FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 1-3

Day 1: Jesus Calls Me

Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen

Bible story	Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)
Memory verse (NKJV)	Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)
Takeaway	Jesus calls me by name to follow Him, and I can say yes and trust Him.
Daily call	Leader: “Jesus said” Kids: “Follow Me!”

Objectives

- Retell the main events of Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51).
- Say Matthew 4:19 from memory.
- Name one way to follow Jesus this week.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher and for each student
- Prop for the attention getter: a fishing net (or mesh laundry bag) and a few paper fish
- Copies of today’s student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Paper cups or small paper boats (pre-folded); Fish cutouts with paper clips; Magnet on a string tied to a craft stick (fishing pole); Markers

Teacher preparation

- Read Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching “31 Days with Jesus” devotionals at The Preacher’s Pen: Day 11: Calling the Disciples (Answering the Call); Day 16: The Great Catch (Trusting Jesus with Your Future).
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- The Sea of Galilee is a freshwater lake about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. Luke calls it the Lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1).
- Fishing was usually done at night with large nets. In the morning the nets were washed and mended (Luke 5:2; Matthew 4:21).
- Peter and Andrew were brothers. James and John were brothers, the sons of Zebedee, and partners with Peter (Luke 5:10).
- John 1:35-51 shows that some of these men had already met Jesus earlier. Luke 5 is the day they left their work to follow Him full time.
- Jesus calls ordinary people, like fishermen, to follow Him (Matthew 4:18-22).
- Following Jesus means trusting Him even when we do not understand (Luke 5:5).
- Jesus knows each of us by name (John 1:47-48; John 10:27).
- Following Jesus means leaving behind anything that keeps us from Him (Luke 5:11).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:05	Welcome and review	Take attendance. Review yesterday's verse and call.
0:05-0:08	Attention getter	Show a fishing net (or mesh laundry bag) and a few paper fish. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:18	Bible story	Tell the story from your Bible (script below). Show the coloring page as a picture.
0:18-0:23	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions.
0:23-0:28	Memory verse game	Write the verse on the board. Read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.
0:28-0:37	Activity sheets	Word search, maze, fill-in-the-blank, matching, coloring.
0:37-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	Ask, "How will you follow Jesus this week?" Close with prayer.

Attention getter

Show a fishing net (or mesh laundry bag) and a few paper fish. Ask: Have you ever been fishing? What would it feel like to fish all night and catch nothing?

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

One morning Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. A big crowd pushed close to hear Him teach the word of God. Jesus saw two boats by the shore. The fishermen were washing their nets.

Jesus got into one of the boats. It belonged to a fisherman named Simon Peter. Jesus asked Peter to push out a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people.

When He finished, Jesus said to Peter, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch” (Luke 5:4). Peter said, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5).

Peter obeyed. The net filled with so many fish that it began to break! Peter waved for his partners, James and John, to come help. They filled both boats so full that the boats began to sink.

Peter fell down at Jesus’ knees. He knew Jesus was the Lord. Jesus said, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men” (Luke 5:10). Jesus was going to teach them to bring people to God.

Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). Peter, his brother Andrew, James, and John pulled their boats to land. They left everything and followed Jesus (Luke 5:11).

Jesus called others too. He found Philip and said, “Follow Me” (John 1:43). Philip ran to tell his friend Nathanael, “Come and see” (John 1:46). Jesus is still calling people to follow Him today.

Discussion questions

1. What was Peter’s job?
2. Why was Peter surprised when Jesus told him to let down the nets?
3. What did Peter, Andrew, James, and John leave to follow Jesus?
4. What does it mean to follow Jesus at home or at school?

Review

- Jesus got into _____’s boat. (Answer: Peter)
- Peter fished all _____ and caught nothing. (Answer: Night)
- The _____ was so full of fish it began to break. (Answer: Net)
- Jesus said, “_____ Me.” (Answer: Follow)
- They left everything and followed _____. (Answer: Jesus)

Memory verse activity

Erase-a-word: write the verse on the board, read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): “Follow Me” Footprint Boat

Materials: Paper cups or small paper boats (pre-folded); Fish cutouts with paper clips; Magnet on a string tied to a craft stick (fishing pole); Markers

1. Children write one word of the memory verse on each fish (Follow, Me, fishers, of, men).
2. Decorate the paper boat and write “Matthew 4:19” on the side.
3. Use the magnet pole to “catch” the fish and put the verse in order.
4. Take the boat and fish home to practice the verse.

Recreation and snack

Game: Fishers of Men Tag: one child is “Peter”. Tagged children join hands and become part of the “net” until everyone is caught. For little ones, play Follow the Leader.

Snack: Fish-shaped crackers in a small paper boat or cup (“nets full of fish”) with water. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

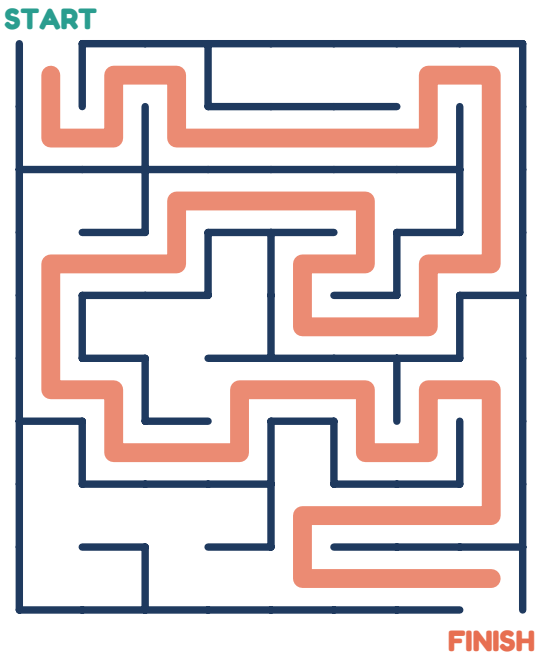
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; I Will Make You Fishers of Men; Footprints of Jesus; Jesus Loves Me; Where He Leads Me.

Answer keys

Word search

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

Maze



Fill in the blank

1. Jesus got into PETER's boat.
2. Peter fished all NIGHT and caught nothing.
3. The NET was so full of fish it began to break.
4. Jesus said, "FOLLOW Me."
5. They left everything and followed JESUS.

Matching

- Peter: a fisherman who obeyed Jesus
- Andrew: Peter's brother
- Zebedee: father of James and John
- Philip: told his friend, "Come and see"
- Jesus: said, "Follow Me"

Sources for this lesson

- "31 Days with Jesus" by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher's Pen: Day 11: Calling the Disciples (Answering the Call); Day 16: The Great Catch (Trusting Jesus with Your Future) (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: Why Do You Follow Jesus? (Matthew 7:28-29); Who Is Jesus? (John 20:30-31)
- Scripture: Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).

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My Bible Lesson

Jesus Calls Me: Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)

Read it in your Bible: Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51

Jesus Calls the Fishermen

One morning Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. A big crowd pushed close to hear Him teach the word of God. Jesus saw two boats by the shore. The fishermen were washing their nets.

Jesus got into one of the boats. It belonged to a fisherman named Simon Peter. Jesus asked Peter to push out a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people.

When He finished, Jesus said to Peter, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4). Peter said, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:5).

Peter obeyed. The net filled with so many fish that it began to break! Peter waved for his partners, James and John, to come help. They filled both boats so full that the boats began to sink.

Peter fell down at Jesus' knees. He knew Jesus was the Lord. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men" (Luke 5:10). Jesus was going to teach them to bring people to God.

Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Peter, his brother Andrew, James, and John pulled their boats to land. They left everything and followed Jesus (Luke 5:11).

Jesus called others too. He found Philip and said, "Follow Me" (John 1:43). Philip ran to tell his friend Nathanael, "Come and see" (John 1:46). Jesus is still calling people to follow Him today.

> Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
> **Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)**

Big Idea

Jesus calls me by name to follow Him, and I can say yes and trust Him.

Think about it

1. What was Peter's job?
2. Why was Peter surprised when Jesus told him to let down the nets?
3. What did Peter, Andrew, James, and John leave to follow Jesus?
4. What does it mean to follow Jesus at home or at school?

This week I will follow Jesus by:

