

Midweek PreK/Kinder Story and Activities – Week 3

Bible Story Focus: Everyone can follow Jesus.

Matthew (Tax Collector) • *Matthew 9:9-12*

Memory Verse: “Come and follow me,’ Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19, Nlrv

Key Question: Who can you follow?

Bottom Line: I can follow Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: BIBLE

Parent: “Today I want to tell you all about one of Jesus’ special friends! His name was Matthew. What was his name?”

Children: “Matthew!”

Parent: “Yes, Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector. *That* means his job was to collect money for the town from everyone. But the problem was that tax collectors took more than they were supposed to which meant that nobody wanted to be their friend.

“One day, someone SUPER important came to town. Can you guys guess who it was? (*Pause.*) Yes. It was Jesus, God’s Son. The most important leader ever had come to town! Can you guess who Jesus talked to? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus talked to Matthew. He walked right up to Matthew and said, ‘Follow me!’ Do you think Matthew followed Him?”

“Of course! Matthew got up and followed Him because Jesus is the most special leader. The people who saw Jesus talk to Matthew were confused. Show me your confused face. (*Pause.*) They didn’t know why Jesus wanted to be friends with a tax collector. But everyone can follow Jesus and be His friend.

“Later, Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, and everyone was invited. Jesus came to serve everyone because Jesus came so that EVERYONE can follow Him! Jesus came for ALL the people. Everyone can follow Jesus. So, **who can you follow?**”

Child & parent together: “I can follow Jesus.”

PRAYER

LEADER: “Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us. Thank You for showing us that everyone can follow Jesus! We love You so much. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

ACTIVITY 1: Followers of Jesus

What You Need: A blank piece of paper, a marker, and crayons.

What You Do:

1. Sit at a table with your child. Place the blank paper on the table.
2. Ask your child to name people in their lives that are leaders.
3. Write down all the people that your child says.
4. Ask your child to use the crayons draw pictures of all the people written down.

What You Can Say:

Wow! look at all of the leaders that are on our list. (Read the list.) Jesus is the most special leader! Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!"

ACTIVITY 2: Footprints

What You Need: Print the "Footprints" Activity Page (on the following page), and markers or paint

What You Do:

1. Place your child's foot on the Activity Page to the left of Jesus.
2. Help your child use a marker to trace or use paint to stamp the child's foot onto the Activity Page to the left of Jesus.

What You Can Say:

We have a picture of you following Jesus! Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!"