



UNIT 19 | SESSION 5

## JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES

JOHN 1

**KEY PASSAGE:**

John 1:29

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

Jesus, the Son of God and true King of Israel, came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. He called disciples to follow Him. We are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. We can invite everyone to come and see the good news about Jesus.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

New Christians may find themselves wondering, Now what? What do I do? To answer these questions, we may talk with those new believers about Bible reading, prayer, community, and mission. Though these are all good and essential things, they alone do not capture Jesus’ initial call to His disciples.

When Jesus first began calling disciples, He used two words: “Follow Me.” He didn’t say “Clean yourself up” or “Work harder.” He said, “Follow Me.”

The call to follow Jesus is a call to our souls to find rest. He invites us to be with Him and enjoy Him. Jesus’ invitation is not to be amazing, to do great things, or even to get to work. Jesus’ initial invitation is to follow Him.

Jesus has most certainly called His followers to go and do good works, but the order in which we heed His calling and instructions is vital to our spiritual health.

It’s easy for us to get caught up in the activity of God, the work of His mission, and the effort we must engage in to grow as He desires for us; however, these are not to be first.

God calls us to come to Him; draw near to Him; and to see a glimpse of His goodness,

beauty, splendor, and grace. And it is only in seeing these realities that we will go and do faithfully. For if we seek to go and do before we come and see, we will find ourselves in a spiral of constant despair, feeling like we are falling short or equally as dangerous, feeling like we must earn our way to God.

Jesus’ call to His disciples to come and see is the same invitation that we have today. Whether we have walked with God for decades or are new to the faith, our greatest need is to draw near to God and experience His glorious grace. It is then that we will see Him for who He truly is, understand ourselves more fully, and then live faithfully for His glory.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Disciple: follower of Jesus. As the messianic proclaimer of the reign of God, Jesus gathered about Himself a special circle of 12 disciples, clearly a symbolic representation of the 12 tribes (Matt. 19:28).**



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “If you were the captain of a sports team, what qualities would you look for in your teammates? Would you want someone who is fast, strong, or tough? Why?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Decipher the Disciples” on the activity page.

**SAY** “When Jesus began His ministry, He chose a group of 12 men to follow Him. Today, we will learn more about the men He chose and how we can follow Him too.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: SURRENDER



Read each of the options below and ask kids which option they would rather give up. Invite kids to take turns sharing their answers and their reasons why.

- Ice cream or candy
- Pizza or tacos
- Movie theaters or TV
- Vacations or parties
- Music or dance
- Dogs or cats as pets

**SAY** “Some of those choices may have been easier than others. But sometimes it can be hard to give up things we love. In today’s Bible story, Jesus told certain men to follow Him. Jesus’ call to follow Him meant they would have to surrender and trust Him above all else. Jesus’ call to follow Him means giving up the ways of the world to follow the ways of His kingdom. Let’s read our Bible story to learn who Jesus called to follow Him.”

#### OPTION 2: UNLIKELY CHOICES

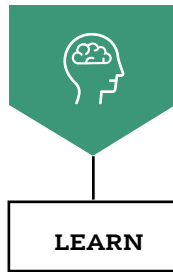
Write the names Joseph, Moses, David, Esther, and Paul on a dry erase board. Form kids into five groups and assign each group one of the names above. Ask the group to discuss how their person was an unlikely choice for the mission God called them to.

Help each group by giving hints or offering a summary of each person’s life. Invite each group to share their reasonings and if they can think of any other people who were unlikely choices in the Bible.

**SAY** “Throughout the Bible, God chose to use people we might not expect or who do not display the world’s standards of ‘greatness.’ Joseph was sold as a slave, yet God used him to save people from a famine. Moses was an unlikely leader for many reasons, including being a murderer, yet God chose him to save a nation. David was young and small, but God chose him to be king. And there are many others who were unlikely choices for God’s purposes, including Jesus’ disciples. Let’s read our story to learn more about the men Jesus chose to follow Him.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Hello, kids! I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name], and I am looking forward to sharing a story from God’s Word with you. If you brought your Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] As we study God’s Word together, we will learn how Jesus called His disciples.

Does anyone know what the word disciple means? [Allow responses.] The word disciple means ‘learner’ or ‘pupil.’ The people Jesus called to follow Him during His earthly ministry are called disciples. The early disciples of Jesus had a first hand account of the life and teachings of Jesus. They were chosen by Jesus to begin the church and share the gospel with all people. We become Jesus’ disciples through hearing the gospel, repenting of sin, and believing in Jesus as our Savior. ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

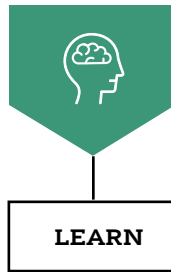
**SAY** “ Let’s see if you all remember the answer to our big picture question. **What did Jesus do to save us?** [Allow responses.] **Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.**

Let’s invite the girls to lead us in asking the big picture question. [Allow girls to ask the question.] **What did Jesus do to save us?** Now, boys, you shout the answer to the big picture question. [Allow boys to shout the answer.] **Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.** ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ Over the past few weeks, we have been learning about the life of Jesus. We learned that God fulfilled His promise to send the Savior when Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. Then we read how Simeon and Anna saw Jesus, the Messiah, with their own eyes and rejoiced that God’s promise had come true. We also learned that Jesus was baptized and was tempted by the devil, but that He never sinned. Jesus trusted God in all things. Today, we will learn how Jesus called men to follow Him and become His disciples. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Called His Disciples.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

### JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES

“ The day after John baptized Jesus, **John saw Jesus coming toward him and he said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”** Jesus was the One John had been talking about—the One who was greater than John, who existed before him. **“This is the Son of God!”** John said.

