

Life of Christ

Andrew and Philip Follow Jesus

John 1:35-51

Younger Verse

They followed Jesus. John 1:37 (NASB)

Older Verse

The two disciples heard [John] speak, and they followed Jesus. John 1:37 (NASB)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

When you have exciting news, do you write it down in a book and close it up? Do you whisper it to your pet, hoping no one will hear? What do you do? (Let your students share their thoughts.)

Well, do you remember that we have talked about John, Jesus' cousin? Who remembers why God sent John? He was sent to tell everyone about Jesus to get them ready to accept Him. The Bible tells us that people followed John. They listened to him and learned from him. What is something that you remember from last week that people learned from John. What did he say when he saw Jesus? He said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John said this because Jesus came to die for us and he wanted everyone to know. He did not keep it a secret!

In our Bible story for today, we read that John saw Jesus walking and said again, "Look, the Lamb of God!" We also read that the two men, who were standing with John, heard him say this and followed Jesus. These men did not stand around asking John questions. They did not talk to each other for a long time trying to figure out what John was talking about. They followed Jesus! The Bible does not say so here*, but I bet John was happy that these two men who had followed him, left to follow Jesus. Why? Because that was John's job - to tell people about Jesus so they could follow Him.

One of the men who had followed John and heard him speak, and who then followed Jesus, was named Andrew. Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were fisherman. They spent a lot of time together out on their boat fishing. So, the first thing Andrew wanted to do when he heard who Jesus was and followed Him was to go and tell his brother.

* See Jn 3:22-36, especially verses 29-30.

Lesson Goals

To stress the importance of listening to Biblical teaching and following Jesus, not the messenger.
To stress the importance of seeking others to tell them about Jesus.

Andrew went looking for his brother and found him. Andrew told Simon Peter that he had found the One they had been waiting for. But Andrew did not just tell Simon Peter about Jesus, he also brought his brother to Jesus. Andrew knew there was something special about Jesus and he wanted to share that with his brother!

The Bible also tells us that the very next day, Jesus went to a place called Galilee and found a man named Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And Philip followed. But just like Andrew, Philip wanted to find someone to share the good news with. Philip looked for and found his friend Nathanael. Philip told Nathanael that they had found the One they had been waiting for, the One talked about in the Old Testament. And like Andrew, Philip did not just tell Nathanael about Jesus. He brought him to Jesus so that Nathanael could also know this special man, this Son of God.

How about you? Do you know Jesus? Do you believe that He is the One God sent to save us from our sins? Have you chosen to follow Him? If you have not, talk to me today about how you can. And if you have chosen to follow Jesus, who do you know that you need to look for and find to tell them about the good news of Jesus? Will you bring your brothers and sisters to Jesus, telling them how they can know and follow Him, too? What about your mom and dad, your friends? Who else do you know that needs to know about Jesus? Will you be like John? Will you tell everyone that Jesus is the One God sent to take away our sin and to make a way for us to be with Him forever?

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Play "Balloon Volleyball." Divide your space with a string, strung 2-3 feet above the floor. Then divide students into two equal groups. Have one group sit on the floor on one side of the string, facing the string. Have the other group sit opposite the first group and facing them. Arrange shorter students in the front. Place the balloon volleyball into play by having students share one word of the verse every time the balloon is hit. Points are scored when opponents fail to say the following word in today's verse. Repeat as many times as needed.

Prayer Time

Pray, asking God to make you aware of the people around you and to help you tell them about Jesus.

**Clean Up and
Snack Time**

If you have access to foot shaped lollipops, those would be fun to serve. If not, maybe have goldfish crackers as you talk about Andrew and Simon being fishermen.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 6
A Wedding in Cana
John 2:1-12

Preschool Lesson

Friends of Jesus

We have been talking about a man named John, Jesus' cousin, and the one who baptized Him. We have even talked about how he was telling everyone about Jesus. Some of the people he was telling were his helpers, and because John was teaching them about Jesus, they left John and began following and helping Jesus. Sometimes, if you have a friend who wants another friend, it can be sad and maybe even make you mad. But John wasn't mad; he was happy that his helpers were following Jesus. John was happy because he was a friend of Jesus. John told people about Jesus so that they could follow Jesus, not John.

One of John's helpers who left him to follow Jesus was Andrew. Andrew left John to follow Jesus because John had been a good teacher. John taught Andrew that Jesus was the One to follow. The very first thing Andrew did when he followed Jesus was to go and find his brother. Andrew was a friend of Jesus because he wanted his brother to know about Jesus.

When Philip met Jesus, Jesus said, "Follow me." And he did. Philip was a friend of Jesus, too. Philip had a friend. Philip wanted his friend to know about Jesus. Philip went to look for his friend. Philip told him about Jesus and brought him to meet Jesus.

Let's be friends of Jesus, too. Let's tell our brothers and sisters about Jesus. And let's tell our friends about Jesus, too.

Pray: Thank you, God, for friends. Help me to be a friend of Jesus. Help me to tell my brothers and sisters and friends about Jesus.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today
- Make footprints of each student on construction paper that has already been prepared with today's verse - John 1:37. The footprints can be done with chalk, finger paint, tempera paint, or marker. Footprints can even be done in Plaster of Paris.
- Make sandals from cardboard. Trace around each student's foot. Cut cardboard slightly larger and rounded. Make straps from jute twine (packaging string).
- Play "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says." Do things like marching, giving someone a drink of water, saying nice things to someone.
- Help each student think of at least one person they need to tell about Jesus. Make a card for that person as an opportunity to visit them and talk about Jesus.
- Play "Disciples Tag." This is almost like a regular game of tag except that as the person who is it tags someone, they both continue tagging. As others are tagged, they also help tag others until all are tagged. No one is tagged "out" in this game. Use this as an opportunity to talk about how we don't just tell one person. We are to continue sharing the good news of Jesus.