

BIBLE WORDS

“Come and follow me,
Jesus said.”

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

The Twelve

THE GOSPELS

BOTTOM LINE

YOU CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

BASIC TRUTH

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

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

LEADER: “Hello friends, I’m so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today’s true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) is about 12 special friends.

“These special friends followed Jesus and did what Jesus did. They were called the disciples. Peter and Andrew were brothers. So were James and John. And all four of these guys were fishermen! Matthew used to be a tax collector, and Judas was in charge of the group’s money. There was the other James, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Simon, and Thaddeus.

“The most important thing these 12 friends did was when Jesus said, ‘Follow me,’ they did it! They became the disciples, and Jesus was their leader. Everywhere Jesus went, the disciples went. They saw Jesus do so many amazing things! They saw Him make sick people better. They saw Him feed people who were hungry. They saw Jesus be kind and loving to everyone.

“They 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, too! **You 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: “Jesus,” Activity Page, cardstock, smiley face stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Retell the story. Encourage children to add smiley face stickers all around Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Today we learned about Jesus and His 12 special friends. See Jesus on your paper? Put the smiley face stickers all around Him.

“Jesus’ friends were Peter, Andrew, James, John, the other James, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon. They were the disciples.

“They followed Jesus and saw Him do so many amazing things! They saw Him make sick people better. They saw Him feed people who were hungry. They saw Jesus be kind and loving to everyone.

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