



Date: _____
Series: Bonus Lesson
Winter Year 4, Lesson 33

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Take Home Point: *Follow Jesus.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 1:35-51

Key Verse: John 1:43b, "Jesus...told him, 'Follow me!'"

We will help kids know:

- Jesus invited his disciples to follow him.
- Jesus invites us to follow him.
- Our response is to invite others to "come and see" that Jesus is the Promised One.




We will help kids feel:

- Joy that they are called to be followers of Jesus.
- Excitement that Jesus leads them into their future.

We will help kids do:

- Play interactive games with shoes as they discuss how Jesus could lead them.
- Make a group craft demonstrating how we are all called to be followers of Jesus.
- Watch the video of the Bible event.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes) 	3	Kids discuss places their shoes have been and where they may want to go.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group (20-30 minutes) 	4 8 10 10	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy’s Lucky Socks”—Gordy has a lucky pair of socks he believes helps him win his basketball games. He wants to follow Jesus but would rather Jesus follow him—that would be better than lucky socks. Video: <i>The Gospel of John</i> —John 1:35-51. Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy’s Lucky Socks”—Gordy learns that Jesus wants us to follow him. The closer we watch and follow Jesus, the more we become like him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child-sized pair of tennis shoes • dirty socks placed in the shoes • video, <i>The Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, order from www.visualbible.com (Note: This video clip is a repeat of Lesson 31. Option: Animated Stories From the New Testament: John the Baptist from www.nestfamily.com. chapter 11---Andrew leaves to follow Jesus)
Small Group Application (20-25 minutes) 	4	Five options of games or craft to do to fill the remaining time: Option #1: Orphaned Shoe Option #2: Balloon Stomp Option #3: Shoe Toss Option #4 I Spy Game Option #5: Craft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balloons – one per child • two feet of string for each child • bucket, box or trash can • newsprint • construction paper – two sheets per child • crayons or markers • scissors • glue

Small Group Warm-Up **15 minutes**



Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

This is a bonus lesson that may be used on the Sunday after Christmas, allowing for a fewer number of shepherds and kids present. The following activity can be done with one shepherd supervising a larger number of children, dividing them into groups of three or four to discuss the following questions.

For the following discussion, have kids take off a shoe as each takes a turn sharing the following. *(If this doesn't seem appropriate for your students, they can leave their shoes on their feet.)*

Say:

Each of our shoes has a story to tell. Our shoes have been to a lot of different places. I would like each of you to tell about a favorite place your shoe has gone or likes to go. This place might be a special place to play such as a basketball court, or a place where it has traveled like Disneyland, or, maybe even a place where it likes to sleep—like in your closet.

You have been on a journey with your shoes and I would like you to share that journey with us. I will begin.

Take your shoe off and begin.

This is my shoe and a favorite place my shoe has gone is...

Share your own experience, and then encourage the kids to share in their small groups.

Say:

Now let's imagine where your shoe might want to go in the future. Would it enjoy a special team of other shoes, going to a friend's house, or maybe going back to school after Christmas vacation?

After discussion, say:

Today we are using shoes to talk about whom we follow and where he will lead. The Bible tells us that Jesus calls us to follow him. I wonder where that will lead us.

When we follow Jesus, he does not just lead us to a certain place, but he leads us to become more and more like him. I wonder what our life will be like when we become more and more like Jesus and follow him. Today let's remember to **follow Jesus*.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy’s Lucky Socks”—Gordy has a lucky pair of socks he believes helps him win his basketball games. He wants to follow Jesus but would rather Jesus follow him---that would be better than lucky socks.

Video: *The Gospel of John*—John 1:35-51.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy’s Lucky Socks”—Gordy learns that Jesus wants us to follow him. The closer we watch and follow Jesus, the more we become like him.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation/Interpretation Questions:

When Jesus invited the disciples to come and see where he was staying, what did the disciples do? (*John 1:39. They spent the rest of the day with Jesus.*)

What does this teach us? (*We need to spend time with Jesus to become more like him.*)

Who did Andrew invite to follow Jesus? (*John 1:40-42. Simon Peter.*)

Who did Philip invite to also follow Jesus? (*John 1:45-46. Nathanael.*)

All these men became Jesus’ disciples. How are Andrew and Philip examples for us? (*When we become followers of Jesus, we are to invite others to follow him, too.*)

Since this is a bonus lesson and shepherds might be missing, a variety of games and a craft can be done with one or two people supervising a larger number. Choose what games or craft activity you would like to do.

