FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 4-6

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

- Find and read the key passages (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51).
- Explain the big idea: Jesus calls me by name to follow Him, and I can say yes and trust Him.
- Say Matthew 4:19 from memory.
- Choose one specific 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: Cardstock fish (8 per child) with a paper clip on each; Dowel or pencil, string, and a small magnet; 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
0:00-0:04	Welcome and review	Attendance; quick review of earlier days.
0:04-0:08	Opener	Show a fishing net (or mesh laundry bag) and a few paper fish. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:20	Bible study	Have students find the passages and read aloud as you teach (script below).
0:20-0:26	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions; let students answer from the text.
0:26-0:30	Memory verse	Verse card race: put word cards in order, then say it from memory.
0:30-0:38	Activity sheets	Bible lookups first, then crossword, word search, scramble, and code.
0:38-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	One-sentence takeaway from each student. 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.

The Sea of Galilee (also called the Lake of Gennesaret) was full of fishing boats. Fishermen worked at night, threw large nets into the water, and in the morning washed and mended their nets. It was hard, ordinary work.

One morning a crowd pressed around Jesus to hear the word of God (Luke 5:1). Jesus stepped into Simon Peter's boat, asked him to push out a little, and taught from the boat like it was a pulpit on the water.

Then Jesus gave Peter a strange command: "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4). Peter was the expert fisherman. He had worked all night and caught nothing. Still he answered, "nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:5). That is faith: doing what Jesus says because He said it.

The catch was so large that the nets began to break and two boats nearly sank. Peter suddenly saw who Jesus really was. He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8). Jesus did not send him away. He said, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men" (Luke 5:10).

Matthew tells us Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew left their nets immediately. James and John left the boat and their father Zebedee (Matthew 4:20-22). Luke says they "forsook all and followed Him" (Luke 5:11).

Jesus did not pick the most famous or impressive men. He called ordinary people who were willing to trust Him. He also called Philip, who brought Nathanael with the words "Come and see" (John 1:43-46), and Matthew the tax collector (Luke 5:27-28). Jesus knows your name, and He is calling you to follow Him too.

Discussion questions

1. Peter was the expert fisherman. Why do you think he obeyed Jesus anyway?
2. Why did Peter say, "Depart from me"? What did he realize about Jesus?
3. What did the fishermen leave behind? What might Jesus ask you to leave behind?
4. Philip told Nathanael, "Come and see." Who could you invite to come and see Jesus?

Review

- Where did Jesus tell Peter to launch out? (Luke 5:4) Answer: into the deep
- How long had Peter worked without catching anything? (Luke 5:5) Answer: all night
- What did Peter call himself? (Luke 5:8) Answer: a sinful man
- What did they forsake to follow Jesus? (Luke 5:11) Answer: all
- Who was in the boat with James and John? (Matthew 4:21) Answer: Zebedee their father
- What did Philip say to Nathanael? (John 1:46) Answer: Come and see

Memory verse activity

Verse card race: write each phrase on a card, mix them up, and let teams race to put the verse in order. Then say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Verse Fishing Game

Materials: Cardstock fish (8 per child) with a paper clip on each; Dowel or pencil, string, and a small magnet; Markers

1. Write a reference from today's lesson on each fish (Luke 5:4, 5:5, 5:8, 5:10, 5:11, Matthew 4:19, John 1:43, John 1:46).
2. Build a fishing pole from the dowel, string, and magnet.
3. In pairs, catch a fish, look up the verse, and tell your partner what it says.
4. Keep the set to play at home with family.

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)

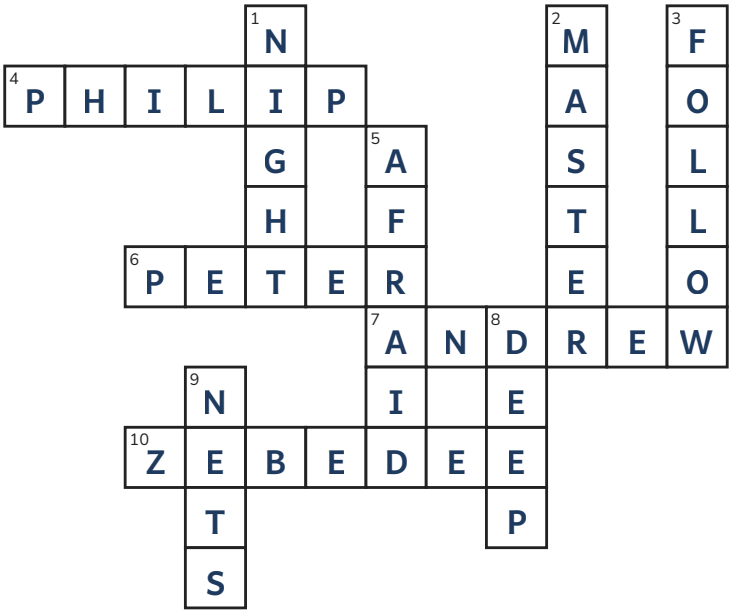
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; I Will Make You Fishers of Men; Footprints of Jesus; Jesus Loves Me; Where He Leads Me.

