

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 and “Story Pictures” Activity Pages

LEADER: “Hello, friends! I’m so glad you are here today. Come sit with me. Today’s TRUE story from the Bible is about Jesus and His friends, the disciples.

“This is Jesus. (*Hold up Jesus.*) He made sick people better. He fed people who were hungry, and He was kind and loving to everyone.

“Jesus had 12 special friends. (*Hold up fishermen.*) Peter and Andrew were brothers. (*Point.*) And so were James and John. (*Point.*) And all four of these guys were fishermen!

“Then there was (*hold up Matthew and Judas*) Matthew, who used to be a tax collector.

(*Point.*) And here’s Judas (*point*), who was in charge of the group’s money.

“This is Simon. (*Point.*) And this James (*point*) was younger than the other James!

“Then there were the rest of the friends (*hold up last picture*): Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, and Thaddeus.

“They watched Jesus. They followed Him. And, when Jesus went away, the disciples did what Jesus had done. And that’s what you can do, too. **You can follow Jesus.**”

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.**

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” and “Disciples” Activity Pages, glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Retell the story. Encourage children to glue Jesus next to His friends.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Today we learned about Jesus and His 12 special friends! These friends followed Jesus and did what He did. They were called the disciples.

“On your paper is a picture of the disciples. Here’s Peter, Andrew, James, John, the other James, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon. Everywhere Jesus went, the disciples went. Let’s glue Jesus next to His friends. *(Pause.)* Nice job! The disciples 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.

“When Jesus went away, the disciples did what Jesus did. And that’s what we can do, too. We can follow Jesus and do what He did! **You can follow Jesus.**”