

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Resources : memory stick with PowerPoint and relevant files, laptop (check cable), projector (check 2 cables), extension lead, 3 scripts, spare t-shirts, 3 clipboards with paper, 3x2 letters (FOLLOW), crayons, Jesus robe, child's John the Baptist robe, Andrew robe, 5 robes/head dresses for children

Passage: John 1.35-51

Theme: Christians believe that Jesus is the best person to follow.

Before you start:

- Make sure that all props are laid out ready to go.

Person 1: Intro / Jesus / Quiz

Person 2: Andrew / Prayer

Person 3: Talk / Narrator

Intro Hello [name of School], we are so pleased to be back with you again!
We're the Christ Church Schools' Team, I am _____, and this is
_____ [Intro team].

[Invite 6 people up to help you. Stand them in pairs, one in front of the other. Give 3 people in front clipboards and crayons. There is a danger here that we lose time. To keep it slick, all team needs to help, one giving out letters behind, one giving out clipboards/crayons in front. Show people behind letters FO LL OW but don't let people standing in front turn round.]

Intro In this game the person in front is going to have to work out what two letters the person behind them has drawn on their back and write down

what they think on their clipboard. If they are not sure, they should have a guess!

[Get people in front to hold up their clipboards. Then get people behind to hold up their letters. See if they are the same.]

Well done everyone. [Send children with person 2 and 3 to get ready for Drama. 5 children are dressed as disciples and 1 child as John the Baptist]

Intro It's important that we follow the right people.

In today's Bible story, Jesus says there is a good person to follow.

Drama

[Andrew (person 2) takes Disciple A and John the Baptist and stands at the middle of the front. Narrator takes the other 4 disciples (B, C, D & E) and places them around the sides and back of the hall. N.B if there is go round, place 2 disciples at each side of the stage.]

Narr: In today's Bible story, Jesus says there is a good person to follow. John the Baptist was by the River Jordan with 2 of his followers.

[Jesus enters to centre]

Narr: When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Look, the one who is going to take away the things we've done wrong."

[Narrator invites JtB to sit down. Andrew & Disciple A follow Jesus who turns round.]

Jesus [to Andrew]: What do you want?

Andrew: Teacher! Where are you staying?

Jesus: Come and see.

[Andrew and Disciple B line up behind Jesus.]

Narr: Andrew, was one of the two who heard what John the Baptist had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him,

[Andrew hurries to Disciple B.]

Andrew: We have found the Rescuer that God had promised!

[Andrew brings Disciple B to Jesus.]

Jesus: [To Disciple B (Simon)] Follow me!

Narr: The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.

[Narrator now walks ahead of Jesus and the Disciples to each of the other Disciples in turn.]

[All move on towards Disciple C]

Narr: There he met a man called Philip.

Jesus: Follow me.

[Disciple C joins the line]

Narr: Philip found his friend Nathanael.

[Narrator sends Disciple C (Philip) to Disciple D]

Narr: Philip told Nathanael that he'd found the Rescuer that God had promised. Then he brought Nathanael to Jesus.

[Disciple C (Philip) brings Disciple D (Nathanael) to Jesus. Jesus continues to Disciple E and beckons them to follow.]

Narrator: Jesus called 12 people to follow him and to work with him. They were called his disciples.

[Exit all. Thank helpers.]

Talk

At the start of our assembly, people tried to follow what was being written on their backs. Everyone did really well, but some people were better to follow than others.

But who we follow can get us into trouble... [PPT] Here's a lorry that followed its satnav into trouble... The driver had to sleep in his cab overnight and they had to take out the windscreen to get him out! [PPT] This one followed its satnav twice into trouble on the same day! [PPT] Another one followed its satnav to disaster.

[PPT] Who can tell me who these people are? Yes, that's right it's Anna and Prince Hans from Frozen. Anna chose to trust Hans and then he turned out to be a bad person – he captured Elsa and locked Anna in a room [PPT to blank]

I wonder who we follow? Maybe we follow our friends into good places, but maybe sometimes our friends make bad choices, and we follow them into trouble. Maybe sometimes people follow us, and we lead them into trouble. Christians believe that Jesus is the best person to follow.

In our story from the Bible, Jesus calls people to come and follow him. And they follow him because they believe that Jesus is the rescuer that God had promised and the Son of God. They follow him because they believe that although he might not always be the easiest person to follow, Jesus is the best person to follow.

Christians today still believe that when they follow Jesus, He becomes their friend, and they do the things he did – like being kind, and loving, and sharing. That is why Christians believe that Jesus is the best person to follow.

Song **God's love is Big.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OmES5UJr9Q>

Quiz

We've got a little quiz for you now, so put your hand up if you think you know the answer:

1. In our story from the Bible, what are the names of some of the people who Jesus met? [Andrew, Simon, Nathanael, Philip – but 2 is enough!]¹
2. What did Jesus ask them to do? [Follow him/Come and see]
3. What do Christians believe that we can learn from our Bible story? [Christians believe that Jesus is the best person to follow.]

Prayer:

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. Before I do that, let's spend a moment thinking about what this assembly means for us. As we pause, why don't you think about the people who you choose to follow and how they influence you. You may want to close your eyes, so you are not distracted or focus on the candle on the screen. If you want to agree with my prayer, you can say 'amen' at the end with me....

[flickering candle on PowerPoint – wait for a minute]

Dear God, thank you so much for school. Thank you that we have learnt from this story - that Christians believe that Jesus is the best person to follow. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

Close:

Thank you for having us today and we will see you again soon.

¹ Useful to know all 12 of them so you can say, 'He was a disciple, but he wasn't in our story.' They are 52 MAB ST. 5 Js: John, James, James Son of Alphaeus, Judas, Judas Iscariot; 2 Ps: Peter, Philip; then Matthew, Andrew, Bartholomew, Simon (the Zealot), Thomas. [Thaddaeus was probably an alternative name for Judas]