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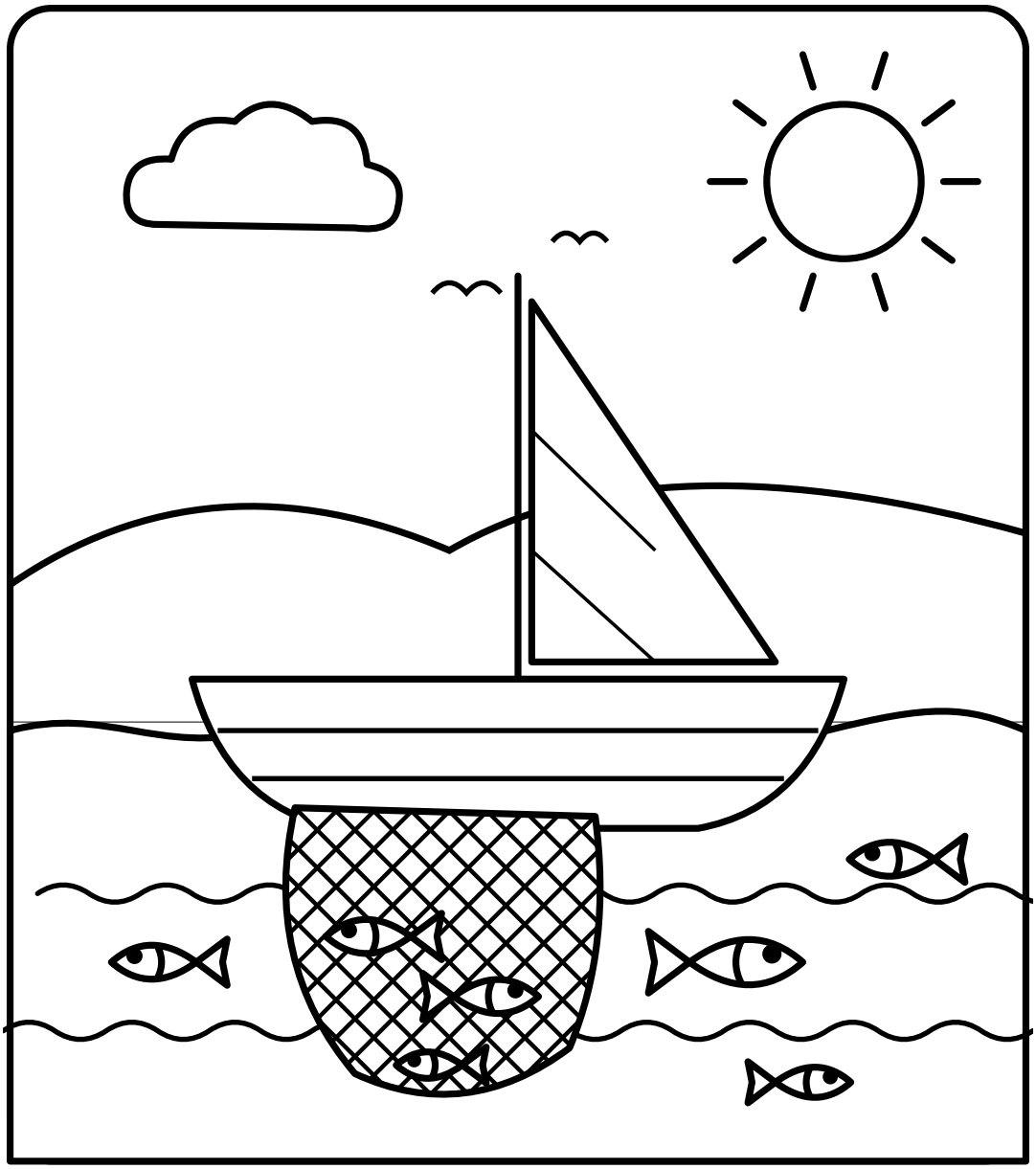
Coloring Page

Jesus Calls Me: Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)

Name: _____



Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)

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Word Search

Jesus Calls Me: Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)

Name: _____

Find the words. They go across → and down ↓.

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

Find these words: BOAT • CALL • FISH • FOLLOW • JESUS • NETS • PETER • SEA

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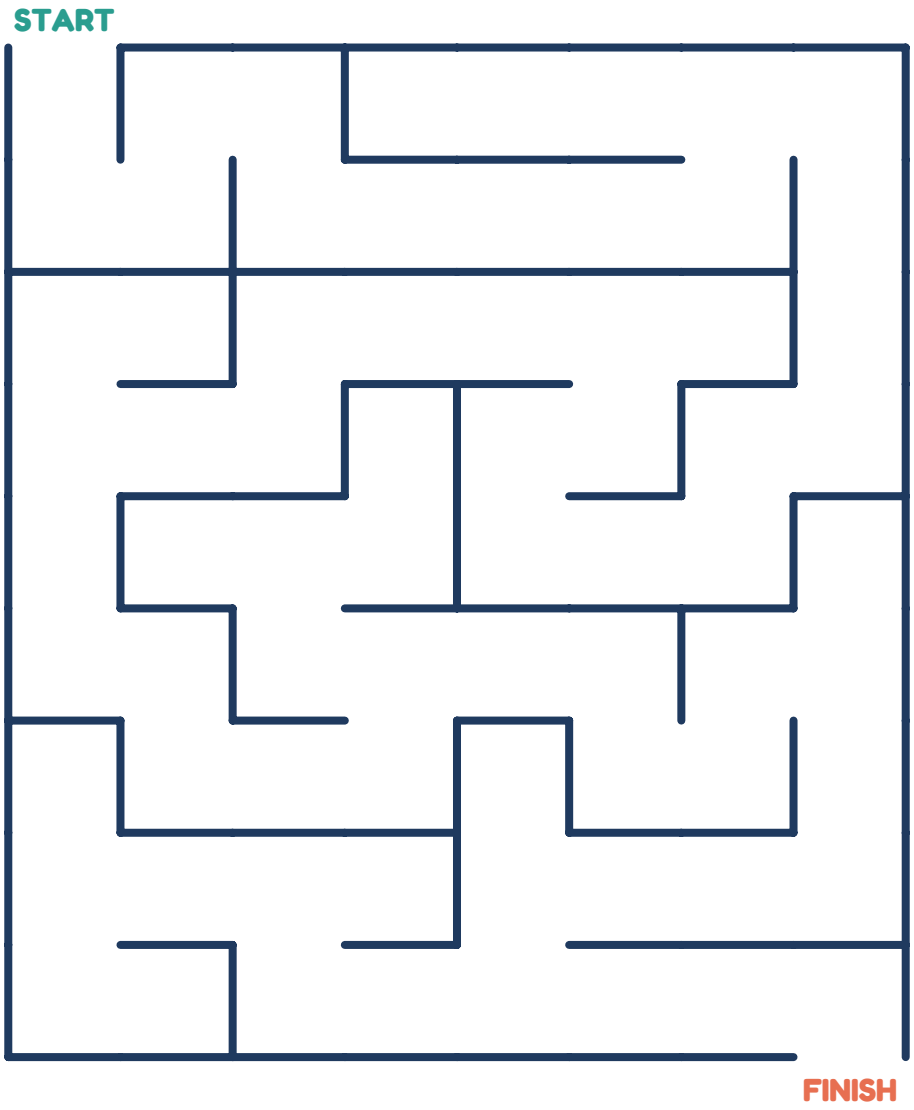
Maze

Jesus Calls Me: Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)

Name: _____

Help Peter row out into the deep to the big catch of fish!





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Fill in the Blank

Jesus Calls Me: Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)

Name: _____

Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

Word Bank

FOLLOW JESUS NET NIGHT PETER

1. Jesus got into _____'s boat.
2. Peter fished all _____ and caught nothing.
3. The _____ was so full of fish it began to break.
4. Jesus said, "_____ Me."
5. They left everything and followed _____.

Write the memory verse:

Matthew 4:19

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Matching

Jesus Calls Me: Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)

Name: _____

Draw a line from each name to the words that tell about it.

Peter	●	●	told his friend, “Come and see”
Andrew	●	●	a fisherman who obeyed Jesus
Zebedee	●	●	said, “Follow Me”
Philip	●	●	Peter’s brother
Jesus	●	●	father of James and John

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 1-3

Day 2: Jesus Teaches Me

Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders

Bible story	The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)
Memory verse (NKJV)	"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24)
Takeaway	Following Jesus means listening to His words and doing what He says.
Daily call	Leader: "Hear" Kids: "And do!"

Objectives

- Retell the main events of The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29).
- Say Matthew 7:24 from memory.
- Name one way to obey Jesus' words this week.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher and for each student
- Prop for the attention getter: a rock and a cup of sand
- Copies of today's student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Small tray of sand and a flat rock; Small blocks or cups; Spray bottle of water; Cardstock house template, crayons

Teacher preparation

- Read Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching "31 Days with Jesus" devotionals at The Preacher's Pen: Day 14: The Sermon on the Mount (Embracing Jesus' Blueprint for Faith); Day 18: The Parables of Jesus (Lessons for Life); Day 20: Jesus Teaches on Prayer.
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- Jesus sat down to teach (Matthew 5:1). In that culture, rabbis normally sat while teaching.
- Many houses in Galilee were built of stone. Dry streambeds could flash flood in a heavy rain, washing away anything built on sand.
- Luke 6:20-49 records a similar sermon, sometimes called the Sermon on the Plain.
- "Authority" (Matthew 7:29): the scribes quoted earlier teachers; Jesus spoke on His own authority ("But I say to you," Matthew 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44).
- Jesus is the greatest Teacher. He taught "as one having authority" (Matthew 7:29).
- Jesus teaches us how to live: be salt and light, love others, pray, and seek God first (Matthew 5-7).
- Hearing is not enough. The wise person hears Jesus and does what He says (Matthew 7:24; James 1:22).
- A life built on Jesus' words stands strong when storms come (Matthew 7:25).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:05	Welcome and review	Take attendance. Review yesterday's verse and call.
0:05-0:08	Attention getter	Show a rock and a cup of sand. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:18	Bible story	Tell the story from your Bible (script below). Show the coloring page as a picture.
0:18-0:23	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions.
0:23-0:28	Memory verse game	Write the verse on the board. Read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.
0:28-0:37	Activity sheets	Word search, maze, fill-in-the-blank, matching, coloring.
0:37-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	Ask, "How will you obey Jesus' words this week?" Close with prayer.

Attention getter

Show a rock and a cup of sand. Ask: What would happen to a sandcastle in a big rainstorm? What about a house built on solid rock?

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere. One day Jesus went up on a mountain, sat down, and began to teach them (Matthew 5:1-2). This teaching is called the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus taught that God blesses people who are humble, kind, and pure in heart (Matthew 5:3-9). He said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). He wants us to shine by doing good things so people will praise God (Matthew 5:16).

Jesus taught us to love even people who are mean to us (Matthew 5:44). He taught us how to pray to our Father in heaven (Matthew 6:9-13). He told us not to worry but to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

At the end, Jesus told a story. A wise man built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the floods came up, and the wind blew hard. But the house did not fall, because it was built on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25).

A foolish man built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came up, and the wind blew hard. The house fell with a great crash (Matthew 7:26-27)!

Jesus said the wise man is like a person who hears His words and does them. The foolish man is like a person who hears His words but does not do them. The people were amazed, because Jesus taught with authority (Matthew 7:28-29). When we listen to Jesus and obey, we are building on the rock.