Answer keys

Bible lookups

Reference	Answer
Luke 5:4	into the deep
Luke 5:5	all night
Luke 5:8	a sinful man
Luke 5:11	all
Matthew 4:21	Zebedee their father
John 1:46	Come and see

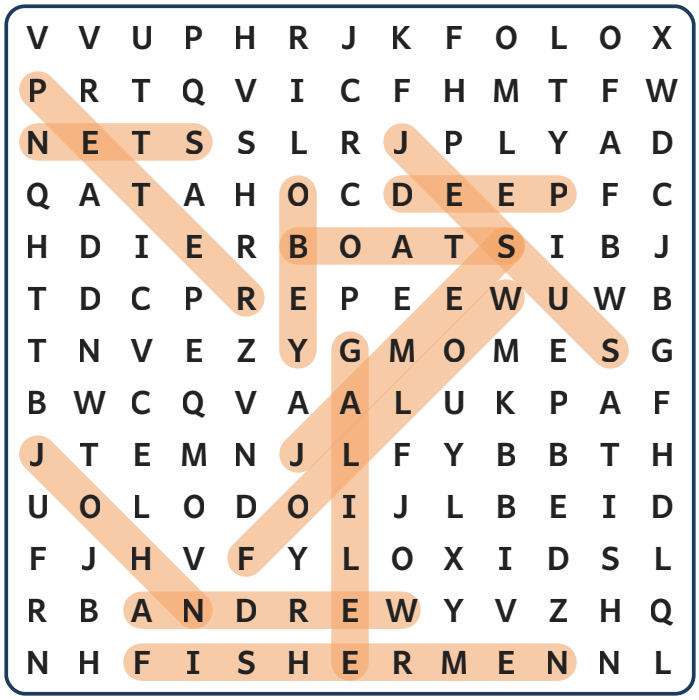
Crossword



Across: 4 PHILIP; 6 PETER; 7 ANDREW; 10 ZEBEDEE

Down: 1 NIGHT; 2 MASTER; 3 FOLLOW; 5 AFRAID; 8 DEEP; 9 NETS

Word search



Word scramble

1. FOLLOW, 2. PETER, 3. FISHERMEN, 4. NETS, 5. BOATS, 6. ANDREW, 7. GALILEE, 8. DEEP

Secret code

Answer: 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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Student Lesson

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

Bible reading: Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51

Jesus Calls the Fishermen

The Sea of Galilee (also called the Lake of Gennesaret) was full of fishing boats. Fishermen worked at night, threw large nets into the water, and in the morning washed and mended their nets. It was hard, ordinary work.

One morning a crowd pressed around Jesus to hear the word of God (Luke 5:1). Jesus stepped into Simon Peter's boat, asked him to push out a little, and taught from the boat like it was a pulpit on the water.

Then Jesus gave Peter a strange command: "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4). Peter was the expert fisherman. He had worked all night and caught nothing. Still he answered, "nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:5). That is faith: doing what Jesus says because He said it.

The catch was so large that the nets began to break and two boats nearly sank. Peter suddenly saw who Jesus really was. He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8). Jesus did not send him away. He said, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men" (Luke 5:10).

Matthew tells us Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew left their nets immediately. James and John left the boat and their father Zebedee (Matthew 4:20-22). Luke says they "forsook all and followed Him" (Luke 5:11).

Jesus did not pick the most famous or impressive men. He called ordinary people who were willing to trust Him. He also called Philip, who brought Nathanael with the words "Come and see" (John 1:43-46), and Matthew the tax collector (Luke 5:27-28). Jesus knows your name, and He is calling you to follow Him too.

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

Four points to remember

- 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).

Think it through

1. Peter was the expert fisherman. Why do you think he obeyed Jesus anyway?
2. Why did Peter say, “Depart from me”? What did he realize about Jesus?
3. What did the fishermen leave behind? What might Jesus ask you to leave behind?
4. Philip told Nathanael, “Come and see.” Who could you invite to come and see Jesus?

Following Jesus this week: I will follow Jesus by

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Bible Lookups

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

Name: _____

Look up each verse in your Bible and answer the question.

Look up	Question	Answer
Luke 5:4	Where did Jesus tell Peter to launch out?	
Luke 5:5	How long had Peter worked without catching anything?	
Luke 5:8	What did Peter call himself?	
Luke 5:11	What did they forsake to follow Jesus?	
Matthew 4:21	Who was in the boat with James and John?	
John 1:46	What did Philip say to Nathanael?	

Memory verse: fill it in from memory.

Matthew 4:19

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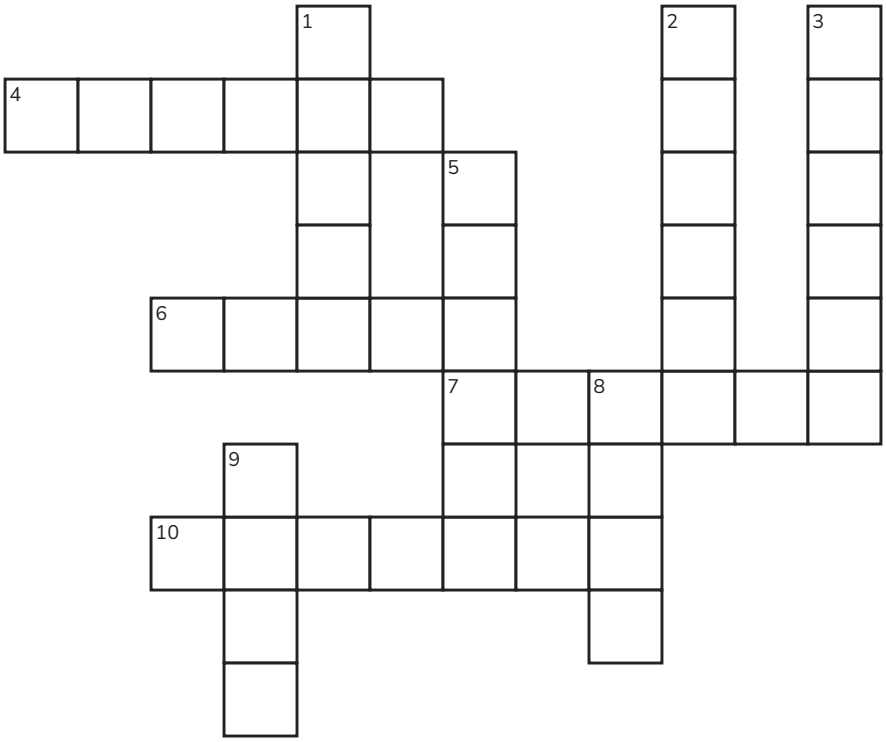
Crossword Puzzle

