

1. Follow me. Stop and touch your nose. Follow me.
2. Stop and flap your arms like a butterfly. Follow me.
3. Stop and spin around like a top. Follow me.
4. Stop and moo like a cow. Follow me.
5. Stop and make a silly face. Follow me.
6. Stop and hop like a kangaroo. Follow me.
7. Stop and shake yourself all over. Follow me.
8. Stop and touch your toes. Follow me.
9. Stop and buzz like a bee. Follow me.
10. Stop and be a cloud floating high in the sky. Follow me back to our chairs.

# Movement Game

Supplies:

- 2 hula hoops
- 3 bean bags
- 2 beach balls
- 8 foot piece of rope or yarn

**Today we are going to play Follow the Leader. Watch the person in front of you and do what they do.**

Make an obstacle course using the above items. You can add in objects from your room such as chairs, tables, toys, etc. Teacher will lead the children.

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

**Let's sing our song of the week.**

**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.  
**P**lease **F**OL-low **M**E right **N**OW.

**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.**

**We want 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.**

# 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.**

**What did tax collectors take from people, money or monkeys? (Money.)  
Jesus told Matthew, "Come, follow me." Did Matthew climb a tree or did he follow Jesus? (Followed Jesus.) Other people were mad that Jesus was friends with the tax collectors. Did that change Jesus' mind that he should love everyone? (No.) He still loved them. Jesus asks us to follow him today. Can we follow Jesus today? (Yes.) We can do that by sharing his love with others.**

## 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.  
We want 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 *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.  
Please **F**OL-low **M**E right **N**OW.

## Take Home Point:

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

*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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