Discussion questions

1. Where did Jesus sit to teach the people?
2. What is the difference between the wise man and the foolish man?
3. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” How can you shine?
4. What is one thing Jesus taught that you can do this week?

Review

- Jesus went up on a _____ to teach. (Answer: Mountain)
- The wise man built his house on the _____. (Answer: Rock)
- The foolish man built his house on the _____. (Answer: Sand)
- “You are the _____ of the world.” (Answer: Light)
- The wise man hears Jesus’ words and _____ them. (Answer: Does)

Memory verse activity

Erase-a-word: write the verse on the board, read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Rock and Sand Experiment Card

Materials: Small tray of sand and a flat rock; Small blocks or cups; Spray bottle of water; Cardstock house template, crayons

1. As a class, build one block house on sand and one on the rock. Spray “rain” and watch what happens.
2. Children color the cardstock house template.
3. Write the memory verse (Matthew 7:24) inside the house door flap.
4. Talk: “What makes our life strong like the rock?”

Recreation and snack

Game: Rock or Sand Relay: teams carry a beanbag “brick” to a gray mat (rock) and must avoid the tan mat (sand). Or play “Hear and Do” (like Simon Says): kids only move when they clearly hear the instruction.

Snack: “House on the Rock”: a graham cracker square (house) on a cereal-treat square (rock). Offer a nut-free option. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

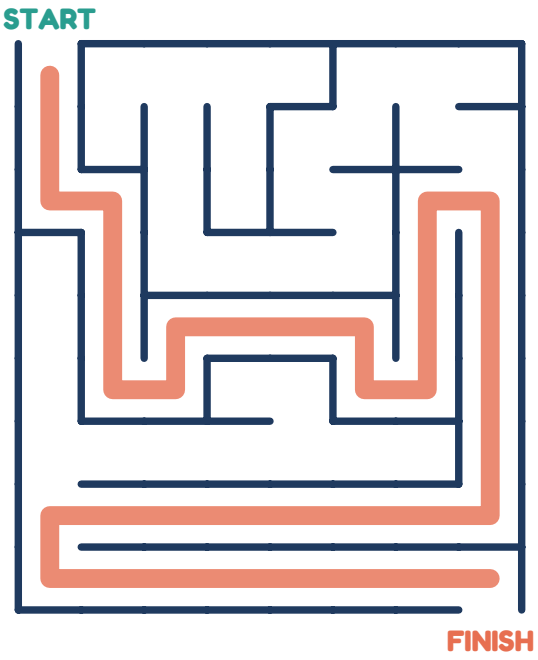
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock; This Little Light of Mine; Wonderful Words of Life; Trust and Obey; Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day.

Answer keys

Word search

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

Maze



Fill in the blank

1. Jesus went up on a MOUNTAIN to teach.
2. The wise man built his house on the ROCK.
3. The foolish man built his house on the SAND.
4. “You are the LIGHT of the world.”
5. The wise man hears Jesus’ words and DOES them.

Matching

- Wise man: built on the rock
- Foolish man: built on the sand
- Salt and light: what Jesus calls His followers
- Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated
- Jesus: taught as one having authority

Sources for this lesson

- "31 Days with Jesus" by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher's Pen: Day 14: The Sermon on the Mount (Embracing Jesus' Blueprint for Faith); Day 18: The Parables of Jesus (Lessons for Life); Day 20: Jesus Teaches on Prayer (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: Why Do You Follow Jesus? (walk-through of Matthew 5-7); Jesus the Teacher (Matthew 7:28-29)
- Scripture: Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 1-3

My Bible Lesson

Jesus Teaches Me: Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29

The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders

Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere. One day Jesus went up on a mountain, sat down, and began to teach them (Matthew 5:1-2). This teaching is called the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus taught that God blesses people who are humble, kind, and pure in heart (Matthew 5:3-9). He said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). He wants us to shine by doing good things so people will praise God (Matthew 5:16).

Jesus taught us to love even people who are mean to us (Matthew 5:44). He taught us how to pray to our Father in heaven (Matthew 6:9-13). He told us not to worry but to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

At the end, Jesus told a story. A wise man built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the floods came up, and the wind blew hard. But the house did not fall, because it was built on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25).

A foolish man built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came up, and the wind blew hard. The house fell with a great crash (Matthew 7:26-27)!

Jesus said the wise man is like a person who hears His words and does them. The foolish man is like a person who hears His words but does not do them. The people were amazed, because Jesus taught with authority (Matthew 7:28-29). When we listen to Jesus and obey, we are building on the rock.

> "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."
> Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)

Big Idea

Following Jesus means listening to His words and doing what He says.

Think about it

1. Where did Jesus sit to teach the people?
2. What is the difference between the wise man and the foolish man?
3. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” How can you shine?
4. What is one thing Jesus taught that you can do this week?

This week I will obey Jesus’ words by:

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 1-3

Coloring Page

Jesus Teaches Me: Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders
(Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)

Name: _____



"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."
Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 1-3

Word Search

Jesus Teaches Me: Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders
(Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)

Name: _____

Find the words. They go across → and down ↓.

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

Find these words: HEAR • HOUSE • OBEY • RAIN • ROCK • SAND • WIND • WISE

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 1-3

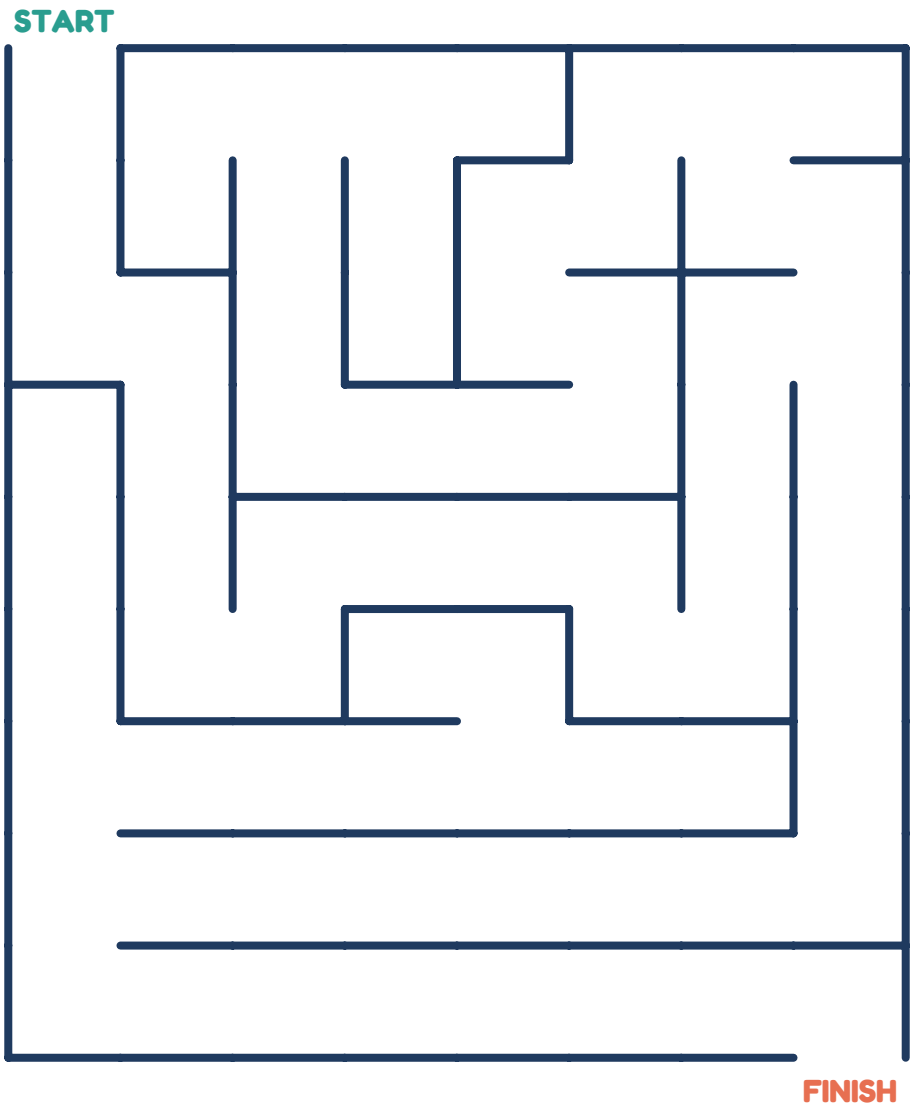
Maze

Jesus Teaches Me: Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders
(Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)

Name: _____

Help the wise man get his house safely through the storm.





FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 1-3

Fill in the Blank

Jesus Teaches Me: Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)

Name: _____

Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

Word Bank

DOES LIGHT MOUNTAIN ROCK SAND

1. Jesus went up on a _____ to teach.
2. The wise man built his house on the _____.
3. The foolish man built his house on the _____.
4. “You are the _____ of the world.”
5. The wise man hears Jesus’ words and _____ them.

Write the memory verse:

Matthew 7:24

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 1-3

Matching

Jesus Teaches Me: Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders
(Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)

Name: _____

Draw a line from each name to the words that tell about it.

Wise man	●	●	treat others the way you want to be treated
Foolish man	●	●	built on the rock
Salt and light	●	●	taught as one having authority
Golden Rule	●	●	built on the sand
Jesus	●	●	what Jesus calls His followers

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 1-3

Day 3: Jesus Shows Me How to Love

Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Bible story	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)
Memory verse (NKJV)	"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." (John 13:15)
Takeaway	Following Jesus means loving and serving others the way He loved and served us.
Daily call	Leader: "Serve" Kids: "Like Jesus!"

