

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26, 2023



Looking for LIKES



TALK TOGETHER

HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED SIMON SAYS?

Are you good at it? You have to listen carefully and follow and do exactly what "Simon" says to do.

Life can be a little like that. Whether it's on a screen or in real life, everywhere we look, people want us to follow them. Friends, family, TV, movies and social media bombard us with pictures and words telling us what they do, what they eat, what they wear and what they believe.

We are told we need to follow their example and be like them. But God has a better plan for us. He wants us to follow Jesus above anyone else.

Let's read Jesus' own words that tell us what following Him will do for us. **Can you help me find John 8, verse 12? The book of John is in the New Testament.**



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.



AGAIN JESUS SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.*

JOHN 8:12



Have you ever tried to walk around the house in the middle of the night with no light? What happened? In the dark it can be hard to see the right way to go.

The Bible compares sin to darkness. Remember that sin is anything that we think, say or do that disobeys God. When we follow Jesus, He is light in a dark and sin-filled world. He shows us how we should treat people, who we should spend our time with and how to have a relationship with God.

Throughout the New Testament, when the people around Jesus didn't approve of Him and hated what He said and did, Jesus showed great patience, mercy and love. When the religious leaders of the day were angry and full of judgment, Jesus chose to forgive. It was in the darkest of moments in people's lives that Jesus chose to shine His light. He showed people that following Him was safe and the best choice they could make.

Following Jesus is different than following anyone else. When we follow Jesus we make choices based on God's truth. We choose to obey God and don't let other people's opinions change our mind or influence our decisions.



You cannot be a half-hearted follower of Jesus. You either believe Him or you don't. You either trust Him to be all He has said He is or you don't. You either live your life for Him or for yourself.

You make a choice every day. Who will you choose to influence your decisions and attitudes? **Who will you choose to follow today?**



GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



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

REDEMPTION



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

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

JOHN

Today's story comes from the book of John. The Gospel of John is in the New Testament and is a record of Jesus' life on Earth from birth to death and resurrection. John was one of Jesus' 12 disciples, and his book was written so people would believe that Jesus is the Son of God and through believing would have eternal life.

OT-NT CONNECTION

Following God has been something God commanded of His people throughout the Bible. For example, in the book of Deuteronomy Moses warned the Israelites to stay true to following God and not be influenced by the world around them. Look up **Deuteronomy 13:1-4** to learn more.

- What are two things listed in verse 4 we can do to follow God?
- How should we respond to people who encourage us away from the one true God? (hint: verse 3)

KNOW WHO YOU FOLLOW

The more time you spend following someone on social media, the more you are influenced by that person. If God wants us to follow Jesus above anyone else, we need to spend time getting to know Who He is. How can you set up a routine in your life to get to know Jesus better this week? The more time we spend getting to know about Jesus from God's Word, the more we will be influenced by Him.

MAKE A PLAN

We need to depend on each other when it comes to following Jesus with our screen time and social media. What boundaries does your family have set in place? How can your family set screen-free zones and weekly screen-free time? Talk with your parents and siblings and come up with a plan together.

JOURNAL

Make a list of shows and/or people you follow on social media or in real life. Why do you follow the shows and people you do? Do you notice yourself talking or acting like someone you follow or watch? Write a short prayer and ask God to help you follow Jesus above anyone else.

READ



Take another look at John 8. As you read through John 8:1-12, notice how Jesus treated the woman and showed her kindness and forgiveness. What does that tell you about Jesus and how does that help you want to follow Him?

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

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♥ MEMORIZE

AGAIN JESUS SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

JOHN 8:12

Q: WHO SHOULD I FOLLOW?

A: JESUS, THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

FIND

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

SHARE

Tell your child about a time when you had to make the decision to follow Jesus instead of the people or world around you.

WATCH



Watch this week's Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

PRAY

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW. THANK YOU FOR SAFELY LEADING US TO BE MORE LIKE YOU. HELP US TO CHOOSE TO FOLLOW YOU EVERY DAY. AMEN.

TAG

Play tag with your children at night. Instead of physically touching someone to tag them out, the person who is "It" will tag people with the beam of a flashlight while calling that person's name. When finished, ask them to share one way they can follow Jesus, the light of the world, this week.

FOLLOW

Have your child set up an obstacle course in your home. Next, with your eyes closed, let your child guide you through the course using only the sound of their voice. Then, remind your child that Jesus is the light we can safely follow in a dark and sin-filled world.

DRAW

Have each person in your family draw a picture of one way they can follow Jesus this week in their attitudes or words or actions. Put the pictures on the refrigerator so everyone can be reminded to choose to follow Jesus.

SING



Listen to this playlist throughout the series as you learn to follow Jesus more closely.

SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!



COLORING PAGE

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**WHO SHOULD I FOLLOW?
JESUS, THE LIGHT OF LIFE.**

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SAYING, 'I AM THE LIGHT OF THE
WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME
WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT
WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.'*

(JOHN 8:12)



NAME: _____