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

Name: _____



Across

- 4. Jesus found him and said, “Follow Me” (John 1:43)
- 6. Fisherman who said, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man” (Luke 5:8)
- 7. Peter’s brother (Matthew 4:18)
- 10. Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21)

Down

- 1. “We have toiled all ____ and caught nothing” (Luke 5:5)
- 2. What Peter called Jesus in Luke 5:5
- 3. Jesus said, “____ Me” (Matthew 4:19)
- 5. “Do not be ____” (Luke 5:10)
- 8. “Launch out into the ____” (Luke 5:4)
- 9. They left their ____ and followed Him (Matthew 4:20)

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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: _____

Words go across, down, and diagonally.

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

Find these words: ANDREW • BOATS • DEEP • FISHERMEN • FOLLOW • GALILEE • JAMES • JESUS • JOHN • NETS • OBEY • PETER

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Word Scramble

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

Name: _____

Unscramble each word from today's Bible story.

Scrambled	Your answer
1. WLOFLO	_____
2. EPTER	_____
3. SMERIHEFN	_____
4. TESN	_____
5. OSTAB	_____
6. DNWRAE	_____
7. ILLEEGA	_____
8. PEED	_____

Bonus

Use three of the unscrambled words in a sentence about today's lesson.

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Secret Code

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

Name: _____

Use the code key to find the secret message. Write the letter that matches each number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
14	12	25	24	3	11	6	22	2	20	15	9	10
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
23	19	8	13	4	26	1	5	21	18	7	17	16



11 19 9 9 19 18 10 3

Hint: the answer is today's big idea. Read Matthew 4:19.

Write your own

Write a short message about following Jesus in code for a friend to solve.

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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

- Find and read the key passages (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29).
- Explain the big idea: Following Jesus means listening to His words and doing what He says.
- Say Matthew 7:24 from memory.
- Choose one specific 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: Paper cups (10 per small group); Labels or markers; Bibles

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
0:00-0:04	Welcome and review	Attendance; quick review of earlier days.
0:04-0:08	Opener	Show a rock and a cup of sand. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:20	Bible study	Have students find the passages and read aloud as you teach (script below).
0:20-0:26	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions; let students answer from the text.
0:26-0:30	Memory verse	Verse card race: put word cards in order, then say it from memory.
0:30-0:38	Activity sheets	Bible lookups first, then crossword, word search, scramble, and code.
0:38-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	One-sentence takeaway from each student. 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.

Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived. When the crowds gathered, He went up on a mountain, sat down the way teachers did in that day, and taught His disciples (Matthew 5:1-2). Matthew 5, 6, and 7 record this lesson, the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus began with the Beatitudes, blessings for the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers (Matthew 5:3-12). God's blessing looks different from what the world expects. Jesus called His followers salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt makes a difference and light shows the way.

Jesus went deeper than outward rules. He taught about anger, purity, honesty, and loving enemies (Matthew 5:21-48). He taught His followers to give and pray humbly, not to be seen by others, and gave a model prayer (Matthew 6:1-13). He said to store up treasures in heaven and "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:19-33). He gave the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) and warned about the wide road and false teachers (Matthew 7:13-23).

Jesus ended with a story about two builders. Both heard. Both built. Both faced the same storm. The difference was the foundation. The wise man built on the rock and his house stood. The foolish man built on the sand and his house fell, “and great was its fall” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Jesus explained the point: the wise man is the one who “hears these sayings of Mine, and does them” (Matthew 7:24). The crowds were astonished, because He taught “as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matthew 7:28-29). Following Jesus means more than knowing what He said. It means doing it.

Discussion questions

1. Why were the people astonished at Jesus’ teaching?
2. Both builders heard and both faced the storm. What was the only difference?
3. What are some “storms” kids your age face?
4. Which teaching from Matthew 5-7 is hardest for you to do? Why?

Review

- Where did Jesus go to teach? (Matthew 5:1) Answer: up on a mountain
- What did Jesus call His followers? (Matthew 5:14) Answer: the light of the world
- Whom did Jesus say to love? (Matthew 5:44) Answer: your enemies
- What should we seek first? (Matthew 6:33) Answer: the kingdom of God and His righteousness
- Where did the wise man build? (Matthew 7:24) Answer: on the rock
- How did the people react? (Matthew 7:28) Answer: they were astonished

Memory verse activity

Verse card race: write each phrase on a card, mix them up, and let teams race to put the verse in order. Then say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Building Blocks of the Sermon on the Mount

Materials: Paper cups (10 per small group); Labels or markers; Bibles

1. Groups label each cup with a teaching from Matthew 5-7 (salt, light, love enemies, pray, seek first, Golden Rule, narrow gate, hear and do, and so on) with its reference.
2. Build a tower on a solid book (the rock), naming each teaching as it is placed.
3. Try to build on a pillow (sand). Discuss the difference.
4. Write the memory verse on the top cup.