Objectives

- Retell the main events of Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27).
- Say John 13:15 from memory.
- Name one way to serve others this week.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher and for each student
- Prop for the attention getter: a towel, a basin (bowl), and a pitcher of water
- Copies of today's student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Coupon template sheet (8 coupons); Crayons or markers; Scissors; Envelope or stapler

Teacher preparation

- Read John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching "31 Days with Jesus" devotionals at The Preacher's Pen: Day 25: The Lord's Supper (Remembering Jesus); Day 30: "Do You Love Me?" (Renewed Love and Calling); Day 19: Miracles of Jesus (Trusting God's Provision).
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- Foot washing was a sign of hospitality (Genesis 18:4; 1 Timothy 5:10) and one of the lowliest servant tasks (1 Samuel 25:41).
- Order of events that night (from the class lesson): Passover begins (Luke 22:15-18), the disciples dispute about greatness (Luke 22:24-30), Jesus washes their feet (John 13:1-17), the betrayer is revealed (John 13:21-30), the Lord's Supper is instituted (Matthew 26:26-29), and the new commandment is given (John 13:34-35).
- Jesus' act was an example of humble service, not a new act of worship. The apostles taught the attitude behind it (Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3-8).
- Jesus loved His disciples "to the end" (John 13:1), even the one who would betray Him.
- The Lord and Teacher took the lowest servant's job and washed dirty feet (John 13:4-5).
- Jesus gave us an example of humble, loving service to follow (John 13:14-15).
- People will know we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:34-35).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:05	Welcome and review	Take attendance. Review yesterday's verse and call.
0:05-0:08	Attention getter	Show a towel, a basin (bowl), and a pitcher of water. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:18	Bible story	Tell the story from your Bible (script below). Show the coloring page as a picture.
0:18-0:23	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions.
0:23-0:28	Memory verse game	Write the verse on the board. Read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.
0:28-0:37	Activity sheets	Word search, maze, fill-in-the-blank, matching, coloring.
0:37-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	Ask, "How will you serve others this week?" Close with prayer.

Attention getter

Show a towel, a basin (bowl), and a pitcher of water. Ask: What is the yuckiest job you have ever had to do? Who usually does the jobs nobody wants?

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

In Bible times people walked everywhere on dusty roads wearing sandals. When you came into a house, a servant usually washed your dirty feet. It was the lowest job in the house.

Jesus and His twelve disciples gathered in an upstairs room to eat the Passover supper. Jesus knew He would soon go back to the Father. John says Jesus "loved them to the end" (John 13:1). But the disciples had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24).

No servant was there, and none of the disciples offered to wash feet. So Jesus got up from supper. He laid aside His outer robe, tied a towel around His waist, and poured water into a basin. Then He began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel (John 13:4-5).

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter said, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Then he said, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" (John 13:6-9).

When Jesus finished, He sat down and asked, "Do you know what I have done to you?" (John 13:12). He said, "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am" (John 13:13). If the Lord would wash their feet, they should serve one another too.

Jesus said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). He also said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 13:34). Followers of Jesus love and serve others.

Discussion questions

1. Why were people's feet so dirty in Bible times?
2. Who usually washed feet? Why was it surprising that Jesus did it?
3. What did Peter say to Jesus?
4. What is one way you can serve your family this week?

Review

- Jesus tied a _____ around His waist. (Answer: Towel)
- He poured water into a _____. (Answer: Basin)
- Jesus washed the disciples' _____. (Answer: Feet)
- "I have given you an _____." (Answer: Example)
- Jesus said, "_____ one another." (Answer: Love)

Memory verse activity

Erase-a-word: write the verse on the board, read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Helping Hands Coupons

Materials: Coupon template sheet (8 coupons); Crayons or markers; Scissors; Envelope or stapler

1. Children decorate coupons such as "I will set the table" or "I will pick up toys."
2. Write John 13:15 on the cover coupon.
3. Cut and staple into a booklet or place in an envelope.
4. Give the coupons to a parent or family member.

Recreation and snack

Game: Servant Relay: teams pass a towel and a dry bowl down the line, each child naming one way to help someone before passing it. Or "Serve the Team": kids carry cotton balls on a spoon to fill a teammate's cup.

Snack: "Towel rolls": rolled fruit snacks or tortilla roll-ups, with a cup of water. Older classes can serve snack to a younger class today. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

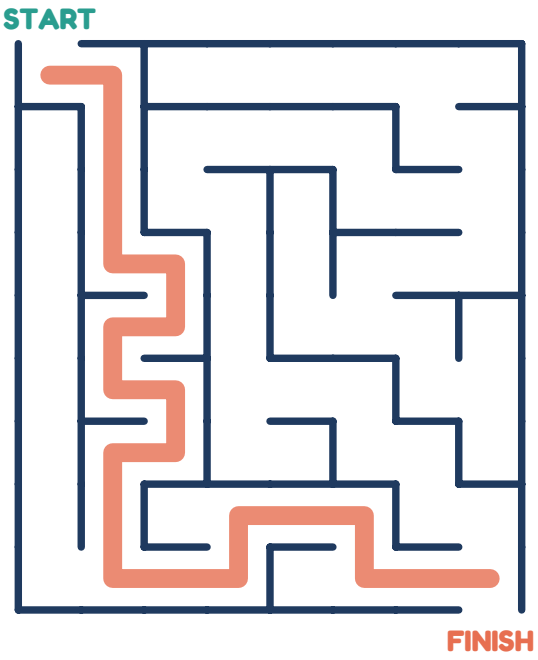
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Jesus Loves the Little Children; Oh, How I Love Jesus; Deep and Wide; Footprints of Jesus; Jesus Loves Me.

Answer keys

Word search

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

Maze



Fill in the blank

1. Jesus tied a TOWEL around His waist.
2. He poured water into a BASIN.
3. Jesus washed the disciples' FEET.
4. "I have given you an EXAMPLE."
5. Jesus said, "LOVE one another."

Matching

- Towel: Jesus tied it around His waist
- Basin: held the water
- Peter: said, “You shall never wash my feet!”
- Example: what Jesus gave us to follow
- Love: the new commandment

Sources for this lesson

- “31 Days with Jesus” by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher’s Pen: Day 25: The Lord’s Supper (Remembering Jesus); Day 30: “Do You Love Me?” (Renewed Love and Calling); Day 19: Miracles of Jesus (Trusting God’s Provision) (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet (John 13:1-20, 2016 class lesson); Love As Displayed By God (1 John 4:7-9)
- Scripture: John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 1-3

My Bible Lesson

Jesus Shows Me How to Love: Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)

Read it in your Bible: John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

In Bible times people walked everywhere on dusty roads wearing sandals. When you came into a house, a servant usually washed your dirty feet. It was the lowest job in the house.

Jesus and His twelve disciples gathered in an upstairs room to eat the Passover supper. Jesus knew He would soon go back to the Father. John says Jesus "loved them to the end" (John 13:1). But the disciples had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24).

No servant was there, and none of the disciples offered to wash feet. So Jesus got up from supper. He laid aside His outer robe, tied a towel around His waist, and poured water into a basin. Then He began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel (John 13:4-5).

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter said, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Then he said, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" (John 13:6-9).

When Jesus finished, He sat down and asked, "Do you know what I have done to you?" (John 13:12). He said, "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am" (John 13:13). If the Lord would wash their feet, they should serve one another too.

Jesus said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). He also said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 13:34). Followers of Jesus love and serve others.

> "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."
>
> **John 13:15 (NKJV)**

Big Idea

Following Jesus means loving and serving others the way He loved and served us.

Think about it

1. Why were people's feet so dirty in Bible times?
2. Who usually washed feet? Why was it surprising that Jesus did it?
3. What did Peter say to Jesus?
4. What is one way you can serve your family this week?

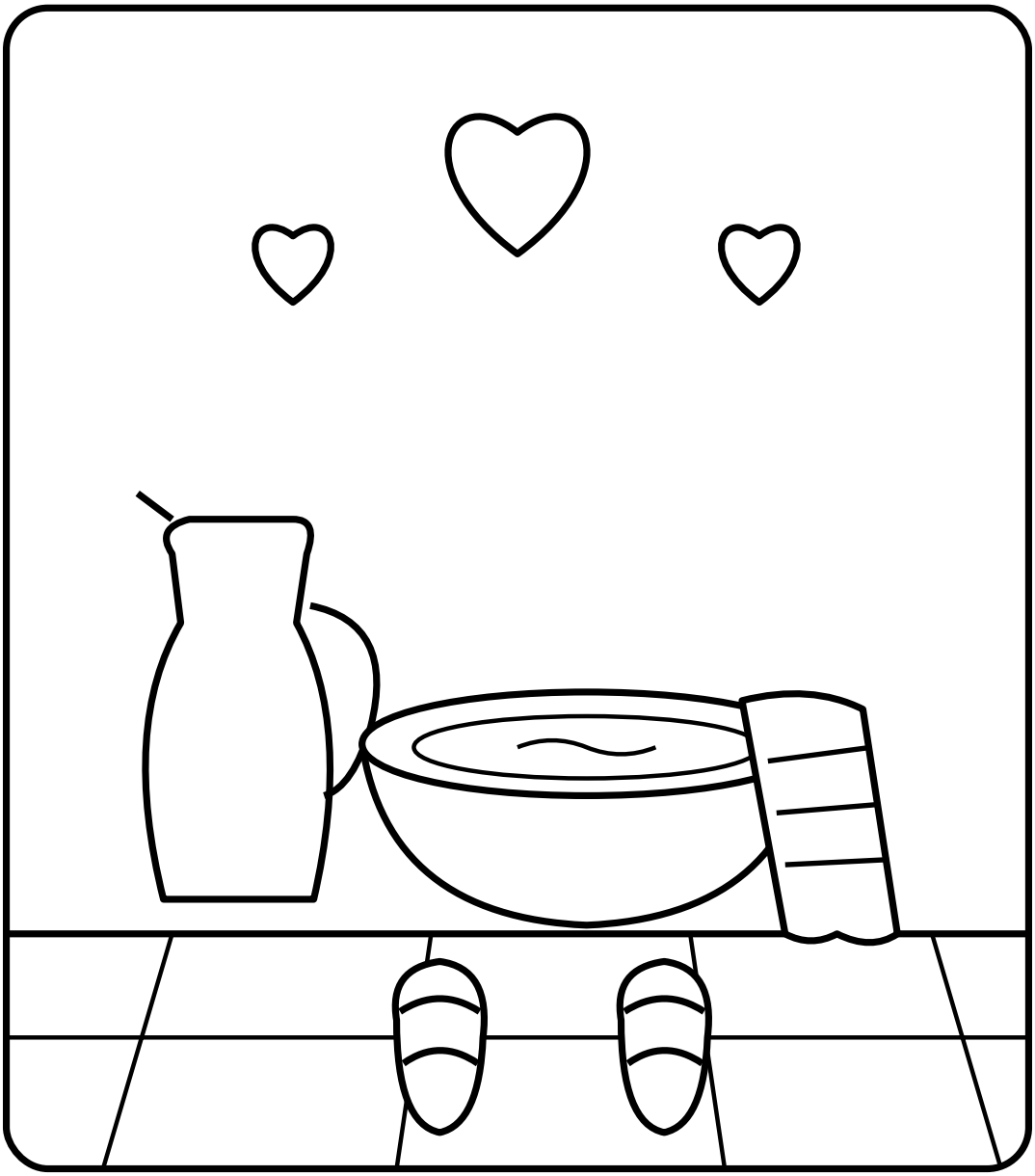
This week I will serve others by:

