



Disciple

PREPARE



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

TALK TOGETHER

IN THE GAME FOLLOW THE LEADER, DO YOU LIKE TO BE THE LEADER OR A FOLLOWER? WHICH DO YOU THINK IS EASIER?

Games like Follow the Leader have been around for a long time. There is a lot about these games that reminds us of real life. **Leading** and **following** are natural actions everyone does in different situations. Think about what it means to set an example. When I read my Bible and pray with you, I am **leading** you in the ways of the Lord. When you clean up your room without being asked, you are **leading** your younger siblings (or friends) in the ways of the Lord.

But **leading** and **following** are not only natural actions, they are spiritual ones too. Jesus is the greatest, most important leader the world has ever known. When He started His ministry in Galilee, He called 12 men to leave their homes, their jobs and their families to **follow** Him. Do you know what those men were called? Yes, they were called **disciples**. **Let's read about the first disciples of Jesus in Matthew 4:18-20.**



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



WHILE WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, HE SAW TWO BROTHERS, SIMON (WHO IS CALLED PETER) AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER, CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA, FOR THEY WERE FISHERMEN. AND HE SAID TO THEM, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN." IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.

(MATTHEW 4:18-20)

Here are three things we should pay attention to in this story.

- 1. THE FIRST DISCIPLES WERE BROTHERS.** This reminds me that we can **follow** Jesus and learn His ways together as a family — just like we're doing right now!
- 2. WHEN JESUS CALLS US, HE SPEAKS TO US IN WORDS WE CAN UNDERSTAND.** Jesus explained to Peter and Andrew the spiritual action of **following** Him by talking to them about fishing — the very thing they did every day.
- 3. WE SHOULD FOLLOW JESUS IMMEDIATELY.** Peter and Andrew left everything they knew to follow Jesus, and they obeyed Him right away.

Being Jesus' disciple is more than just a game of Follow the Leader. It involves obedience, sacrifice and change. Sometimes it's hard work! But God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us. He also places godly men and women in our lives to teach us more about Him and show us how to live. We don't have to follow Jesus alone!



GOD'S BIG STORY



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW

This week's story comes from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the first of four books known as the Gospels. The author of this book is likely Matthew, the tax collector who became a follower of Jesus. The book of Matthew gives readers a perspective on the life of Jesus and confirms He is the Messiah.

OT-NT CONNECTION

There are several examples of discipleship in the Old Testament. Consider the stories of Moses and Joshua (Exodus), Eli and Samuel (1 Samuel 3) and Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 19). How did God use these men to tell others about Him?

SHOULDN'T I STOP SINNING BEFORE I FOLLOW JESUS?

Everyone on Earth is a sinner (Romans 3:10, 23), even disciples of Jesus. God calls us to come as we are to accept His free gift of grace. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve it.

When we choose to trust in Jesus, it is only through His power that we are made clean from our sins (Hebrews 9:14) and only through the Holy Spirit that we can fight the temptation to sin (1 Corinthians 10:13, Galatians 5:16-17).

You can't stop sinning before you choose to follow Jesus, so put your trust in Him today!

READ



The Gospel writers include several accounts of Jesus calling His disciples to follow Him.

- Matthew 4:18-22
- Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17, 3:13-21
- Luke 5:1-11, 27-32, 6:12-16
- John 1:35-42, 1:43-51

Take some time to read through these stories.

- What do you notice about how Jesus calls the different disciples?
- How does each disciple respond?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS "CALLS" US?

When Jesus calls someone to follow Him, most people don't hear a voice like the first disciples did. God may use the words of Scripture or the witness of a friend to "call" someone to faith in Him. No matter how God calls us, we all have to make a decision when He does.

Without Jesus, we are stuck in the darkness of our sin. God calls us out of darkness and into His light when He makes the plan of salvation through Jesus clear to us. Faith in Jesus is the only way for us to have a relationship with God and follow Him.

JOURNAL



Write a quick story or script patterned after Matthew 4:18-20. Write your story as if YOU were the disciple Jesus called. (It doesn't have to be long! Matthew only uses 53 words!)

♥ MEMORIZE

**AND HE SAID
TO THEM,
"FOLLOW
ME, AND I
WILL MAKE
YOU FISHERS
OF MEN."**

(MATTHEW 4:19)

Q: WHO IS A DISCIPLE?

A: SOMEONE WHO FOLLOWS JESUS AND HIS WAYS.

CREATE



For a long time, Christianity has been represented by the symbol of a fish. Encourage your child to paint, draw, sculpt or even create a mosaic to remind your family of Jesus' desire to make us "fishers of men."

SHARE



Talk to your kids about your experience being a disciple of Jesus.

- How do you follow Him and His ways in your daily life?
- What do you do or not do?
- Who has He placed in your life as a godly example?

WATCH



Help your child learn their verse by watching this week's Memory Melody video!

PRAY



THANK YOU FOR CALLING ME TO BE YOUR DISCIPLE. HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU AND YOUR WAYS, TO LISTEN AND OBEY AND TO TRUST YOU WITH MY LIFE. I LOVE YOU! AMEN.

