

Get Ready!

Follow Me

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Text

Mark 1:14-20, John 1:35-47

Key Quest Verse

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:17, 18

Bible Background

For some reason, God, in Jesus, chooses to tell others about Himself through us. After being baptized and tempted in the desert, Jesus began preaching. He then chose 12 special men to train so that they could carry on the work of the church. In Rev. 21, John sees a vision of the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven. He describes the city in great detail, but one thing that stands out is the number 12. There are 12 gates with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel written on them. There are also 12 foundation stones where the 12 disciples’ names are written. These men will FOREVER be remembered. These men were ordinary people just like all of us, doing common things in that day, when Jesus said, “Follow me.” I wonder, was it His tone of voice? Had they heard Him speak before and expressed an interest in following Him? Or did God say to Jesus, “Now, look to your right. Yes, right there. You could really use Him.” Just like God chose humble circumstances for Jesus to be born, Jesus chose everyday men to spread His word; fishermen, tax collectors, “Sons of Thunder” (modern day tattooed Harley riders?). I guess we can ask Jesus someday what the qualifications were in choosing these 12 men but you can bet he took His time, prayed diligently about and for each man and He spent lots of time with them, changing their hearts, above everything else, to love others.

The disciples names are listed a few times in scripture but I chose the place in Acts because it tells of the replacement for Judas. The names listed are: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot. Judas was replaced by Matthias. Other sites are Matt. 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19 and Luke 6:13-16.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: Jesus has called all of us to be His followers

Feel: Confident that they are accepted as a friend of Jesus

Do: Actively makes decisions to follow Jesus and tell others about Him

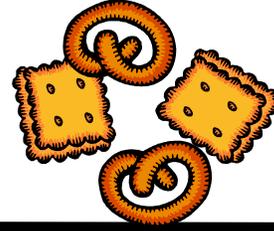
Leader's Devotion

As the leader of your class, do your students know that you are pursuing to continually learn about Christ, do they know when you first felt called to follow Him, or have you shared with them how you try to share your faith in Christ with others around you?

Take a moment and write your own story; it doesn't have to be a long testimony, just a short narrative answering the above questions. Before class starts, tell your own disciple story to your class. Perhaps the students would enjoy seeing pictures of you at the age you first began to learn and then first began to follow Jesus.

Write a note on a post-it to remind yourself to pray for guidance to understand what Jesus still wants you to learn about Him. Stick it somewhere to remind yourself daily to seek to learn more and follow Him.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Can of sardines, saltine crackers, and refreshing beverage

I want you to taste something. Put a sardine on a cracker and give one to each student. **How do you like it? How many of you have had sardines before? I want you to really think about fish with our lesson today. What uses do we have for fish besides just eating them?**

(oil, bones for vitamins, to admire)

In Bible days, fish was a very important food! We know that many people back then had fishing for their lively hood. When we are finished with our lesson, I want you to be able to understand the meaning of the phrase, “fishers of men”.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: A picture of a close friend

Show the picture of your friend to the class and tell them about the things you have in common. Then allow each of them to share about a close friend of theirs, identifying one thing that they have in common.

It is very good to have friends, ones that are similar to us and ones that are different than us. But, it is especially great to have friends that share their faith in common with us. We are going to read about 12 friends that Jesus asked to follow Him; they all had in common their trust and faith in Jesus.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

First read through Mark 1:14-20 and John 1:35-47, describing when Jesus called His disciples. Then have four volunteers act out the part of each disciple, only this time when reading through the story replace the fisherman references with new occupations. Have the four volunteers act out what the students in the audience call out as the occupations.

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” ¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew (action related to an occupation), for they were (occupation). ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their (object) and followed Him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a (place), preparing their (object). ²⁰ Without delay he called them and they left their father Zebedee in the (object), with the hired men and followed Him.

Examples:

¹⁴ Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” He said. “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” ¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew eating ice cream cones, for they were ice cream cone test tasters. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their 32 flavors and followed Him. ¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a tractor, preparing their wheat field. ²⁰ Without delay He called them and they left their father Zebedee in the tractor, with the hired men and followed Him.

¹⁴ Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” ¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew putting on space gear, for they were astronauts. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their freeze dried food and followed Him. ¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther, He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a race car, preparing their engines. ²⁰ Without delay he called them and they left their father Zebedee at the race track, with the hired men and followed Him.