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 1-3

Coloring Page

Jesus Shows Me How to Love: Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)

Name: _____



"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

John 13:15 (NKJV)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 1-3

Word Search

Jesus Shows Me How to Love: Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)

Name: _____

Find the words. They go across → and down ↓.

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

Find these words: FEET • HELP • KIND • LOVE • SERVE • TOWEL • WASH • WATER

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 1-3

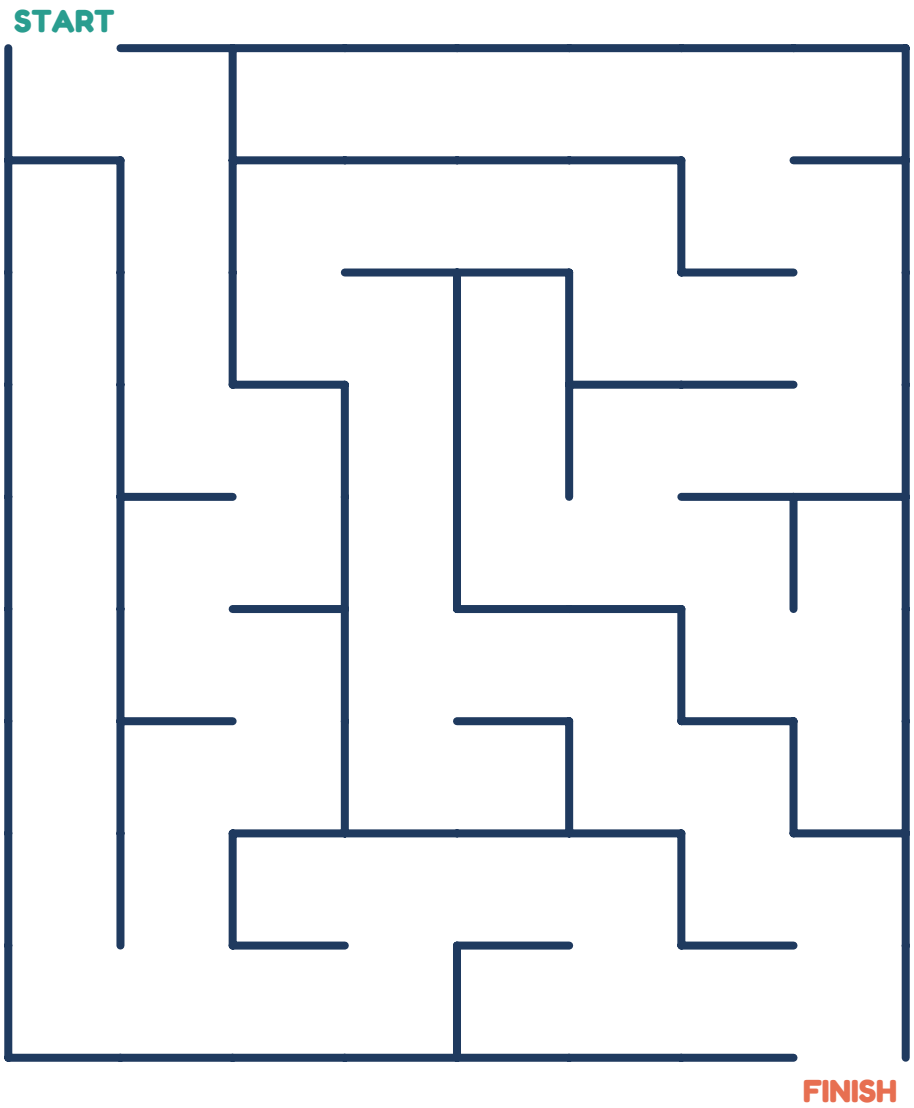
Maze

Jesus Shows Me How to Love: Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)

Name: _____

Carry the water to the basin so Jesus can serve.





FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 1-3

Fill in the Blank

Jesus Shows Me How to Love: Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)

Name: _____

Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

Word Bank

BASIN EXAMPLE FEET LOVE TOWEL

1. Jesus tied a _____ around His waist.
2. He poured water into a _____.
3. Jesus washed the disciples' _____.
4. "I have given you an _____."
5. Jesus said, "_____ one another."

Write the memory verse:

John 13:15

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 1-3

Matching

Jesus Shows Me How to Love: Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)

Name: _____

Draw a line from each name to the words that tell about it.

Towel	●	●	what Jesus gave us to follow
Basin	●	●	Jesus tied it around His waist
Peter	●	●	the new commandment
Example	●	●	held the water
Love	●	●	said, "You shall never wash my feet!"

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 1-3

Day 4: Jesus Saves Me

He Is Risen! | The Cross and the Empty Tomb

Bible story	The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30)
Memory verse (NKJV)	"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:6)
Takeaway	Jesus died for my sins, was buried, and rose again, so I can be saved and live with Him.
Daily call	Leader: "He is not here" Kids: "He is risen!"

Objectives

- Retell the main events of The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30).
- Say Matthew 28:6 from memory.
- Name one way to thank Jesus for the cross this week.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher and for each student
- Prop for the attention getter: a large gray ball or paper "stone" and an empty box
- Copies of today's student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Cardstock folded in half; Tomb and stone cutouts; Brad fasteners; Markers

Teacher preparation

- Read Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching "31 Days with Jesus" devotionals at The Preacher's Pen: Day 26: The Crucifixion (The Ultimate Sacrifice); Day 27: The Guarded Tomb (Waiting in Hope); Day 28: The Resurrection (Risen Indeed).
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- Crucifixion was reserved for slaves, rebels, and the worst criminals. Roman citizens were normally exempt.
- The sign above the cross was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin (John 19:20).
- The tomb was cut out of rock and sealed with a large stone. The guard and the seal made tampering a serious crime (Matthew 27:62-66).
- Jesus was in the tomb parts of three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), rising "the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:4).
- Jesus, the sinless Son of God, willingly died on the cross for our sins (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb that was sealed and guarded (Matthew 27:57-66).
- On the third day Jesus rose from the dead, just as He said (Matthew 28:6; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- Because Jesus lives, we have forgiveness, hope, and good news to tell (Matthew 28:7).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:05	Welcome and review	Take attendance. Review yesterday's verse and call.
0:05-0:08	Attention getter	Show a large gray ball or paper "stone" and an empty box. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:18	Bible story	Tell the story from your Bible (script below). Show the coloring page as a picture.
0:18-0:23	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions.
0:23-0:28	Memory verse game	Write the verse on the board. Read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.
0:28-0:37	Activity sheets	Word search, maze, fill-in-the-blank, matching, coloring.
0:37-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	Ask, "How will you thank Jesus for the cross this week?" Close with prayer.

Attention getter

Show a large gray ball or paper "stone" and an empty box. Ask: What is the best news you have ever heard? Today we will hear the best news in the whole world.

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

Jesus never did anything wrong. But some leaders were jealous of Jesus, and they had Him arrested. The soldiers made fun of Him and put a crown of thorns on His head (Matthew 27:29).

They nailed Jesus to a cross between two other men. Even on the cross, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Jesus was taking the punishment for our sins. Then Jesus said, "It is finished!" and He died (John 19:30).

A Roman soldier watching said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54). A rich man named Joseph put Jesus' body in his own new tomb and rolled a big stone across the door (Matthew 27:57-60). Soldiers sealed the stone and guarded the tomb (Matthew 27:66).

Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! An angel rolled the stone away and sat on it. The guards shook with fear (Matthew 28:1-4).

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:5-6).

The women ran with fear and great joy to tell the disciples. On the way, Jesus Himself met them and said, "Rejoice!" (Matthew 28:9). Jesus is alive! He died for our sins and rose again, so we can be forgiven and live with Him forever.

> **Teacher note for today**
>
> Be reverent, not graphic. Emphasize God's love (Romans 5:8) and the joy of the resurrection.

Discussion questions

1. What did Jesus pray for the people who hurt Him?
2. Who rolled away the stone?
3. What did the angel tell the women?
4. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Review

- Jesus died on the _____ for our sins. (Answer: Cross)
- Jesus was laid in a _____. (Answer: Tomb)
- A big _____ was rolled in front of the door. (Answer: Stone)
- An _____ rolled the stone away. (Answer: Angel)
- “He is not here; for He is _____.” (Answer: Risen)

Memory verse activity

Erase-a-word: write the verse on the board, read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): He Is Risen Pop-Up Card

Materials: Cardstock folded in half; Tomb and stone cutouts; Brad fasteners; Markers

1. Glue the tomb inside the card and attach the stone with a brad.
2. Under the stone write, “He is not here; for He is risen” (Matthew 28:6).
3. On the front, draw the hill with three crosses.
4. Give the card to someone and tell them the good news.