GAMES

Option #1: Orphaned Shoe

Have each child take off one shoe and place it in a large pile in the middle of the room.

When I say “go,” quickly run and find your shoe, come back to your seat and put it on. The first one to stand with his/her shoe on, wins. Ready, set, go.

Another variation of this game is to put both shoes in the middle. It will take longer to find them.

Teaching point:

Jesus asks us to follow him. Just like all these different shoes, each of us has a different path in life. Though we have many different paths in life, we all can follow Jesus in the path he has given us.

Just like we must put our shoes on before we walk out of the room, we must be ready to follow Jesus wherever he takes us.

Option #2: Balloon Stomp

Supplies: balloons (one per child), two feet of string per child

Give every child a balloon. Have them blow it up and tie a knot. Give each child a two-foot piece of string. Tie one end of the string to the balloon and the other end to one ankle.

When everyone is ready, have all come to the center of the room. Give them boundaries where they must stay.

Instruct:

The object of this game is to pop everyone else’s balloon while protecting yours from getting popped. When I say “go,” try to pop the balloons. You must stay within the boundaries. If your balloon gets popped, you must sit down outside of the play area.

Teaching point:

Jesus asks us to follow him. There are times the devil will want to stomp on us to keep us from following Jesus. But, Jesus gives us the power or the authority over the devil when we follow him. We can stomp on the devil just like we did these balloons.

Option #3: Shoe Toss

This is best played if you have wide, open spaces.

Set up a target, such as a bucket, box or trashcan.

I would like each of you to take your shoe part way off. I have a target set up at the other end of the room. One at a time, each of you will try to toss your shoe with your foot into the target. We will divide into two teams and the team with the most shoes in the target will win.

Divide into two teams. Have kids take their shoes half way off and use their feet to toss the shoes into the target.

Option: Have kids kick shoes off as far as they can go—or the farthest distance.

Appoint one person from each team to count the number of shoes from their team that make it into the target. **Ready, set, go!**

Teaching point:

When we follow Jesus, there is finally a purpose to life. Because Jesus has given his life for us, and we trust him and follow him, someday we will be able to live with him forever in heaven. The shoes flying off of our feet and going way in front of us remind us that Jesus is leading us to a whole new place called heaven—a place that is completely perfect.

Option #4: “I Spy” Game

Have all the kids sit in a circle with their knees bent and feet down and in front of them so everyone’s shoes are showing. The leader will describe a certain shoe and have the kids guess which shoe he/she is describing.

I am looking at all of your shoes very carefully. As I describe a specific shoe, you need to guess which one it is. For example, I might say, “I spy a shoe that is shiny,” or “I spy a red shoe with a buckle.”

After we have we have guessed which shoe it is, the person owning that shoe gets to describe the next shoe for us to guess. Are we ready? I will begin. I spy a shoe that...

Teaching Point:

Just like each of us has our own special shoes, God has a special path for each of us to follow. Because he made each one of us very special and unique, we all have our very own paths to walk. When we are obedient to Jesus, we show our love for him in the way we live.

Option #5: Craft Project

Supplies: two pieces of colored paper per child, scissors, crayons or markers, and glue

Give two pieces of paper to each child. Have kids trace their shoes on the paper and cut them out. Have the kids write on one shoe, “_____ (insert your name) will follow Jesus.”

On the other shoe, they are to write what they will do because they are following Jesus. For example: “I will be more kind, pray more often, help my mom and dad more often, etc.”

When the kids are finished, have them glue their shoes on a large piece of newsprint so it looks like feet walking on a path. Draw a cross at the end of the path so it looks like the shoes are walking towards the cross and following Jesus.

Wrap-Up:

Jesus said to his disciples and to us, “Follow me!” Today we have learned many ways we can follow Jesus, but Jesus also wants us to be like Andrew and Philip. He wants us to invite others to “come and see” that Jesus is the Promised One.

Review the take home point again: ****Follow Jesus!***

Closing Prayer:

In prayer, focus on service being for Jesus not ourselves. Ask God to lead, guide and direct the children, so that they might serve him well.

Invite any child who does not know Jesus as Savior to place their trust in him. Encourage children to come speak with you after class, should they want to have their questions answered.