Go!**What's Your Sign?****CRAFT**

Materials: Clear contact paper, 2 sheets of construction paper for each student, tissue paper, scissors, hole punch, and yarn

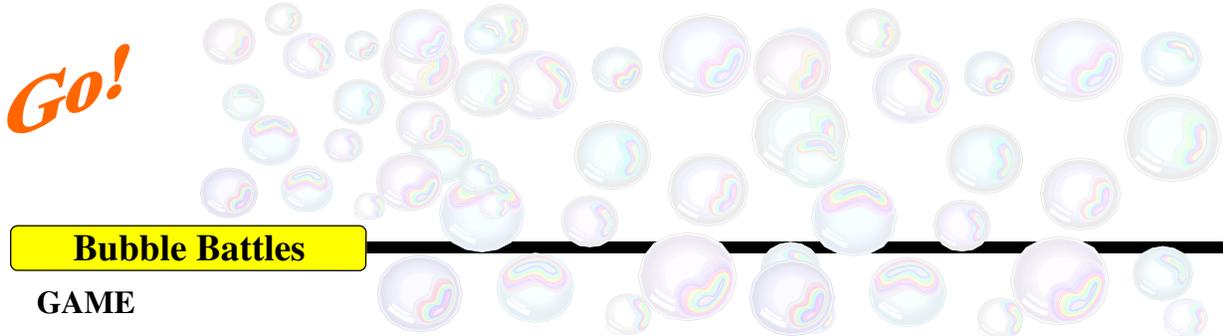
Quest Connection

Either browse through magazines or draw recognizable symbols on the board for the class to see and identify, such as, the Nike swoosh, a dollar sign, the McDonald's arches, a local team mascot, and finally the Christian ICHTHUS fish symbol. **Most of the class recognized the symbols I showed you right away. They are very common in every day life. But did you know that the ICHTHUS fish symbol is actually a symbol that was used as a secret sign of the early Christians? What other symbols can you think of that Christians use to identify that they are followers of Christ? Today we are going to make our very own fish symbols to remind ourselves and others that we follow Jesus.**

Procedure: 1) cut out two construction paper fish outlines for each student 2) place one sheet of contact paper, sticky side up, on the table. Stick on one of the construction paper fish outlines to it, 3) cut tissue paper shapes and stick them to the contact paper inside the fish outline, 4) finish by placing the second fish outline on top and sealing the entire project with another sheet of contact paper and cutting out the final ICHTHUS fish window mosaic.

Close

Using a hole punch and yarn, hang each student's ICHTHUS fish in the class, displaying their masterpieces for several weeks. Encourage the students to bring someone else to the room to show them their artwork and explain what the fish symbolizes.

A graphic for the 'Bubble Battles' game. It features the word 'Go!' in a large, orange, stylized font. To the right of the text is a large cluster of many translucent, iridescent bubbles of various sizes. Below the bubbles is a thick black horizontal line. Underneath the line, the words 'Bubble Battles' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font inside a yellow rectangular box. Below the box, the word 'GAME' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background of the graphic is white.**Bubble Battles****GAME**

Materials: *Bubble Battles* worksheet, *Bubble Battles' Questions*, crayons, Bibles

Procedure: Divide the class into two teams, making one copy of the worksheet for each team (or multiple copies for several games). Before beginning the game, allow enough time for the teams to read through Mark 1:14-20 and James 1:35-47. Then take turns asking the teams the questions from the resource sheet. If the team gets the correct answer, they color in one of the disciple bubbles on their worksheet. If the team gets an incorrect answer, the other team gets a chance to answer the question. For each correct answer the team gets to color in a circle; the team to get all 12 circles colored in first wins.

Quest Connection

We can be encouraged by the story of Jesus calling the disciples because we know that the 12 were not perfect, did not have the most prestigious jobs and did not have to prove themselves worthy before Jesus asked them to be a disciple. Instead, we learn that we too can be followers of Jesus without any requirement of perfection or popularity. We review these stories so that we can remember them in our hearts and be ready to tell others the Good News—Jesus can be their friend and leader too—now that is EXCELLENT news!

Close

Have the class join hands to have a circle prayer, lifting up the first name of a person they know who is not yet a follower of Christ. As the teacher begins the prayer and asks, “**Lord, please hear the names of the people we know and would like to become a follower of Jesus,**” and then simply go in a circle and have each student say one name. End the prayer thanking God for hearing our prayer.

Go!**Gone Fishing****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Ask someone from your congregation who enjoys fishing to come and talk to your class. Ask them to bring in a rod, reel and tackle box.

Quest Connection

In the Bible, fishing is mentioned so many times. Does anyone remember which disciples were fishermen? Does anyone enjoy fishing? How about eating fish? I have invited a special guest to talk to us about fishing.

Procedure: Your guest will give an overview of the sport of fishing to the class. Give the guest the questions ahead of time so that they can be prepared

1. What is in your tackle box and what is its purpose?
2. Do you wear any special clothing when you fish?
3. What kind of fish do you want to catch?
4. Where do you like to go fishing?
5. Is it better to fish from a boat or on the shore?
6. What do you do with the fish you catch?
7. Do you think that they fished any different during Bible times?

**Close**

Fishing during the times of the disciples was just not a hobby or sport, but a way of life. People had to fish in order to have food to eat. How can actual fishing really be compared to leading people to Christ?

Ask the special guest to lead the class in prayer.

Go!

Follow the Leader



GAME

Materials: wash cloth, comb or brush, toothpaste, toothbrush, make-up (if desired), and any other creative props or products used to get ready in the morning before leaving the house.

