



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 54

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Believe in Jesus and follow Him.

Bible Character(s): Jesus

Scripture Reference: John 1:35-51



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read John 1:35-51 and Luke 5:1-11. As you read, notice the way the disciples put their beliefs into action by leaving behind the life they knew to follow Christ. Are you open to hearing God speak in your life? Are you listening? Are you willing to leave the life you know? Is God calling you to do something different? Each disciple chose to leave behind the plans he had for his life and follow Christ's plan instead. As you read John 1:35-36, notice how John's disciples left John to follow Jesus. As we seek to disciple our campers, keep in mind that our desire is to point them to Jesus. We want them to see their sin and realize that Jesus is their only hope. We do not want to create disciples for ourselves; we want to prepare our campers to recognize, believe in and follow Christ.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Follow

What does it mean to follow someone? Have the camper's list different ways you can follow people. (Physically follow people to a different place by walking or running, follow someone's actions, follow someone's directions or commands, etc.) Would you follow someone who you didn't believe in? Would you follow someone that you did not trust? Who would you follow?

Find the Leader

Have all of the campers get in a circle, with one camper in the middle. The camper in the middle must close his or her eyes while the camp counselor chooses a leader. The leader will guide the rest of the campers in what to do (raise their hands, touch their toes, jump on one foot, etc.) without speaking.

This only works if the movements are clear, not too fast, and the group follows what the leader does. The camper in the middle opens his or her eyes, and tries to figure out who the leader is. When he or she figures it out, the game is over and the leader can then go in the middle.

Follow-the-Leader to Big Group

On the way to and from Big Group, play follow-the-leader. Have a camper lead the cabin and the other campers must copy the leader's actions.

BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will discuss what it means to lay aside our plans and follow Jesus. We will talk about believing in who Jesus is and choosing to follow Him. As we choose to follow Him, we need to surrender our life and our plans for ourselves.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What was the staff member playing on his phone doing? (Playing the game, trying to become the champion, only caring about his/her own plan.) What did he learn?

Last week, what did we learn about? Who tempted Jesus in the desert? (Satan did.) Jesus was God, but He came to earth in the form of a man and so He could feel everything we feel, and be tempted just as we are. Jesus was at a weak point because He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, but He fought Satan's temptations off and did not give into sin. Do you remember what Jesus used to fight Satan? (Jesus used Scripture to fight Satan.) He gave us an example of how we can fight any temptations that Satan puts in front of us. The Bible tells us to hide God's Word in our heart so we will not sin against Him.

On the way to Big Group, we played "Follow the Leader." You trusted the person leading you. You knew that they knew where to go, and you copied the way they acted. You followed them. Today we are going to read from the book of John and talk about men who followed Jesus.

Names of God Bingo



The purpose is to see how many different names of God are used in the text and how these

different names help us to believe and follow Jesus.

Supplies:

Bingo cards (15-20 per bin depending on cabin capacity)

Bag of Bingo chips (1 bag per bin)

Prize (1 per session)

Give each camper a bingo card and a handful of Bingo markers. As you continue with the lesson and read through the text below, tell the campers to listen for the names of God. Each time they hear a name of God, they can place a marker on that name on their card. The first camper with three across or four down ("Bingo!") wins a prize. The names are underlined in the lesson to help you note when they're mentioned.

Tie It Together

 How many names do you have? Do you have nicknames? We will see that Jesus is called many different things in today's scripture verses. All of these names describe who Jesus is. By looking at these names we see how amazing Jesus is. We see that He is our Savior. When you know Jesus is your Savior, you can believe in Him and follow Him. As we read, listen for the names of God. When you hear a name, put a marker (chip, coin, scrap of paper, etc) over that name on your card. The first camper with three across or four down ("Bingo!") will win a prize.

Let's begin in reading the Bible in John 1 [NLT]. Teachers – all of the names of Jesus are underlined.

John 1:35-36

35 The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. 36 As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!"

Does anyone know what a disciple is? (Allow responses.) A disciple is a person who follows and learns from someone else. (You may want to write this on the board and/or go over it a couple times.) As John preached to prepare the way for Jesus, there were people who wanted to learn more from John. They followed John so that they could learn from him about Jesus. Who do you learn from? (Parents, teachers, counselors, coaches, aunts and uncles, grandparents.) Let's continue to read the Bible and see how John's disciples reacted to seeing the Lamb of God.

John 1:37-39

37 When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

38 Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them.

They replied, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

39 "Come and see," he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

What did John's disciples do? (Allow responses.) They followed Jesus. They knew that Jesus was greater than John. John did a great job preparing them to know Jesus! After they saw Jesus and

followed Him, they spent time with Him. They wanted to know Him and learn from Him. Maybe they had somewhere else to be that day, but they knew it was important to follow Jesus. We have the same opportunity to follow Jesus that these disciples did. What does it mean to follow Jesus? (Allow responses.)

