

Family Lesson 54

Principle: We must repent of sin. God was pleased with Jesus. Jesus came to save.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and John the Baptist

Scripture Reference: Luke 3:1-18, Matthew 3:1-17

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Last week, we learned about Jesus being tempted. Who tempted Jesus in the desert? (Satan did.) Jesus was God, but he came to earth in the form of a man 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.

This week, we are going to learn about Jesus' disciples. Let's begin reading the Bible in John 1 [NLT].

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. As John preaches to prepare the way for Jesus, there are people who want to learn more from John. They follow John so that they can 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 react to seeing Jesus.

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 do John's disciples do? (Allow responses.) They follow Jesus. They know that Jesus is greater than John. John does a great job preparing them to know Jesus! After they see Jesus and follow him, they spend time with him. They want to know him and learn from him. Maybe they have somewhere else to be that day, but they know it is 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.)

Let's look at how one man from the Bible believes and follows 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.

After Andrew follows Jesus and spends time with him, what is the first thing he does? (He finds his brother and tells him that he has found the Messiah.) **Andrew believes that Jesus is the Son of God. He knows Jesus has come to save them. He is so excited by this that he immediately tells his brother about Jesus. He believes and acts 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 changes Simon’s name? (Allow responses.)

Peter believes in Jesus and chooses to follow him. Jesus changes Peter’s name because he knows that God will change Peter’s heart and life as he continues to follow Jesus. Jesus knows that God will change Peter into a “rock,” or someone who strongly trusts 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 chooses to follow Jesus. He also believes that Jesus is the Son of God. He immediately goes and tells Nathanael. Nathanael does not believe who Jesus is when Philip tells him this. He doubts 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 looks at Nathanael and knows who he is. Jesus knows us as well. He created us. When Nathanael meets Jesus and hears his words, he knows Jesus is the Son of God. He believes and follows 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 promises Philip and Nathanael that they will see even greater things than Jesus knowing who they are. 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.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close the lesson. Thank God for his love and mercy, even though we do not deserve it.

Activity

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" (available on [Kids Resource Page](#))

Discuss the definitions below with your child. Have your child complete the maze as you talk them through these definitions.

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 want to follow Jesus so that they can 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!