FIND



This week's verse is in the book of Matthew. Help your child find the book of Matthew. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

PLAY



Play a game of Follow the Leader. Explain how important it is to not only follow people who are following Jesus but also to lead people in the ways of Jesus, yourself. Read the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 and discuss them as a family.

COMPARE



Social media, entertainment, relationships and pop culture can influence who or what we follow. Take some time to talk through some of the messages your kids hear from these sources, and compare and contrast them with the truth of God's Word.

- Do these people, ideas or messages line up with the message of Jesus?
- Do they help or hinder you from following Jesus?
- What negative influences can be replaced by positive ones? What are they?

SING



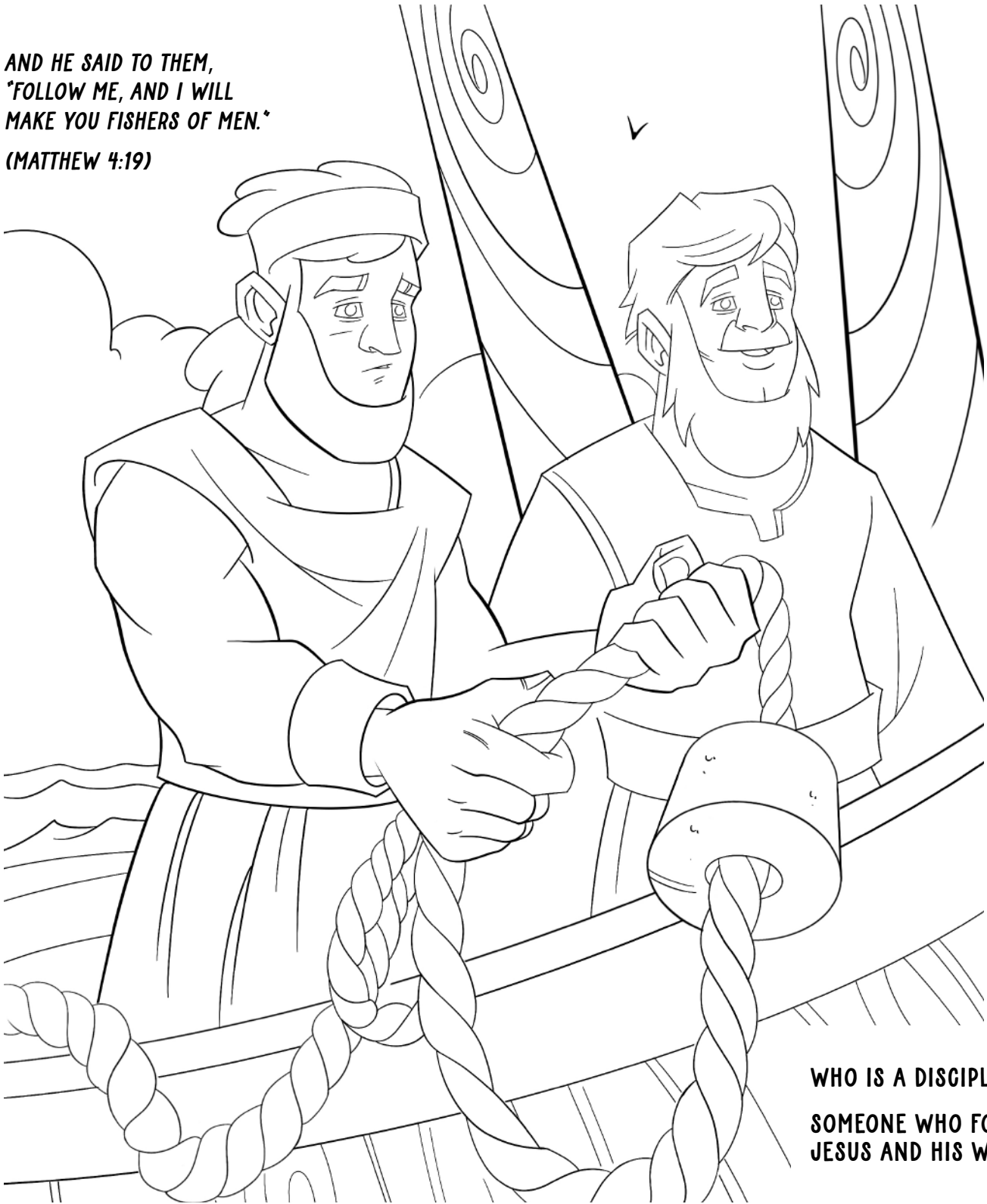
Listen to this playlist throughout the series to praise God for spreading His Word.

**SCAN HERE TO LISTEN
WHEREVER YOU ARE!**



**AND HE SAID TO THEM,
"FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL
MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."**

(MATTHEW 4:19)



**WHO IS A DISCIPLE?
SOMEONE WHO FOLLOWS
JESUS AND HIS WAYS.**

NAME: _____