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

Bible lookups

Reference	Answer
Matthew 5:1	up on a mountain
Matthew 5:14	the light of the world
Matthew 5:44	your enemies
Matthew 6:33	the kingdom of God and His righteousness
Matthew 7:24	on the rock
Matthew 7:28	they were astonished

Crossword



Across: 1 BLESSED; 4 KINGDOM; 7 SAND; 10 AUTHORITY

Down: 2 LIGHT; 3 WISE; 5 MOUNTAIN; 6 SALT; 8 RAIN; 9 ROCK

Word search



Word scramble

1. MOUNTAIN, 2. ROCK, 3. SAND, 4. WISE, 5. LIGHT, 6. SALT, 7. TEACHER, 8. OBEY

Secret code

Answer: HEAR AND DO

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 4-6

Student 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)

Bible reading: Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29

The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders

Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived. When the crowds gathered, He went up on a mountain, sat down the way teachers did in that day, and taught His disciples (Matthew 5:1-2). Matthew 5, 6, and 7 record this lesson, the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus began with the Beatitudes, blessings for the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers (Matthew 5:3-12). God's blessing looks different from what the world expects. Jesus called His followers salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt makes a difference and light shows the way.

Jesus went deeper than outward rules. He taught about anger, purity, honesty, and loving enemies (Matthew 5:21-48). He taught His followers to give and pray humbly, not to be seen by others, and gave a model prayer (Matthew 6:1-13). He said to store up treasures in heaven and "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:19-33). He gave the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) and warned about the wide road and false teachers (Matthew 7:13-23).

Jesus ended with a story about two builders. Both heard. Both built. Both faced the same storm. The difference was the foundation. The wise man built on the rock and his house stood. The foolish man built on the sand and his house fell, "and great was its fall" (Matthew 7:24-27).

Jesus explained the point: the wise man is the one who "hears these sayings of Mine, and does them" (Matthew 7:24). The crowds were astonished, because He taught "as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:28-29). Following Jesus means more than knowing what He said. It means doing it.

> "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)

Four points to remember

- 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).

Think it through

1. Why were the people astonished at Jesus' teaching?
2. Both builders heard and both faced the storm. What was the only difference?
3. What are some "storms" kids your age face?
4. Which teaching from Matthew 5-7 is hardest for you to do? Why?

Following Jesus this week: I will obey Jesus' words by

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 4-6

Bible Lookups

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: _____

Look up each verse in your Bible and answer the question.

Look up	Question	Answer
Matthew 5:1	Where did Jesus go to teach?	
Matthew 5:14	What did Jesus call His followers?	
Matthew 5:44	Whom did Jesus say to love?	
Matthew 6:33	What should we seek first?	
Matthew 7:24	Where did the wise man build?	
Matthew 7:28	How did the people react?	

Memory verse: fill it in from memory.

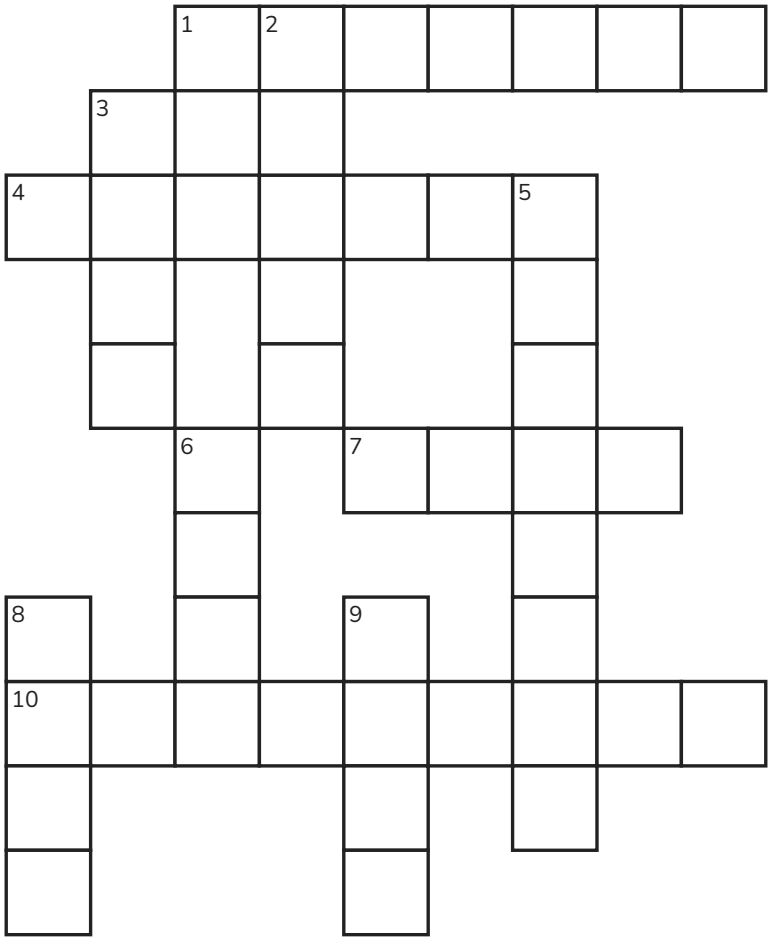
Matthew 7:24

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 4-6

Crossword Puzzle

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: _____



Across

- 1. "____ are the pure in heart" (Matthew 5:8)
- 4. "Seek first the ____ of God" (Matthew 6:33)
- 7. The foolish man built on the ____ (Matthew 7:26)
- 10. He taught as one having ____ (Matthew 7:29)

Down

- 2. "You are the ____ of the world" (Matthew 5:14)
- 3. Hearing and doing makes you like a ____ man (Matthew 7:24)
- 5. Jesus went up on a ____ and taught (Matthew 5:1)
- 6. "You are the ____ of the earth" (Matthew 5:13)
- 8. "The ____ descended, the floods came" (Matthew 7:25)
- 9. The wise man built on the ____ (Matthew 7:24)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 4-6

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: _____

Words go across, down, and diagonally.

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

Find these words: FOOLISH • HOUSE • JESUS • LIGHT • MOUNTAIN • PRAY • RAIN • ROCK • SALT • SAND • TEACHER • WISE

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 4-6

Word Scramble

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: _____

Unscramble each word from today's Bible story.