Recreation and snack

Game: Roll the Stone: teams roll a large ball (the stone) along a course to the finish. Or “He Is Risen!” freeze tag: tagged players crouch until a teammate taps them and shouts, “He is risen!”

Snack: “Empty tomb”: half a mini pita or a round roll (the tomb) with a grape or round cracker “stone” rolled beside it. Open the pita to show it is empty. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

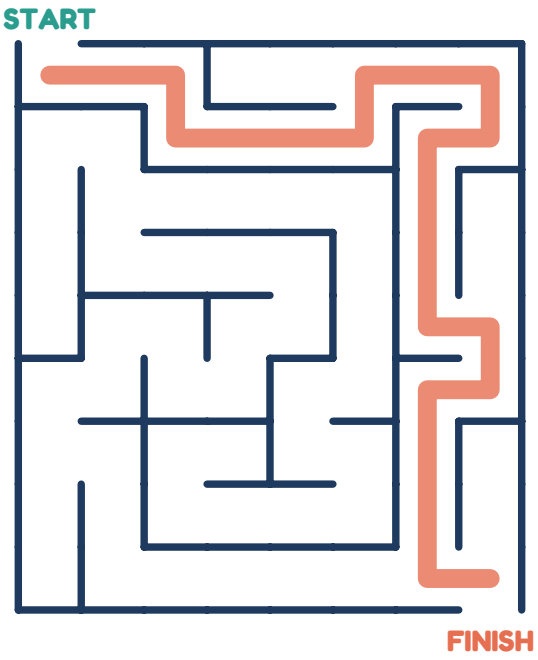
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Low in the Grave He Lay (Up from the Grave He Arose); Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross; Nothing but the Blood; Jesus Loves Me; He Is Lord.

Answer keys

Word search

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

Maze



Fill in the blank

1. Jesus died on the CROSS for our sins.
2. Jesus was laid in a TOMB.
3. A big STONE was rolled in front of the door.
4. An ANGEL rolled the stone away.
5. “He is not here; for He is RISEN.”

Matching

- Joseph: put Jesus in his new tomb
- Angel: rolled away the stone
- Mary Magdalene: came to the tomb early
- Centurion: said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”
- Jesus: died, was buried, and rose again

Sources for this lesson

- “31 Days with Jesus” by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher’s Pen: Day 26: The Crucifixion (The Ultimate Sacrifice); Day 27: The Guarded Tomb (Waiting in Hope); Day 28: The Resurrection (Risen Indeed) (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: A Slave’s Punishment for a King (Matthew 27:54); Jesus’ Burial and Ours (Matthew 27:57-66; Romans 6:3-11); Opening Our Eyes to Jesus (Luke 24:13-32); Love As Displayed By God (Romans 5:8)
- Scripture: Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 1-3

My Bible Lesson

Jesus Saves Me: He Is Risen! | The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30)

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30

The Cross and the Empty Tomb

Jesus never did anything wrong. But some leaders were jealous of Jesus, and they had Him arrested. The soldiers made fun of Him and put a crown of thorns on His head (Matthew 27:29).

They nailed Jesus to a cross between two other men. Even on the cross, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Jesus was taking the punishment for our sins. Then Jesus said, "It is finished!" and He died (John 19:30).

A Roman soldier watching said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54). A rich man named Joseph put Jesus' body in his own new tomb and rolled a big stone across the door (Matthew 27:57-60). Soldiers sealed the stone and guarded the tomb (Matthew 27:66).

Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! An angel rolled the stone away and sat on it. The guards shook with fear (Matthew 28:1-4).

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:5-6).

The women ran with fear and great joy to tell the disciples. On the way, Jesus Himself met them and said, "Rejoice!" (Matthew 28:9). Jesus is alive! He died for our sins and rose again, so we can be forgiven and live with Him forever.

> "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."
>
> **Matthew 28:6 (NKJV)**

Big Idea

Jesus died for my sins, was buried, and rose again, so I can be saved and live with Him.

Think about it

1. What did Jesus pray for the people who hurt Him?
2. Who rolled away the stone?
3. What did the angel tell the women?
4. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

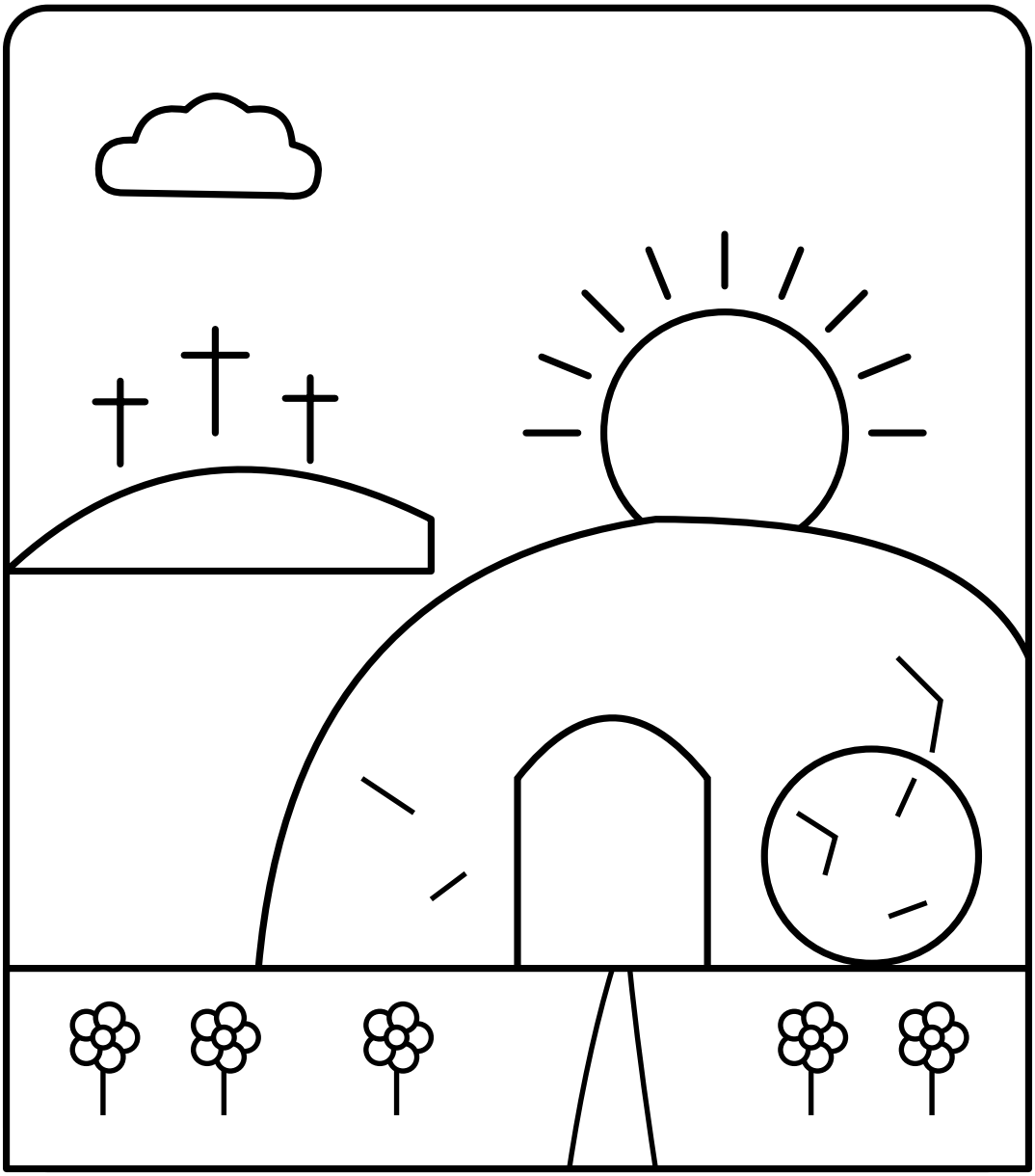
This week I will thank Jesus for the cross by:

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 1-3

Coloring Page

Jesus Saves Me: He Is Risen! | The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30)

Name: _____



"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:6 (NKJV)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 1-3

Word Search

Jesus Saves Me: He Is Risen! | The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30)

Name: _____

Find the words. They go across → and down ↓.

