

## BIBLE WORDS

“Come and follow me,  
Jesus said.”

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

The Twelve

## THE GOSPELS

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## BOTTOM LINE

**YOU CAN FOLLOW JESUS.**

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## BASIC TRUTH

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY  
FRIEND FOREVER.**

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## STORY TIME

*Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Preschool Bible, butcher paper, and markers

**LEADER:** “Hello, friends. Join me over here on the floor. I'm so glad to see you today. Today's TRUE story from the Bible is about Jesus (*draw a stick figure man*) and His 12 special friends. They were the disciples.

“Peter and Andrew were brothers. (*Draw two stick figure men.*) And so were James and John. (*Draw two more stick figure men.*) And all four of these guys were fishermen! (*Draw fishing rods or nets with fish.*)

“Matthew used to be a tax collector. (*Draw a stick figure man holding a bag with a dollar sign on it.*) And Judas was in charge of the group's money. (*Draw a stick figure man and dollar bills under a rock.*)

“Then there was Simon (*draw a stick figure man*) and the younger James. (*Draw a stick figure man.*)

“Jesus' other friends were Phillip (*draw a stick figure man*), Bartholomew (*draw a stick figure man*), Thomas (*draw a stick figure man*), and Thaddeus (*draw a stick figure man*).

“Jesus' friends, the disciples, watched Him. They followed Him. And when Jesus went away, the disciples did what Jesus had done. And that's what we can do, too. We can follow Jesus and do what He did! You can follow Jesus. **You can follow Jesus.** We all can follow Jesus.”

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## CRAFT TIME

*Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Follow” Activity Page, washable ink-pad, wet wipes

### WHAT YOU DO:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Retell the story. Encourage children to fill in the path with their fingerprints.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “Today we learned that Jesus had 12 special friends. When Jesus said, ‘Follow me,’ they did it! They became the disciples, and Jesus was their leader. Everywhere Jesus went, the disciples went.

“On your paper you’ll see Jesus walking on a path. Press your finger onto the inkpad and fill in the path. (Pause.) Super duper!

“The disciples watched Him. They followed Him. And when Jesus went away, the disciples did what Jesus did. We can follow Jesus and do what He did, too!

**You can follow Jesus.”**