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Large Group Presentation 20-30 minutes

Gordy's Lucky Socks Puppet Presentation

Supplies: small child-sized pair of sneakers with dirty socks stuffed in them, Gospel of John video

Presenter: Kids, should we call Gordy?

Kids: Gordy... Gordy... Gordy.

Gordy enters and puts his shoes and socks on the ledge.

Presenter: Hi, Gordy. I see you brought your shoes with you today.

Gordy: We were talking about them in Small Group, so I wanted you to see mine first-hand. These are my famous basketball shoes.

Presenter: Ooooo...(holding his nose). What do I smell?

Gordy: That is the smell of victory.

Presenter: I think it's the smell of dirty socks. Picks up a dirty sock. I bet this is what I smell.

Gordy: Put that down!

Presenter: Gladly, That is one DIRTY sock.

Gordy: It's not a dirty sock.

Presenter: It's not?

Gordy: No, it is my lucky sock.

Presenter: Gordy, that sock smells terrible. Why don't you wash it?

Gordy: A person never washes LUCKY socks. When I wear these socks, my team usually wins.

Presenter: I think it is more than the socks that help you win. Gordy, today we are talking about where our shoes take us.

Gordy: These take me to the gym.

Presenter: We are also talking about shoes reminding us that we are to follow Jesus.

Gordy: I am all over that one!

Presenter: You are?

Gordy: Yes. You see, I talked to my shoes and my shoes told me that they would like Jesus to follow them.

Presenter: Where are they going?

Gordy: They are going to play basketball against the toughest team in the league. Just imagine, if Jesus came along then we would have no trouble winning the game and I would be the greatest basketball player in the world!

Presenter: So, you are saying if Jesus followed you, you would win all of your basketball games?

Gordy: That's right.

Presenter: Maybe you wouldn't need your lucky socks any more.

Gordy: Hold it. I don't know if I can go that far.

Presenter: Gordy, today we are not talking about Jesus following you.

Gordy: Doesn't he like basketball?

Presenter: I'm sure he does. He goes with you wherever you go.

Gordy: I know he's always there. I just want him to help my basketball game.

Presenter: But Jesus invites you to **follow him*.

Gordy: Can we still go to the gym?

Presenter: Sure, Gordy. God will still help you, but he really wants you to follow him.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: He wants to help you become more like him. Not in just playing basketball, but in your attitude—to be just like Jesus in all you do.

Gordy: I still don't understand.

Presenter: We will talk about that in a minute, Gordy. I would like you to watch this video about Jesus calling his disciples.

They realized that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised for hundreds of years. He was the one who would rescue his people from their sin and selfishness.

As you go back to watch the video, notice what Jesus said so people would come and follow him. Take your shoes with you as you go.

Video

Show the video, *The Gospel of John* from Visual Bible International. Show the clip of John 1:35-51. (Note: This video clip is a repeat of Lesson 31. Option: Animated Stories From the New Testament: John the Baptist from www.nestfamily.com. Show chapter 11---Andrew leaves to follow Jesus.)

Gordy's Lucky Socks

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: What words did Jesus use to get people to follow him?

Gordy: He didn't say much.

Presenter: But, what did he say?

Gordy: All he said was, "Follow me."

Presenter: That's right. He also told them to come and see that he is God's Son, the Savior of the world.

Gordy: Jesus never did play basketball did he?

Presenter: I don't think they played basketball back then. But he did show his disciples how they could follow him in all that they did.

Gordy: How did they do that?

Presenter: The closer they watched him and did as he did, the more they behaved like Jesus. Gordy you can become more like Jesus. For example, you can become more like Jesus even in the way you play basketball.

Gordy: Will he help me win?

Presenter: I hope *you* will have a winning attitude. He will help you encourage other players and be a good sport.

Gordy: I could use some help in those areas.

Presenter: You know what else? I don't think you will need your lucky socks anymore. You could even wash them.

Gordy: My mom would like that!

Presenter: I think we all would! Today, Gordy, let's think about how Jesus lived. He gave his life for us and even took the punishment for our sins so we could be forgiven and be free to live a life that cares for other people—just like Jesus did. Can you pray that we would all **follow Jesus?*

Gordy: Sure. Dear Jesus, sometimes we get mixed up and we try to get you to follow us. But it is more important that we follow you. Thank you for asking us to come and see how you live. Help us to live like you do in everything we do. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Gordy exits.

Option: the Large Group Presenter can give instructions to all the kids for the games and crafts to be done the rest of the hour.