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

Find these words: ALIVE • ANGEL • CROSS • JESUS • LOVE • RISEN • STONE • TOMB

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 1-3

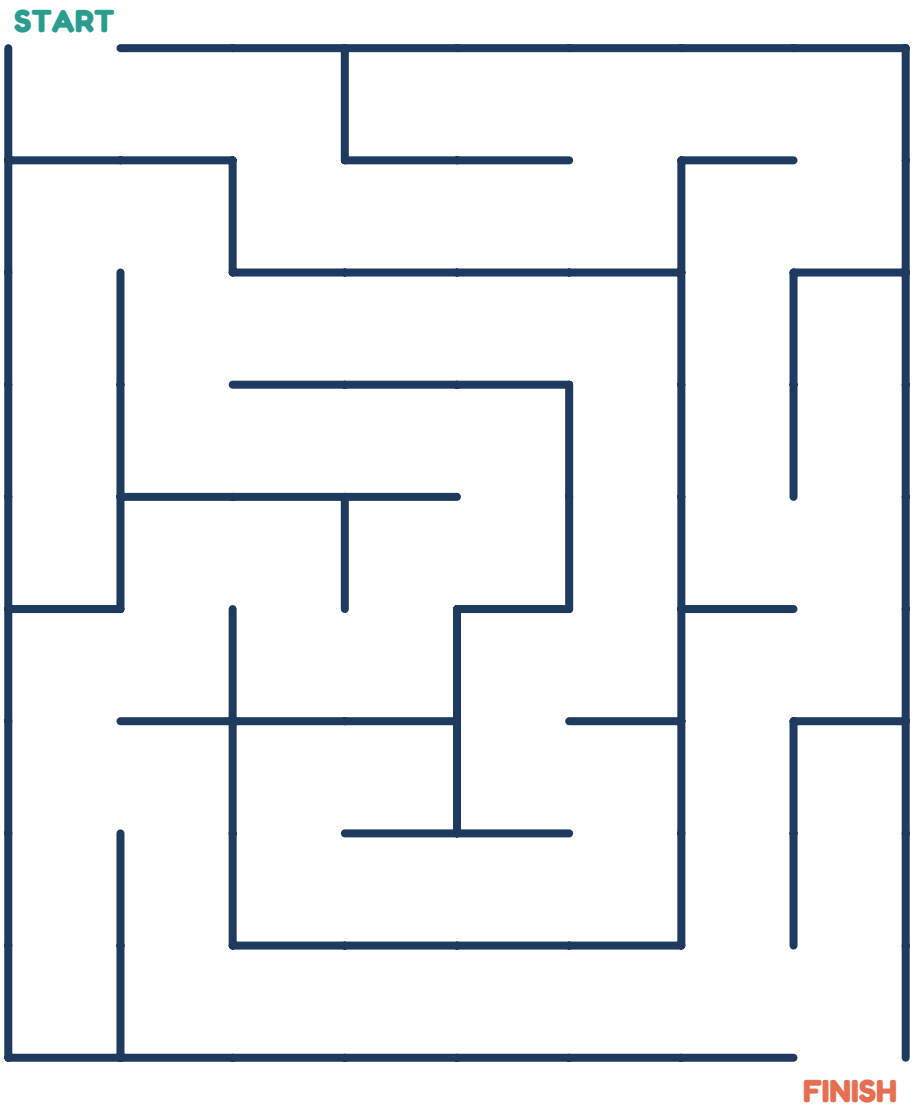
Maze

Jesus Saves Me: He Is Risen! | The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30)

Name: _____

Help the women find the empty tomb!





FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 1-3

Fill in the Blank

Jesus Saves Me: He Is Risen! | The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30)

Name: _____

Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

Word Bank

ANGEL CROSS RISEN STONE TOMB

1. Jesus died on the _____ for our sins.
2. Jesus was laid in a _____.
3. A big _____ was rolled in front of the door.
4. An _____ rolled the stone away.
5. “He is not here; for He is _____.”

Write the memory verse:

Matthew 28:6

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 1-3

Matching

Jesus Saves Me: He Is Risen! | The Cross and the Empty Tomb (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30)

Name: _____

Draw a line from each name to the words that tell about it.

Joseph	said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”
Angel	put Jesus in his new tomb
Mary Magdalene	died, was buried, and rose again
Centurion	rolled away the stone
Jesus	came to the tomb early

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 1-3

Day 5: Jesus Sends Me

Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost

Bible story	The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)
Memory verse (NKJV)	And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16)
Takeaway	Jesus sends His followers to tell the good news, and everyone who hears can obey it the way people did in Acts 2.
Daily call	Leader: "Go" Kids: "And tell!"

Objectives

- Retell the main events of The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41).
- Say Mark 16:15-16 from memory.
- Name one way to tell someone about Jesus this week.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher and for each student
- Prop for the attention getter: a globe or world map
- Copies of today's student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Footprint cutouts (5 per child); Long paper strip; Markers, glue

Teacher preparation

- Read Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching "31 Days with Jesus" devotionals at The Preacher's Pen: Day 31: The Ascension (Empowered to Go); Day 29: Breakfast with Jesus (Restoration and Purpose); Conclusion: The Journey Continues.
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- Pentecost ("fiftieth") was a Jewish feast held fifty days after Passover. Jews from many nations were in Jerusalem (Acts 2:5-11).
- Jesus was seen for forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3), so Pentecost came about ten days after the ascension.
- "Remission" (Acts 2:38) means forgiveness, the sending away of sins.
- Conversions in Acts include hearing the gospel and being baptized (for example Acts 8:12, 35-38; 16:30-34; 22:16).
- Before He went back to heaven, Jesus sent His followers into all the world with the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).
- Jesus ascended to heaven and will come again (Acts 1:9-11).
- On Pentecost people heard the gospel, believed, repented, and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:36-41).
- Every follower of Jesus has good news to share and a life of faithfulness to live (Acts 1:8; Revelation 2:10).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:05	Welcome and review	Take attendance. Review yesterday's verse and call.
0:05-0:08	Attention getter	Show a globe or world map. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:18	Bible story	Tell the story from your Bible (script below). Show the coloring page as a picture.
0:18-0:23	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions.
0:23-0:28	Memory verse game	Write the verse on the board. Read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.
0:28-0:37	Activity sheets	Word search, maze, fill-in-the-blank, matching, coloring.
0:37-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	Ask, "How will you tell someone about Jesus this week?" Close with prayer.

Attention getter

Show a globe or world map. Ask: If you had the best news in the world, who would you tell first?

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He was seen by His disciples for forty days (Acts 1:3). He taught them about the kingdom of God.

Jesus gave them a big job. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:15-16). The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

Then, while they watched, Jesus was taken up into heaven, and a cloud hid Him from their eyes (Acts 1:9). Two men in white clothes said that Jesus will come back the same way they saw Him go (Acts 1:11).

A few days later, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter stood up in Jerusalem and preached to a huge crowd. He told them that Jesus was crucified, but God raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:23-24, 32). The people heard this and believed it, and their hearts hurt. They asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Repent means to turn away from sin. Remission means forgiveness.

That day about three thousand people gladly received the word and were baptized (Acts 2:41). They heard, believed, repented, and were baptized, and the Lord added them to His church (Acts 2:47). Today Jesus still sends His followers to go and tell!

Presenting the gospel response

Step	What it means	Scripture
Hear	Listen to and learn God's word about Jesus	Romans 10:17; Matthew 7:24
Believe	Trust that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God	John 8:24; Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6
Repent	Turn away from sin and turn to God	Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3
Confess	Say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord	Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32
Be baptized	Be buried with Christ in water for the remission of sins	Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 22:16
Live faithfully	Keep following Jesus every day	Acts 2:42; Revelation 2:10

Guidance for teachers

- Teach these steps straight from the open Bible (Acts 2:36-41), as the people on Pentecost obeyed.
- Do not lead a "sinner's prayer." The Bible's answer to "What shall we do?" is Acts 2:38.
- If a student expresses a desire to be baptized, affirm them, pray with them, and connect them with their parents and with [PLACEHOLDER: minister or elder contact]. Never pressure a child.
- Record any questions or interest on the follow-up card for the VBS director.

Discussion questions

1. What job did Jesus give His followers?
2. Where did Jesus go when the cloud hid Him?
3. What did the people ask Peter? What did Peter tell them?
4. Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?

Review

- Jesus said, "Go into all the _____." (Answer: World)
- A _____ hid Jesus as He went up to heaven. (Answer: Cloud)
- _____ preached on the Day of Pentecost. (Answer: Peter)
- Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be _____." (Answer: Baptized)

- I can _____ others about Jesus! (Answer: Tell)

Memory verse activity

Erase-a-word: write the verse on the board, read it together, then erase one word at a time until the class can say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Footsteps Path

Materials: Footprint cutouts (5 per child); Long paper strip; Markers, glue

1. Write one step on each footprint: Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized.
2. Glue the footprints along the paper path toward a picture of the church or a Bible at the end.
3. Add the reference under each step (Romans 10:17; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38).
4. Take it home and explain the steps from Acts 2 to your family.

Recreation and snack

Game: Go and Tell Relay: each child runs to the far end, picks up a card with one word of the memory verse, and "tells" it to the next runner. When finished, the team says the verse in order. For little ones, play "Pass the Good News" by passing a ball while singing.

Snack: "All the World" snack: round crackers or cookies with blue and green icing (globes), or a nut-free "Go and Tell" trail mix. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

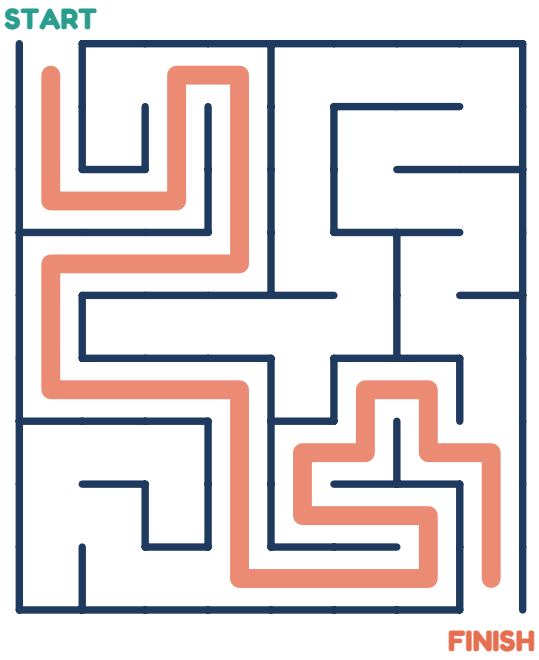
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Go Ye Into All the World; I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; He Is Lord; Jesus Loves the Little Children; Where He Leads Me.

Answer keys

Word search



Maze



Fill in the blank

1. Jesus said, “Go into all the WORLD.”
2. A CLOUD hid Jesus as He went up to heaven.
3. PETER preached on the Day of Pentecost.
4. Peter said, “Repent, and let every one of you be BAPTIZED.”
5. I can TELL others about Jesus!