Scrambled	Your answer
1. OUNTINMA	_____
2. ORKC	_____
3. SDAN	_____
4. ISWE	_____
5. HTGIL	_____
6. ALTS	_____
7. REETCAH	_____
8. EYBO	_____

Bonus

Use three of the unscrambled words in a sentence about today's lesson.

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 4-6

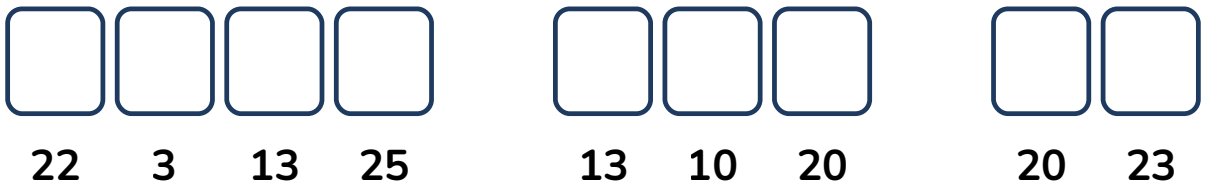
Secret Code

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 code key to find the secret message. Write the letter that matches each number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
13	18	6	20	3	4	15	22	1	26	7	5	24
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
10	23	21	12	25	8	16	17	14	19	2	9	11



Hint: the answer is today's big idea. Read Matthew 7:24.

Write your own

Write a short message about following Jesus in code for a friend to solve.

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 4-6

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

- Find and read the key passages (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27).
- Explain the big idea: Following Jesus means loving and serving others the way He loved and served us.
- Say John 13:15 from memory.
- Choose one specific 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: Small washcloths or paper towels; Fabric markers or regular markers; Ribbon

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
0:00-0:04	Welcome and review	Attendance; quick review of earlier days.
0:04-0:08	Opener	Show a towel, a basin (bowl), and a pitcher of water. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:20	Bible study	Have students find the passages and read aloud as you teach (script below).
0:20-0:26	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions; let students answer from the text.
0:26-0:30	Memory verse	Verse card race: put word cards in order, then say it from memory.
0:30-0:38	Activity sheets	Bible lookups first, then crossword, word search, scramble, and code.
0:38-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	One-sentence takeaway from each student. 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.

Roads in Israel were dusty, and people wore open sandals. Washing a guest's feet was good manners, and it was usually done by the lowest servant in the house (compare 1 Samuel 25:41; Luke 7:44).

On the night before His death, Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples in an upper room. Jesus knew "that His hour had come" and He "loved them to the end" (John 13:1). Yet the disciples argued about who would be the greatest (Luke 22:24). One of them, Judas, had already decided to betray Jesus (John 13:2).

Jesus did not lecture them. He rose from supper, laid aside His garments, tied a towel around Himself, poured water into a basin, and began washing their feet (John 13:4-5). The Teacher and Lord took the servant's place. He even washed the feet of Judas.

Peter objected: “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me” (John 13:8). Peter meant to show respect, but he was refusing what the Lord wanted. When he understood, he wanted to be washed all over (John 13:9).

Then Jesus explained: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15). He added, “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them” (John 13:17).

Jesus also gave a new commandment: “that you love one another; as I have loved you” (John 13:34). The world will know we are His disciples by our love (John 13:35). Greatness in Jesus’ kingdom is measured by service (Luke 22:26-27; Mark 10:45).

Discussion questions

1. What were the disciples arguing about that night (Luke 22:24)?
2. Why did Peter refuse at first? What changed his mind?
3. Jesus washed Judas’ feet. What does that teach about loving people who hurt us?
4. What does it mean to be “great” in Jesus’ kingdom (Mark 10:45)?

Review

- How long did Jesus love His own? (John 13:1) Answer: to the end
- What did Jesus tie around Himself? (John 13:4) Answer: a towel
- What did Jesus pour water into? (John 13:5) Answer: a basin
- What did the disciples call Jesus? (John 13:13) Answer: Teacher and Lord
- Who is blessed? (John 13:17) Answer: those who know these things and do them
- How will all know we are His disciples? (John 13:35) Answer: if we have love for one another

Memory verse activity

Verse card race: write each phrase on a card, mix them up, and let teams race to put the verse in order. Then say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Servant’s Towel

Materials: Small washcloths or paper towels; Fabric markers or regular markers; Ribbon

1. Write “Serve Like Jesus” and John 13:15 on the towel.
2. Around the edge, list five people you can serve this week.
3. Roll and tie with ribbon.
4. Each day you serve someone, put a check by their name.

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)

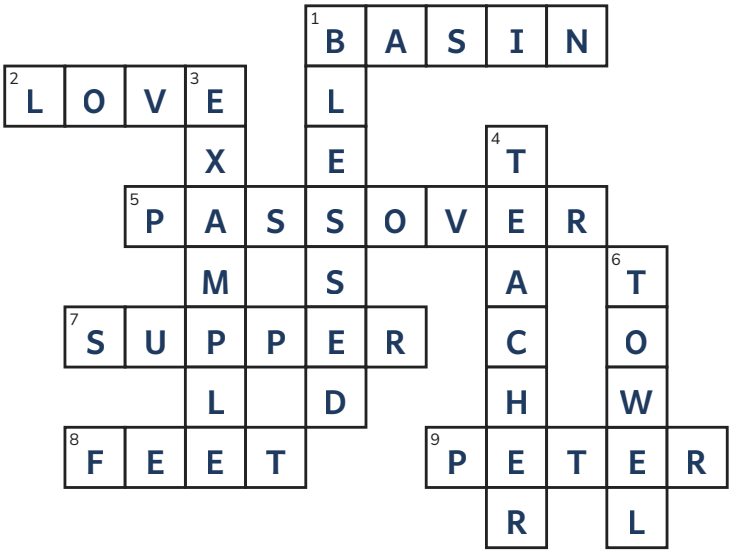
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Jesus Loves the Little Children; Oh, How I Love Jesus; Deep and Wide; Footprints of Jesus; Jesus Loves Me.