Procedure: Ask for a volunteer to come to the front of the room and mimic a morning routine that you have written out on a piece of paper (see below) while the rest of the class watches. Then have those students who would like to compete, try to repeat the same process as the first volunteer, trying to most closely match every detail.

Sample Morning Routine:

Be sure students know to mimic these actions, that way no one has to follow with a pre-used toothbrush, etc!

- comb and brush hair
- put hair into a ponytail (if possible)
- wash face with wash cloth
- brush teeth and gums
- gargle with mouth wash
- smooth on facial moisturizer
- put on plenty of deodorant
- apply lib balm
- add a touch of mascara
- and... WA-LA; I am ready for the day!

Quest Connection

Choosing to follow Christ is a decision that we have to make on a daily basis; it's a habit we have to develop. As we learn to follow Christ, we also have to make choices about who we will follow while on earth. It's important to always be aware of who we are following, whether it's a friend, a brother or sister, teacher, or parent. What do you think we should know about them? (Ex: do they care about other people, what are their values, do they follow Christ?) **Even good leaders will make mistakes and sin, even godly men and women will forget to live by the Word of God. That's why it is most important that we make the number one leader of our life, Jesus Christ, just as His disciples chose to do.**

Close

End with each student filling out the “Take Me to Your Leader” worksheet and then pray for each person in the class to be encouraged as they choose to follow Christ daily.

Go!**Cracker Casserole****FOOD** Be Aware of Food Allergies!

Materials: A glass bowl, fish crackers, pretzels, dry cereal, miniature marshmallows, (or whatever you have in your kitchen cupboard)

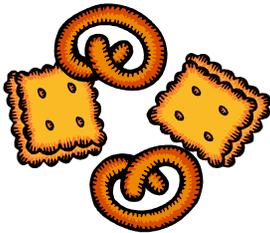
Quest Connection

What did Jesus call His disciples to do? One of the ways that followers are “caught” is by following their parents. When your parents are followers of Jesus it is easier for you to also become a follower by learning from their example! In other words it is handed down from generation to generation!

Procedure: In a glass bowl, place a layer of fish crackers. Top it with layers of salted nuts, pretzels, popcorn, etc.

Each layer of this snack mixture represents a generation of people who have chosen to follow Jesus. A “generation” means all the people born in the same time period. Your parents and their friends belong to one generation, your grandparents and their friends belong to another, and you and your friends belong to the present generation, the one that is happening now!

Let’s mix all the snack layers together. Look at this! What a great combination this makes when we put this all together! That is like it will be in God’s future Kingdom! All of Jesus’ followers from all generations will be together!!



Enjoy the snack together!

Close

When you think about the Kingdom, what are some of the questions you might like to ask some of the original twelve disciples of Jesus?

Go!



Disciple Data

Game

Materials: worksheet, “Disciple Diagram”, scissors, glue and red Swedish fish for markers

Procedure: Using the worksheet, have students cut out the blank grid, as well as the individual names of the disciples. Picking 11 of the 12 names, have the students make their own Disciple Diagram by gluing 11 names onto their blank grid, leaving one empty as a free space. As the teacher, also cut out the 12 names so that you have them to draw from as you call out names while the students try to get four Swedish fish in a vertical line first.

Quest Connection

These 12 men were close friends of Jesus and it’s important that we not only know who they were but what it meant to be a disciple. The word disciple means to be a student or follower; the 12 disciples of Jesus literally followed Him around learning from Jesus’ words and actions. Today, those who follow the Word of God, are also disciples, learning every day more about God’s Son, Jesus and learning from what we read and understand about His life through the scriptures. The 12 disciples mentioned specifically in the Bible were also sometimes called apostles, which meant they were to go out and spread the Good News about Jesus Christ which we are also supposed to do. In your empty “free space,” on your Disciple Diagram, write in your name, because Jesus is calling you to follow Him too.

Close

Close by trying to name all of the disciples by memory as a class and encourage your students to learn and spread the Good News this week as a disciple and apostle of Christ.

Find and circle the names of the twelve disciples

A V J W S V T H O M A S E
V J A M E S J J J Z A X R
J U G X T B X A O G O L G
J U Z P N A D M H D N F B
F O D O A R K E N P A V W
L D M A Y T T S A H N U Q
D I T P S H H T O I D M E
S X M E C O A H Q L R A M
P A Z T V L D E C I E T I
R Y P E T O D L H P W T G
E H W R W M E E D Y V H T
I Y A C J E U S D D O E N
T D F J X W S S Y S L W L

Andrew

Bartholomew

James

James the less

John

Judas

Matthew

Peter

Philip

Simon

Thaddeus

Thomas

DISCIPLE DIAGRAM



Matthew

James

John

Andrew

Peter

Phillip

Thomas

Simon

Thaddeus

Judas

Bartholomew

James

Take Me to Your Leader

At your school, who are the leaders?

Name three leaders at your church.

If you could be the leader of any group, club,
sports team, or class, which one would you choose to lead and why?

What are some ways that you can show that you follow Christ to others?

Bubble Battles