Matching

- Hear: listen to God's word (Romans 10:17)
- Believe: trust that Jesus is God's Son (Mark 16:16)
- Repent: turn away from sin (Acts 2:38)
- Confess: say Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9)
- Be baptized: for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

Sources for this lesson

- "31 Days with Jesus" by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher's Pen: Day 31: The Ascension (Empowered to Go); Day 29: Breakfast with Jesus (Restoration and Purpose); Conclusion: The Journey Continues (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: Jesus the Teacher (Jesus taught about hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, baptism, and being faithful); Jesus' Burial and Ours (Romans 6:3-11)
- Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 1-3

My Bible Lesson

Jesus Sends Me: Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost
(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41

The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost

After Jesus rose from the dead, He was seen by His disciples for forty days (Acts 1:3). He taught them about the kingdom of God.

Jesus gave them a big job. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:15-16). The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

Then, while they watched, Jesus was taken up into heaven, and a cloud hid Him from their eyes (Acts 1:9). Two men in white clothes said that Jesus will come back the same way they saw Him go (Acts 1:11).

A few days later, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter stood up in Jerusalem and preached to a huge crowd. He told them that Jesus was crucified, but God raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:23-24, 32). The people heard this and believed it, and their hearts hurt. They asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Repent means to turn away from sin. Remission means forgiveness.

That day about three thousand people gladly received the word and were baptized (Acts 2:41). They heard, believed, repented, and were baptized, and the Lord added them to His church (Acts 2:47). Today Jesus still sends His followers to go and tell!

> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
>
> **Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV)**

Big Idea

Jesus sends His followers to tell the good news, and everyone who hears can obey it the way people did in Acts 2.

Think about it

1. What job did Jesus give His followers?
2. Where did Jesus go when the cloud hid Him?
3. What did the people ask Peter? What did Peter tell them?
4. Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?

What did the people in Acts 2 do?

- Hear: Listen to and learn God's word about Jesus (Romans 10:17; Matthew 7:24)
- Believe: Trust that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 8:24; Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6)
- Repent: Turn away from sin and turn to God (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3)
- Confess: Say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32)
- Be baptized: Be buried with Christ in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 22:16)

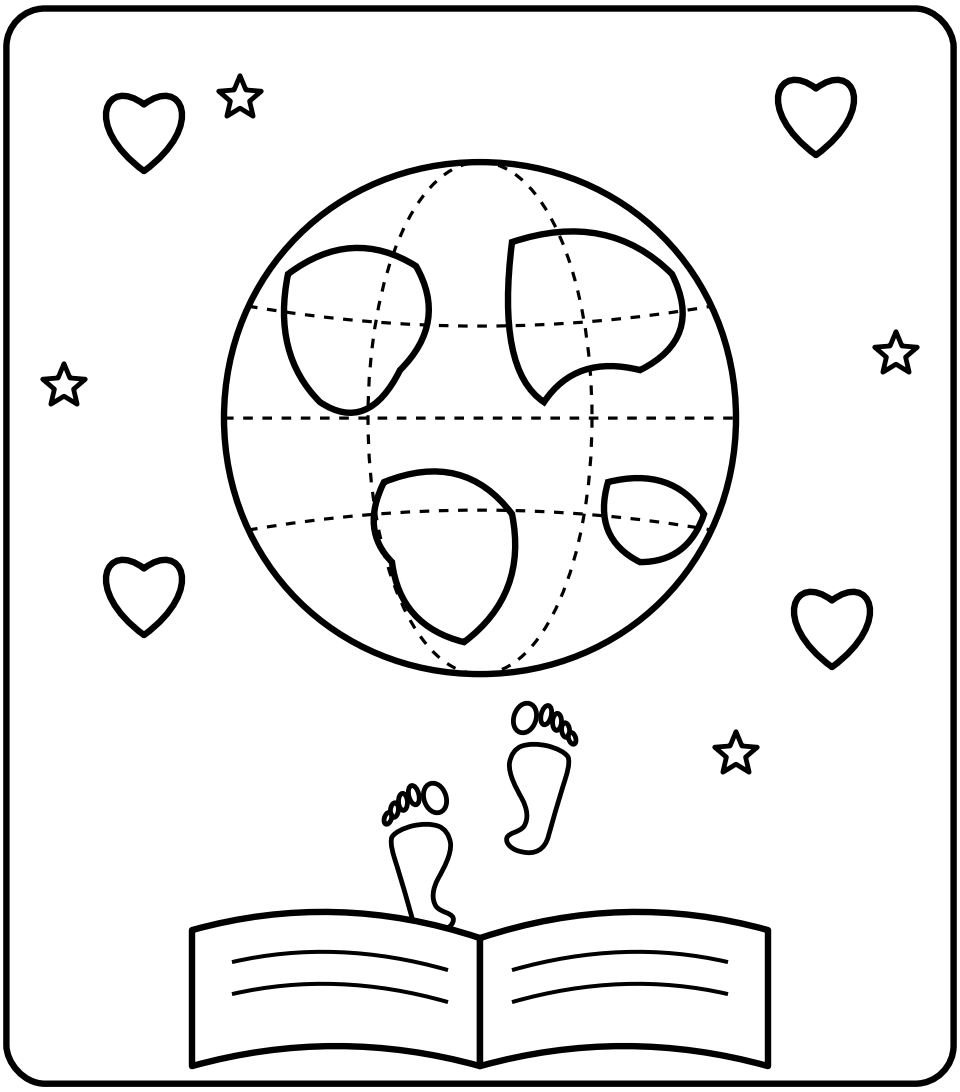
This week I will tell someone about Jesus by:

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 1-3

Coloring Page

Jesus Sends Me: Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost
(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)

Name: _____



And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 1-3

Word Search

Jesus Sends Me: Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost
(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)

Name: _____

Find the words. They go across → and down ↓.

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

Find these words: CLOUD • GO • HEAR • JESUS • LOVE • PETER • TELL • WORLD

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 1-3

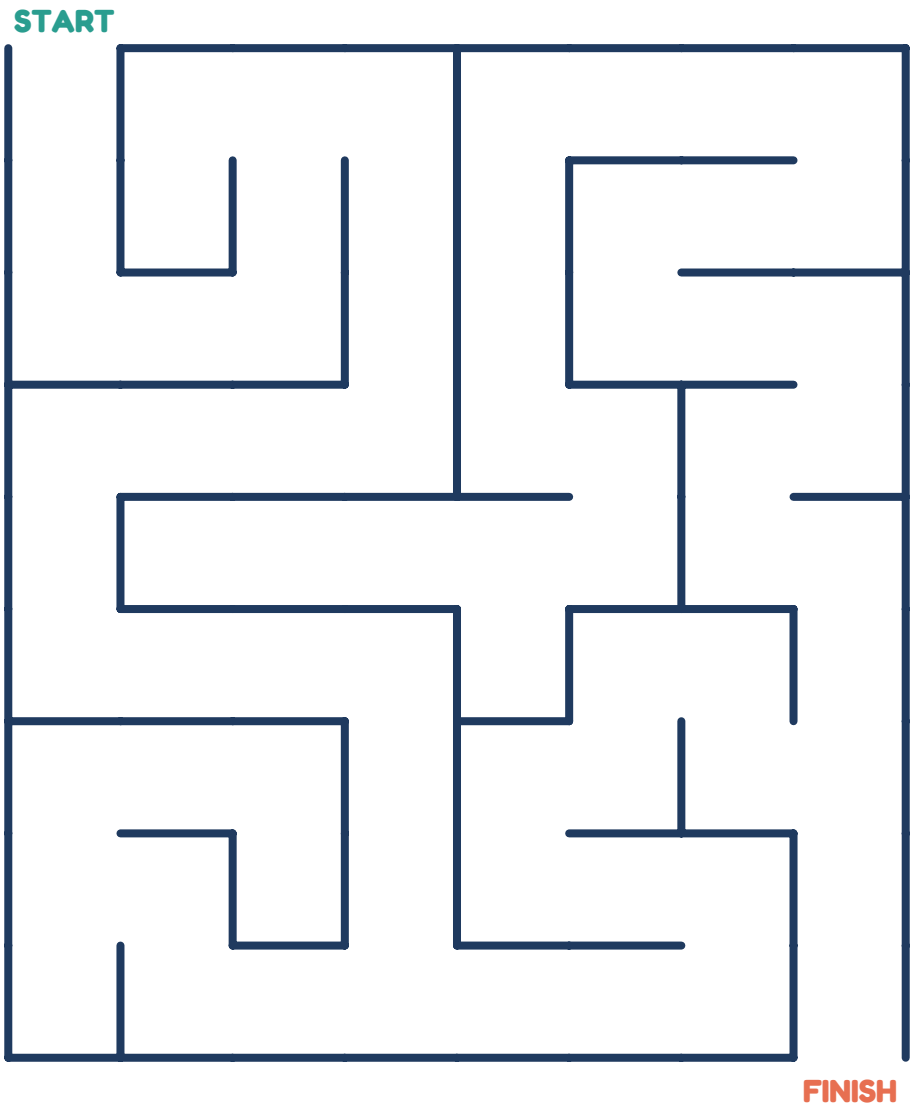
Maze

Jesus Sends Me: Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost
(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)

Name: _____

Take the good news into all the world!





FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 1-3

Fill in the Blank

Jesus Sends Me: Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost
(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)

Name: _____

Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

Word Bank

BAPTIZED CLOUD PETER TELL WORLD

1. Jesus said, “Go into all the _____.”
2. A _____ hid Jesus as He went up to heaven.
3. _____ preached on the Day of Pentecost.
4. Peter said, “Repent, and let every one of you be _____.”
5. I can _____ others about Jesus!

Write the memory verse:

Mark 16:15-16

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 1-3

Matching

Jesus Sends Me: Go and Tell! | The Great Commission, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost
(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41)

Name: _____

Draw a line from each name to the words that tell about it.

Hear	say Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9)
Believe	listen to God's word (Romans 10:17)
Repent	for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
Confess	trust that Jesus is God's Son (Mark 16:16)
Be baptized	turn away from sin (Acts 2:38)