Answer keys

Bible lookups

Reference	Answer
John 13:1	to the end
John 13:4	a towel
John 13:5	a basin
John 13:13	Teacher and Lord
John 13:17	those who know these things and do them
John 13:35	if we have love for one another

Crossword



Across: 1 BASIN; 2 LOVE; 5 PASSOVER; 7 SUPPER; 8 FEET; 9 PETER

Down: 1 BLESSED; 3 EXAMPLE; 4 TEACHER; 6 TOWEL

Word search



Word scramble

1. TOWEL, 2. BASIN, 3. WATER, 4. SERVE, 5. EXAMPLE, 6. HUMBLE, 7. SUPPER, 8. LOVE

Secret code

Answer: LOVE ONE ANOTHER

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 4-6

Student 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)

Bible reading: John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Roads in Israel were dusty, and people wore open sandals. Washing a guest's feet was good manners, and it was usually done by the lowest servant in the house (compare 1 Samuel 25:41; Luke 7:44).

On the night before His death, Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples in an upper room. Jesus knew "that His hour had come" and He "loved them to the end" (John 13:1). Yet the disciples argued about who would be the greatest (Luke 22:24). One of them, Judas, had already decided to betray Jesus (John 13:2).

Jesus did not lecture them. He rose from supper, laid aside His garments, tied a towel around Himself, poured water into a basin, and began washing their feet (John 13:4-5). The Teacher and Lord took the servant's place. He even washed the feet of Judas.

Peter objected: "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me" (John 13:8). Peter meant to show respect, but he was refusing what the Lord wanted. When he understood, he wanted to be washed all over (John 13:9).

Then Jesus explained: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15). He added, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:17).

Jesus also gave a new commandment: "that you love one another; as I have loved you" (John 13:34). The world will know we are His disciples by our love (John 13:35). Greatness in Jesus' kingdom is measured by service (Luke 22:26-27; Mark 10:45).

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

Four points to remember

- 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).

Think it through

1. What were the disciples arguing about that night (Luke 22:24)?

2. Why did Peter refuse at first? What changed his mind?
3. Jesus washed Judas' feet. What does that teach about loving people who hurt us?
4. What does it mean to be "great" in Jesus' kingdom (Mark 10:45)?

Following Jesus this week: I will serve others by

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 4-6

Bible Lookups

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: _____

Look up each verse in your Bible and answer the question.

Look up	Question	Answer
John 13:1	How long did Jesus love His own?	
John 13:4	What did Jesus tie around Himself?	
John 13:5	What did Jesus pour water into?	
John 13:13	What did the disciples call Jesus?	
John 13:17	Who is blessed?	
John 13:35	How will all know we are His disciples?	

Memory verse: fill it in from memory.

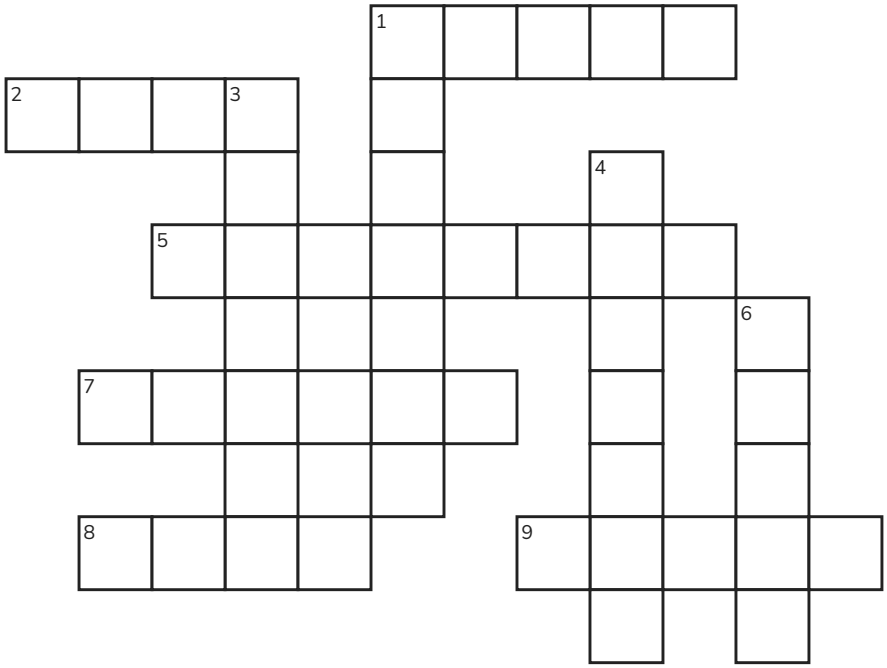
John 13:15

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 4-6

Crossword Puzzle

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: _____



Across

- 1. He poured water into a ____ (John 13:5)
- 2. "That you ____ one another" (John 13:34)
- 5. The feast that was about to begin (John 13:1)
- 7. Jesus rose from ____ (John 13:4)
- 8. He began to wash the disciples' ____ (John 13:5)
- 9. Said, "You shall never wash my feet!" (John 13:8)

Down

- 1. "____ are you if you do them" (John 13:17)
- 3. "I have given you an ____" (John 13:15)
- 4. "You call Me ____ and Lord" (John 13:13)
- 6. Jesus girded Himself with a ____ (John 13:4)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 4-6

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: _____

Words go across, down, and diagonally.

