



THE CHOICE

Lesson 20

BIG IDEA

Following Jesus is a radical commitment that will change your life (and the way you live it) forever.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 16:24-25, Luke 9:57-62 & Luke 14:25-35

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 16:24-25

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.’”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON: SKIT

- Cast: Narrator #1, Narrator #2, Seeker #1, Seeker #2, Seeker #3, Jesus

CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples, rulers
- White paper plates, two per child
- Markers
- Clear tape (wide shipping tape works best)
- Three inch cardboard circle templates

GAME

- Frisbees from craft (see craft details)
- Signs numbered 1-9
- Signs labeled “Start” and “Finish”
- Extra Frisbees (in-case one gets crushed)

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)





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BIBLE LESSON • "FOLLOWING JESUS" SKIT

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No props are required for this skit. Position the Narrators on the left side of the stage, Jesus in the center, and the Seekers on the right side of the stage.

Narrator #1: Jesus asked his friends...

Narrator #2: ... to listen to his voice...

Narrator #1: ...and to put him first.

Jesus: I am the Good Shepherd. My sheep hear me and listen to my voice. I know them and they know me. I have come that they may have life—life to the fullest! I call them by name, and they follow where I go...

Narrator #1: One day, as Jesus was walking along the road with his disciples, a man who had studied the Bible came up to him.

Seeker #1: Jesus, I'll follow you anywhere!

Jesus: Hmm...foxes have holes and birds have nests, but I don't have a place to rest. I'm a homeless man. Is that the life you want?

Seeker #1: Hmm...I'll have to think about that...

Jesus: If you want to follow me, you must love me more than parents and friends, more than brother and sisters.

Seeker #1: (Excitedly) Love you more than my brothers and sisters? That shouldn't be too tough!

Jesus: You must love me more than your favorite possessions, your home, and even your friends.

Seeker #1: Oh. Well, I'm not too sure about that...

Jesus: You must love me more than life itself. You must carry your cross and follow me. You must say goodbye to all you own and follow where I go.

Seeker #1: (Turn your back to the audience)

Narrator #1: We never hear of that person again.

Narrator #2: Following Jesus isn't easy...

Narrator #1: It's not always comfortable...

Narrator #2: ...or popular...

Narrator #1: ...and it's not always fun...

Narrator #2: ...but it's always worth it.

Narrator #1: Then Jesus turned to another person...

Jesus: (Turn to Seeker #2) Follow me.

Seeker #2: Well, yes...you see...the thing is...first let me go and bury my father. Let me take care of some other things first and then I'll come later...

Jesus: There will always be things to do. Follow me now. Let those who are spiritually dead



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take care of their own.

Seeker #2: Hmm...I'll have to think about that...

Jesus: I've got a special job for you, if you are willing to do it—tell others about my kingdom. Only those who are spiritually alive can do that.

Seeker #2: I see....

Jesus: So, what do you say? Which kind of life do you choose?

Seeker #2: (Turn your back to the audience)

Narrator #2: We never hear of that person again, either.

Narrator #1: Then, another person came up to Jesus.

Seeker #3: I'll follow you, Lord...but first I want to go and say goodbye to everyone at home.

Jesus: (Sighing) If you want to be with me you need to be ready to go. Don't turn around! Don't look back!

Seeker #3: What do you mean?

Jesus: If you're riding a bike and looking back over your shoulder all the time, you're going to crash. New life with me lies before you, not behind you or in your old way of thinking.

Seeker #3: (Turn your back to the audience)

Narrator #1: Once, Jesus told some stories about what it means to follow him.

Jesus: You'd never start building a super tall building without finding out if you are able to pay for it, right?

Narrators: (Together) Right!

Jesus: Otherwise you would get half way done and run out of money and everyone would laugh at you.

Narrators: (Together) Right!

Jesus: Or if there's a war, you don't go into battle without first figuring out if you have enough soldiers to win, right?

Narrators: (Together) Right!

Jesus: Otherwise you might lose, right?

Narrators: (Together) Right!

Jesus: And so it is with me. Before you say "yes" to me, you need to decide if you are willing to stick with me all the way to the end.

Narrators: (Together) Right!

Narrator #1: If you won't live for Jesus,

Narrator #2: Don't pretend to be his follower.

Narrator #1: Either Jesus is first in your life—

Narrator #2: --Or he's last.



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Narrator #1: There's no in-between.

Jesus: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it"

Narrator #2: Which road will you choose?

Narrator #1: Which path will you walk?

Seeker #1: (Turn back and face the audience) The narrow,

Seeker #2: (Turn back and face the audience) ...or the wide?

Seeker #3: (Turn back and face the audience) The one that leads to life,

Narrator #1: ...or the one that leads to death?

Narrator #2: The one that leads to Jesus,

Narrator #1: ...or the one that goes away from him?

Jesus: The choice is up to you...

(Silently exit the stage)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name some toys or possessions you have that you really, really like.
2. Name some activities that you really, really like.
3. Name some people that you really, really like.
4. Do you like these things more than you love Jesus?
5. What kinds of things would be hard to give up if Jesus asked you to?
6. If he suddenly appeared here with us and said, "Follow me," would you do it?
7. Why is it dangerous to look back?
8. If anyone wants to know more about following Jesus or how to make that decision, please come talk to any of the adults on our team. We'd love to tell you more.

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- Tell the this principle of following Jesus as a simple story or read it from a children's bible.
- Ask 2-3 of the easier discussion questions.



THE CHOICE

CRAFT

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: PAPER PLATE FRISBEE

Decorate and fly a fun Frisbee!

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

- Trace around the 3 inch circle template in the middle of two plates
- Cut the circle out of the middle of each plate
- Decorate the bottom of each plate
- Put the plates together with the decorated side facing out
- Tape the plates together around the outside edge
- Fly

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- White paper plates, two per child
- Markers
- Clear tape (wide shipping tape works best)
- 3" cardboard circle templates

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Pre-cut holes in center of plates
- Pre-tape or glue plates together



THE CHOICE

GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: FRISBEE GOLF

A fun and interactive game for kids and teams to get to know one another's names.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Frisbees from craft (see craft details)
- Signs numbered 1-9
- Signs labeled "Start" and "Finish"
- Extra Frisbees (in case one gets crushed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Tape numbered signs in 9 different locations in the play area (ie. tree, wall, pole, etc)
- Line up at a starting place and take turns throwing your Frisbee to the first object. Count how many throws it takes to hit the object.
- After successfully hitting object #1, throw toward object #2.
- Continue in this manner until course has been completed.
- Options: For older kids make a goal of 3 throws or less between each object
- For large groups consider making two courses, an easy one and a harder one.



SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

- *Divide the kids into small groups to play simple Frisbee toss.*
- *Mark off a large circle with masking tape or rope and let the kids practice tossing their Frisbees into the circle.*