The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

**John’s disciples heard this and followed Jesus.** Jesus saw them and asked, “What are you looking for?”

**They said, “Teacher, where are you staying?”**

**“Come and see,”** Jesus replied. **So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day.**

**One of the two who followed Jesus was named Andrew. Andrew found his brother Simon and said, “We have found the Messiah!”** Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. **When Jesus saw him, He said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas”** (which is translated “Peter”).

The next day, **Jesus decided to go to Galilee. Jesus found Philip and told him, “Follow Me.”**

Philip was from the same town as Andrew and Peter. **Philip went to Nathanael and said, “We have found the Messiah—the one Moses and the prophets wrote about. He is Jesus,** the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael asked.

Philip answered, “Come and see.”

**When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, He said, “Here is an Israelite who can be trusted.”**

**“How do You know me?”** Nathanael asked.

**Jesus said, “I saw you** when you were under the fig tree, **before Philip told you about Me.”**

**Then Nathanael said, “Teacher, You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel!”**

Christ Connection: Jesus, the Son of God and true King of Israel, came to earth to

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Use voices:** Tell the parts of the Bible story using different voices as you read the different character’s quotes.

**Write the names:** Use a dry erase board to write the names of the disciples as they are mentioned in the story.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

show what God is like and to save people from their sins. He called disciples to follow Him. We are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. We can invite everyone to come and see the good news about Jesus. ”

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ As Jesus began His ministry, He called His disciples to serve and travel alongside of Him. For the next three years, Jesus' disciples would hear His teachings, see miracles, and experience life with the Savior of the world.

What did Jesus invite the two disciples of John the Baptist to do? Look at John 1:38-39. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 1:38-39.]** He invited them to come and see. After John announced Jesus as the Lamb of God, these two men were curious about who Jesus was. Jesus welcomed them and offered them a chance to get to know Him more as the men stayed with Him for the day.

Andrew was one of the two men who followed Jesus and stayed with Him. Who did Andrew bring with him to Jesus? **[Allow responses.]** Andrew brought his brother Simon, who Jesus renamed Peter. Andrew was so excited and told his brother that they had found the Messiah.

Who were the other disciples that began to follow Jesus? **[Allow responses.]** When Jesus was in Galilee, He called Philip to follow Him. And then Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus. Even though Nathanael was not so convinced about following Jesus, what did he say after he met Jesus? **[Allow responses.]** Nathanael called Jesus the Son of God and the King of Israel.

Jesus invites us to become His disciples. And like Andrew and Philip, we can tell others about our great Savior. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Jesus, the Son of God and true King of Israel, came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. He called disciples to follow Him. We are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. We can invite everyone to come and see the good news about Jesus. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 19, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we know if we are following the world's ways or following Jesus?
2. How does Jesus show us what God is like?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the photo of Jonathan Santiago. Remind the kids that Jonathan Santiago is a ministry



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

director for Send Relief in Puerto Rico. Explain that Send Relief has been helping hurricane and earthquake victims by organizing volunteers to repair and rebuild houses and providing needed supplies. Tell kids that Send Relief is currently building a ministry center in Puerto Rico. Explain that when the ministry center is complete, it will have space to house more than 100 volunteers who come from other areas to help the people in Puerto Rico, provide space for the missionaries to use and store needed items, and have a dining hall and event space to seat over 100 people.

**SAY** “ The missionaries think that building the ministry center will help the people of Puerto Rico understand that the missionaries are fully committed to helping the people rebuild their homes, getting them supplies they need, and that they care about the Puerto Rican people. The missionaries want to serve the people of Puerto Rico because they want them to know God’s love for them through His Son, Jesus. ”

Pray that lives will be changed as more Puerto Rican people trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Pray for the work of the ministry center and leaders like Jonathan Santiago as they continue to work in Puerto Rico.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 1:29 together.

**SAY** “ In today’s Bible story, after John announced that Jesus was the Lamb of God, two of John’s disciples followed Jesus. Let’s continue working to remember our key passage and that Jesus is the Lamb who takes away our sin. ”

Form kids into two teams. Give each team a set of index cards and ask them to write two or three words from the key passage on each card. After they have finished writing, gather the cards and shuffle each set. Provide each team with the opposite set of what they wrote. Challenge teams to put the cards in order of the key passage as quickly as they can.

Lead kids to sing “John Saw Jesus (John 1:29).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus as the Savior of the world. Thank You for inviting us to become Your disciples when we trust in You. Help us share the good news with those around us and tell others about the love of Jesus. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