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

Find these words: BASIN • EXAMPLE • FEET • HUMBLE • JESUS • LOVE • PETER • SERVE • SUPPER • TOWEL • WASH • WATER

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 4-6

Word Scramble

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: _____

Unscramble each word from today's Bible story.

Scrambled	Your answer
1. EWLTO	_____
2. SINAB	_____
3. WRTEA	_____
4. EREVS	_____
5. MLEXEAP	_____
6. BEHUML	_____
7. EPPRUS	_____
8. OLEV	_____

Bonus

Use three of the unscrambled words in a sentence about today's lesson.

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 4-6

Secret Code

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 code key to find the secret message. Write the letter that matches each number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
22	10	3	2	6	26	11	23	15	4	16	17	19
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	24	9	1	7	20	21	12	5	14	13	18	8



Hint: the answer is today's big idea. Read John 13:15.

Write your own

Write a short message about following Jesus in code for a friend to solve.

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 4-6

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

- Find and read the key passages (Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30).
- Explain the big idea: Jesus died for my sins, was buried, and rose again, so I can be saved and live with Him.
- Say Matthew 28:6 from memory.
- Choose one specific 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 strips; Markers; Ribbon or yarn; Hole punch

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
0:00-0:04	Welcome and review	Attendance; quick review of earlier days.
0:04-0:08	Opener	Show a large gray ball or paper "stone" and an empty box. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:20	Bible study	Have students find the passages and read aloud as you teach (script below).
0:20-0:26	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions; let students answer from the text.
0:26-0:30	Memory verse	Verse card race: put word cards in order, then say it from memory.
0:30-0:38	Activity sheets	Bible lookups first, then crossword, word search, scramble, and code.
0:38-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	One-sentence takeaway from each student. 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.

The cross was planned long before it happened. Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would be "wounded for our transgressions" (Isaiah 53:5). John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus said Himself that He would be killed and be raised the third day (Matthew 16:21).

Crucifixion was a slave's punishment, one of the cruelest deaths ever invented. Jesus was mocked, spit on, beaten, and crowned with thorns (Matthew 27:27-31). Above His head they wrote, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS" (Matthew 27:37). Yet Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34). Darkness covered the land, and Jesus cried, "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

When Jesus died, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom and the earth quaked (Matthew 27:51). The centurion said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Matthew 27:54). Why did Jesus die? “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Joseph of Arimathea, a rich disciple, laid Jesus in his own new tomb and rolled a large stone against the door (Matthew 27:57-60). The chief priests remembered that Jesus said He would rise, so Pilate let them seal the stone and set a guard (Matthew 27:62-66).

Early on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb. A great earthquake shook the ground, an angel rolled back the stone and sat on it, and the guards became like dead men (Matthew 28:1-4). The angel said, “He is not here; for He is risen, as He said” (Matthew 28:6). The stone was not rolled away to let Jesus out, but to let the witnesses in!

Jesus met the women and said, “Rejoice!” (Matthew 28:9). Paul later summed up the gospel: “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Tomorrow we will learn how people obeyed this good news.

> **Teacher note for today**
>
> Be reverent, not graphic. Emphasize God’s love (Romans 5:8), the burial, and the joy of the resurrection. Point ahead to Day 5: “What should we do?”

Discussion questions

1. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them.” What does that show about Him?
2. Why do you think the leaders put guards at the tomb?
3. Why was the stone rolled away if Jesus was already risen?
4. Read Romans 5:8. How does the cross show God’s love?

Review

- What did Jesus pray on the cross? (Luke 23:34) Answer: Father, forgive them
- What did Jesus say before He died? (John 19:30) Answer: It is finished
- What did the centurion say? (Matthew 27:54) Answer: Truly this was the Son of God
- What was rolled against the door? (Matthew 27:60) Answer: a large stone
- Who rolled back the stone? (Matthew 28:2) Answer: an angel of the Lord
- Why was Jesus not there? (Matthew 28:6) Answer: He is risen

Memory verse activity

Verse card race: write each phrase on a card, mix them up, and let teams race to put the verse in order. Then say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Three Crosses Bookmark

Materials: Cardstock strips; Markers; Ribbon or yarn; Hole punch

1. Draw three crosses at the top and an empty tomb at the bottom.
2. Write 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 down the middle: died, buried, rose.
3. Punch a hole and tie a ribbon.
4. Use it to mark Romans 6 in your Bible for tomorrow.

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)

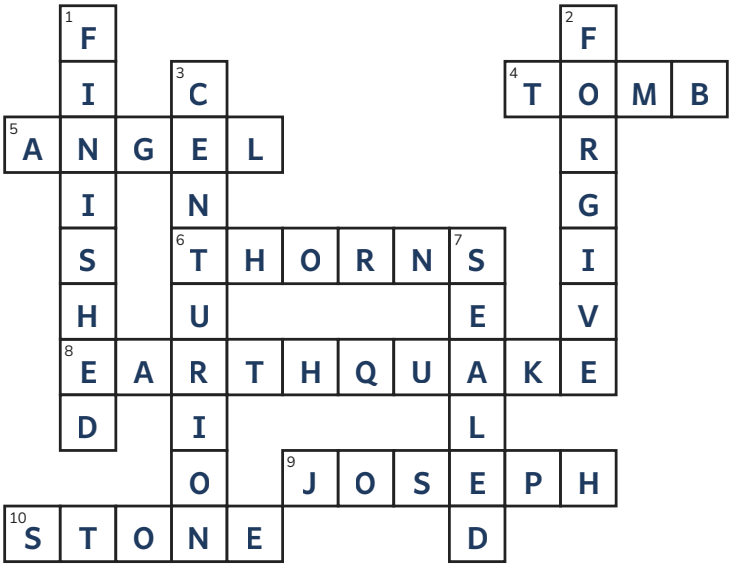
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Low in the Grave He Lay (Up from the Grave He Arose); Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross; Nothing but the Blood; Jesus Loves Me; He Is Lord.