Following the Right Path



The purpose is to show the campers what it means to be a disciple and believe and follow Jesus.

Supplies:

Worksheet - "Choose a Path" side (1 per camper)

Write the below definitions on the board and read through each out loud (or have a camper read them). Have campers complete the maze as you talk them through these definitions. Campers will use the back of this sheet later in the lesson.

Believe: to be confident about and accept something as true

Follow: to accept guidance of a leader

Disciple: a person who follows and learns from someone else

Tie It Together



If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, you are His disciple or follower. He has a plan for your life and He wants you to follow His plan. To know Jesus better, we need to spend time with Him, learn about Him and pray to Him. The disciples wanted to follow Jesus so that they could learn from Him and spend time with Him. We can choose to follow Jesus each day as we make decisions about how we act. In your maze, you might have come to a dead end and needed to turn around to go a different way. Sometimes you try to do things your own way; you hit a dead end, and you have to spend time praying and asking God what His plan is for you. You might have to stop doing what you want to do and start doing what God wants you to do. The great thing is that God's plan is always the best for you!

Let's look at how one man from the Bible believed and followed Jesus in verses 40-42.

John 1:40-42a

40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. 41 Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ").

42 Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus.

Share Good News game



The purpose is to help the campers understand what it means to follow Jesus and share the Gospel with others.

Have all of the campers close their eyes. Choose one camper to make a special sign with their hands (i.e. Lord sign, Jesus sign, God sign, or any hand sign, like thumbs up, etc). Tell all of the campers to open their eyes and walk around the room. The student giving the signs can go up to each camper and show him/her the special sign, then that camper can also make the sign and follow the leader until everyone knows the sign and gets the “good news.” Take turns having different campers leading and using different signs.

Tie It Together

 After Andrew followed Jesus and spent time with Him, what was the first thing he did? (He found his brother and told him that he had found the Messiah.) Andrew believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He knew Jesus had come to save them. He was so excited by this that he immediately told his brother about Jesus. He believed and acted on his belief by telling his brother about Jesus. Do you get excited about what Jesus has done for you? Have you told others about Jesus? How can you share the good news of Jesus with your friends? (Allow responses.)

Let's see what happens when Andrew's brother, Simon, meets Jesus.

John 1:42b

Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).

Why do you think Jesus would change Simon's name? (Allow responses.)

Name Change – Life Change



The purpose is to see that Jesus changed Peter's name to show Peter who he would become, by God's grace, after Jesus died for his sins. We will see that Jesus was calling Peter to be who God had created Him to be.

Supplies:

Worksheet – nameplate side (1 per camper)

Markers

Have your campers decoratively write their names on the nameplates. **Jesus chose to give Peter his name because it meant “the rock.” Eventually Peter became like a rock in His faith. He would be willing to die for Jesus.** Have the campers draw a picture of a symbol that shows what they would like for God to call them. This could be a heart for loving, a bright colored flower for joyful, a rock for strong, peace sign for peaceful, cross for faithfulness, watch or clock for patience, or a smiley face for kindness. Have them fold along the dotted line to create a “table tent” so they can put the nameplate on their desks or dressers at home.

Tie It Together

 Peter believed in Jesus and chose to follow Him. Jesus changed Peter's name because He knew that God would change Peter's heart and life as he continued to follow Jesus. Jesus knew that God would change Peter into a "rock," or someone who strongly trusted in Jesus. Jesus can change our hearts as well. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and follow Him, He changes your heart and makes you into a new person. The way we act should show others that Jesus has changed us into his disciples.

Let's continue reading the Bible.

John 1:43-46

43 *The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me."*
44 *Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown.*

45 *Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth."*

46 *"Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"*

"Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

Philip chose to follow Jesus. He also believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He immediately went and told Nathanael. Nathanael did not believe who Jesus was when Philip told him this. He doubted Philip's words.

John 1:47-49

47 *As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity."*

48 *"How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked.*

Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you."

49 *Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!"*

Jesus looked at Nathanael and knew who he was. Jesus knows us as well. He created us. When Nathanael met Jesus and heard His words, he knew Jesus was the Son of God. He believed and followed Jesus even though he doubted who Jesus was before.

John 1:50-51

50 *Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this."* 51 *Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth."*

Jesus promised Philip and Nathanael that they would see even greater things than Jesus knowing who they were. This promise applies to us as well. We will see Jesus do great things in our lives and the lives of others as we believe and follow Him.

Wrapping Up

This week I want all of you to think about what it means to be called to be a follower of Jesus. Try to remember that the disciples we learned about today set an example for us when they gave up their plans to follow Jesus. It's okay for us to have plans, but we always want our plans to be in line with Jesus' plan for our lives.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for giving us Jesus as a leader we can follow. Ask God to help us learn how to be His disciples and follow His plan for our lives. Thank Him that we can trust that His plan for each of us is perfect.



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