THE WAY OF JESUS

Memory Verse: **“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19**
Weekly Big Idea: **How can we help others follow the way of Jesus?**
(Answer) Jesus Connection: **We can help others by learning the ways of Jesus ourselves, sharing what we learn, and living the way Jesus lived.**
Bible Story Scripture**: A Call to Follow | John 1:40-43**

SERIES OVERVIEW

Welcome KXP! It is so good to see you all today. We’ve been looking closely at the life of Jesus for many weeks now. Here are some things we’ve learned. The Church is a community of believers who love and follow Jesus. Our communities are special when we gather together to study God’s Word and pray for each other. We can love and serve others just like Jesus did. And we know we can use what God has given us to be generous to others. Let’s always remember that Jesus is our perfect example to follow in every way.

It's time for our memory verse. I bet many of you have memorized it. This is our final time to say it together. ***“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19.*** Remember it’s there hidden in your heart when you need it.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Our last Big Idea Question for this series is this - **How can we help others follow the way of Jesus?** Today we are reading about an exciting time in the lives of Jesus’ disciples. It was the moment Jesus called to Andrew and Simon Peter and said “Follow Me.”

A Call to Follow | John 1:40-43

During the presentation of Scripture, use a physical Bible, when possible, to model exploring God’s Word together.

Let’s jump into the Book of John. Chapter 1 verse 40 says ***“These two men followed Jesus after they heard about him from John (the Baptist). One of the men was Andrew. He was Simon Peter’s brother.”***

John the Baptist said that Jesus was “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John called Jesus the Son of God. Andrew believed everything John said about Jesus. Andrew was so excited that he quickly went to find his brother to tell him all about Jesus.

Verse 41 tells us ***“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother, Simon. He said to Simon, ‘We have found the Messiah.’”***

Messiah means Christ. Simon was Andrew’s brother. Brothers tell each other exciting news, right? This was the most exciting news they had ever heard. As young, Jewish men, the brothers believed the promise God made to His people that a Messiah would be coming. Jesus was that promised Lamb of God. Let’s see what Jesus had to say to them in verse 42.

"Then Andrew took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas."

Cephas means Peter. Jesus changed Simon's name. When Andrew and Simon decided to follow Jesus, they were changed. They decided to leave their fishing jobs and travel with Jesus to learn from Him. He became their teacher, their Rabbi. Andrew shared what he learned about Jesus with Simon. Watch what happens next.

Verses 43-44 says "The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, where Andrew and Peter lived."

The Good News that Jesus is the promised Messiah was spreading. Philip believes and decides to follow Jesus.

In verse 45 "Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'Remember that Moses wrote in the law about a man who was coming, and the prophets also wrote about him. We have found him. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth.'"

The next follower was Nathanael. And there would be more that Jesus called to follow Him. When we think about helping others follow the way of Jesus, we can do what Andrew did. First, he heard about Jesus. Next, he ran to meet Jesus. He spent time with Jesus. He believed in Jesus. He had excitement about the news that Jesus was the Lamb of God. He told his brother. They followed Jesus and told more and more people about who He was.

***Act It Out:** *Have six kids join you to act out the story. Ask three kids to stay at the front of the room. One kid will be John the Baptist, and the other two will be Andrew and his friend. Ask the other three kids to spread out and stand in other areas of the room. One will be Simon (Peter), one will be Philip, and the third will be Nathanael.*
[Leader, you will act as Jesus.]
***John the Baptist to Andrew and his friend:** "Jesus is the Son of God!"*
Andrew and his friend run to Jesus.
Leader: "Follow Me."
Andrew runs to Simon (Peter).
***Andrew:** "We have found the Messiah."*
Simon joins Andrew and they run to Jesus.
Leader: "Follow Me."
Jesus, Andrew, and Simon (Peter) move towards Philip.
Leader: "Follow Me."
Jesus, Andrew, Simon (Peter), and Philip move towards Nathanael.
Leader: "Follow Me."
Leader to the whole class: "Follow Jesus. Jesus continued to call His disciples, and He is calling us today!"

LESSON CONCLUSION

We can do that, can't we? Jesus spent a lot of time teaching His disciples and walking through life with them. Jesus was helping them to grow in their knowledge of Him and His Father. We are disciples, too! Jesus is calling us through God's Word to follow Him.

By studying the Bible, we can grow in our knowledge of who God and Jesus are. Then we can share what we learn with our family and friends. We can live like Jesus so that others can see Jesus in us. Let's answer that Big Idea Question now. **How can we help others follow the way of Jesus? We can help others by learning the ways of Jesus ourselves, sharing what we learn, and living the way Jesus lived.**

JESUS CONNECTION

We can help others by learning the ways of Jesus ourselves, sharing what we learn, and living the way Jesus lived.

SMALL GROUP: REVIEW & DISCUSSION

This is a time to check kids' understanding of the Bible story and its Truths. These guided questions can spark minds to continue seeking understanding of God and His Son, Jesus.

Recall:

- Who was telling everyone that Jesus was the "Lamb of God?" *(John the Baptist)*
- Jesus was the _____ who God had promised would come. *(Messiah which means Christ)*
- Whose name was changed by Jesus? *(Simon's name was changed to Peter.)*

Discussion & Application:

- What is your favorite thing about Jesus? How can you share that with others?
- What is one thing you learned from today's lesson?
- How will you use what you learned this week?

PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for calling the twelve men to be Your disciples long ago. They show us how we can follow You. Thank You that, through Your Word, You are calling us now to be Your disciples. Please help us to learn Your ways and live like You want us to live. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

LIVE IT OUT CHALLENGE

This challenge will prompt kids to make the KXP lesson personal. It can encourage them to live out what The Bible teaches us.

Challenge: Following the Way of Jesus

- **Leaders** – Walk and talk through the take-home booklet with the kids. It is a review of all the lessons taught in the series **The Way of Jesus**.
- **Kids** – Talk about the area of your faith where you feel strong and the area of your faith that you want to grow in.
- Encourage the kids to **PRAY FIRST** and ask God what to focus on in the week ahead.
- Jesus wants us to grow and progress in our walk with Him. He knows that we aren't perfect. He knows that we need Him to grow strong in our faith. Talk to Him in prayer and trust Him!