

KIDTOWN GUIDE

K-5th Grades

DATE: 7/5/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8

LESSON: *The Cost of Following Jesus*



INTRO

Parents say to your kid(s) - Right now we're learning about things that Jesus taught. Last week we learned about how Jesus taught upside down values and an upside down way of seeing the world. Today we're going to look at some other things Jesus said and think about what they mean for us as His followers.

Optional Activity - *Kids love to learn in concrete ways. This activity is a simple object lesson to help your kids interact with the Bible story they're about to learn.* Trace your foot on a piece of paper. As followers of Jesus, we try to walk in the ways He walked. That means we do the things He did and treat people how He treated them. On your paper foot, write or draw some ideas of what it looks like for us to follow Jesus.



LESSON - THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [The Cost of Following Jesus](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

We follow Jesus all the time. (Kids repeat!)

Wow, lots of people were following Jesus around, huh?! And you know what? Jesus loves when we follow Him! But He wants us to follow Him all of the time, not just some of the time. We can't just follow Him when it's easy. Let's think about what this might look like for us for a second.

Imagine you're at the park and you see a bunch of your friends on the slide. Yes! You're so excited to see them and you take off running towards them. But on the way over you see another kid you know. Maybe this kid isn't really your friend or maybe he/she has even been mean to you before. But right now this kid is all alone, looks a little sad and has no one to play with. What's the easy thing to do? *(Let kids answer.)* Maybe the easy thing to do is think, "I'm not really friends with that kid plus sometimes he/she is mean to me, so I'm gonna just keep running right over to my friends." But as followers of Jesus, we're called to love our enemies and to do good to them. It might not be easy to walk over and say hi and invite that kid to play. It might be really hard, but which one of those looks more like following Jesus? If we want to follow Jesus, we follow all of the time, not just when it's easy for us. And do you know why we do that? Because...

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

We give Jesus our whole life. (Kids repeat!)

When we follow Jesus, we give Him everything. Jesus told a story about making sure you could finish a tower before you decided to build one. We call this "counting the cost." That means we know what it'll take to get a job done and we're willing to do it. When we follow Jesus, part of counting the cost for us is understanding that everything is actually His. Our stuff is His. Our time is His. Our whole life is His. Even our trips to the park are His...which means I'm not just at the park to do whatever I want. I'm there as a follower of Jesus to love others and be a light in the world. But how do we do that? Well, we have to choose something. We have to choose that...



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CONTINUED

Story Point #3: (Kids repeat!)

We love Jesus most of all. (Kids repeat!)

Jesus told the people that they had to love Him more than anyone or anything - more than their family, more than their friends, more than their stuff, even more than their own life. What does it look like to love Jesus most of all? Well, in the Bible Jesus says, "If you love Me, then you will obey Me." So love isn't just about how we feel, it's about what we do. The love Jesus is talking about isn't what you would say when you just really like something. It's used to show that you are choosing something. When we love Jesus most of all, we're choosing His way above our way. We're trusting that what He says is better than what we say and that what He wants is better for us than what we want. And do you know why we're able to do that? Because...

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

Jesus gave up His life for us. (kids repeat)

The Bible says that while we were still God's enemies, Jesus died for us. Jesus knew we would never be able to obey Him perfectly all of the time. He knew we needed help, so He came to earth and died on the cross for our sins. He even sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of us and help us follow Him. But guess what? We're gonna mess up. And when we do, Jesus reminds us that He already took care of all of our mess ups. He tells us to confess when we stop following Him, to repent (which literally means turn around), and to start following Him again. He loves us, and His arms are always open when we run back to Him and to His way.



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RESPONSE

Sing: [I Have Spoken](#) (Current Key Passage Song)

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for teaching us how to follow You. Help us follow You all the time, even when it's hard. Help us have hearts like Yours.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay.*
- Why were there always crowds following Jesus around? *(They wanted to hear what he would teach; they wanted to be healed.)*
- What does the love Jesus is talking about mean? *(It means we choose His way over our way.)*
- Can you think of a time when it was hard for you to follow Jesus' way? Maybe a time when you needed to show love to someone you didn't want to? Or when you knew what the right thing was but it was going to be hard to do it?
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing? *Allow time for questions. If you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know but will try to find out.*



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BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#)

Parent Share - When was a time you had to trust Jesus' way instead of your own way, or a time when you trusted your own way and it didn't turn out so great?

Outdoor Pictionary - Use chalk to play pictionary. Take turns drawing objects for everyone else to guess. Chalk adds a fun extra challenge to the game!