Answer keys

Bible lookups

Reference	Answer
Luke 23:34	Father, forgive them
John 19:30	It is finished
Matthew 27:54	Truly this was the Son of God
Matthew 27:60	a large stone
Matthew 28:2	an angel of the Lord
Matthew 28:6	He is risen

Crossword



Across: 4 TOMB; 5 ANGEL; 6 THORNS; 8 EARTHQUAKE; 9 JOSEPH; 10 STONE

Down: 1 FINISHED; 2 FORGIVE; 3 CENTURION; 7 SEALED

Word search



Word scramble

1. CROSS, 2. TOMB, 3. STONE, 4. ANGEL, 5. RISEN, 6. SAVIOR, 7. FORGIVE, 8. ALIVE

Secret code

Answer: HE IS RISEN

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 4-6

Student 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)

Bible reading: Matthew 27:27-28:10; Luke 23:33-46; John 19:30

The Cross and the Empty Tomb

The cross was planned long before it happened. Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would be "wounded for our transgressions" (Isaiah 53:5). John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus said Himself that He would be killed and be raised the third day (Matthew 16:21).

Crucifixion was a slave's punishment, one of the cruelest deaths ever invented. Jesus was mocked, spit on, beaten, and crowned with thorns (Matthew 27:27-31). Above His head they wrote, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS" (Matthew 27:37). Yet Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34). Darkness covered the land, and Jesus cried, "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

When Jesus died, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom and the earth quaked (Matthew 27:51). The centurion said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54). Why did Jesus die? "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Joseph of Arimathea, a rich disciple, laid Jesus in his own new tomb and rolled a large stone against the door (Matthew 27:57-60). The chief priests remembered that Jesus said He would rise, so Pilate let them seal the stone and set a guard (Matthew 27:62-66).

Early on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb. A great earthquake shook the ground, an angel rolled back the stone and sat on it, and the guards became like dead men (Matthew 28:1-4). The angel said, "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said" (Matthew 28:6). The stone was not rolled away to let Jesus out, but to let the witnesses in!

Jesus met the women and said, "Rejoice!" (Matthew 28:9). Paul later summed up the gospel: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Tomorrow we will learn how people obeyed this good news.

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

Four points to remember

- 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).

Think it through

1. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them.” What does that show about Him?
2. Why do you think the leaders put guards at the tomb?
3. Why was the stone rolled away if Jesus was already risen?
4. Read Romans 5:8. How does the cross show God’s love?

Following Jesus this week: I will thank Jesus for the cross by

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 4-6

Bible Lookups

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: _____

Look up each verse in your Bible and answer the question.

Look up	Question	Answer
Luke 23:34	What did Jesus pray on the cross?	
John 19:30	What did Jesus say before He died?	
Matthew 27:54	What did the centurion say?	
Matthew 27:60	What was rolled against the door?	
Matthew 28:2	Who rolled back the stone?	
Matthew 28:6	Why was Jesus not there?	

Memory verse: fill it in from memory.

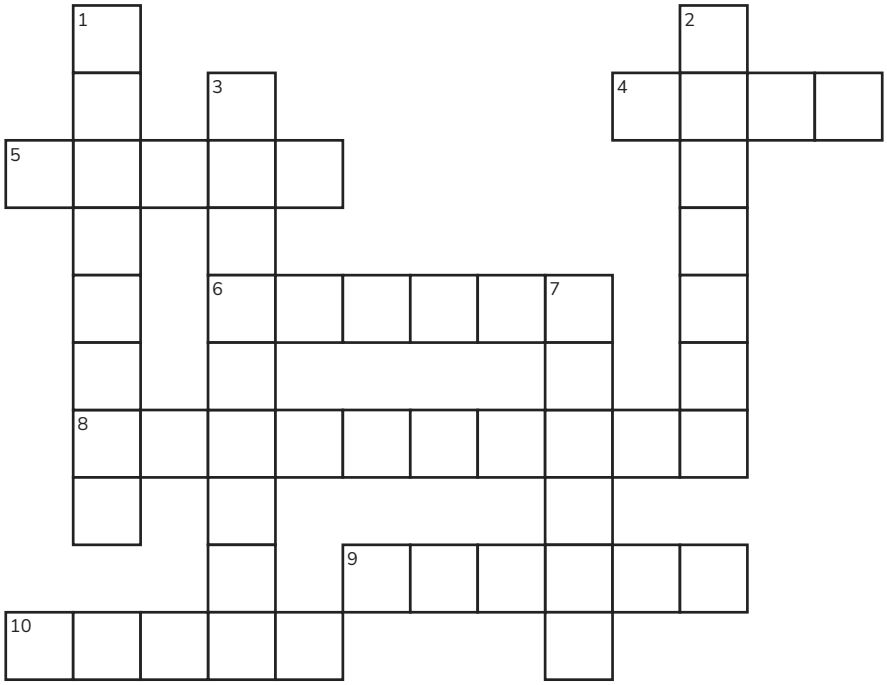
Matthew 28:6

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 4-6

Crossword Puzzle

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: _____



Across

- 4. Jesus was laid in a new ____ (Matthew 27:60)
- 5. He rolled back the stone and sat on it (Matthew 28:2)
- 6. The soldiers put a crown of ____ on His head (Matthew 27:29)
- 8. There was a great ____ (Matthew 28:2)
- 9. Rich man of Arimathea who gave his tomb (Matthew 27:57)
- 10. A large ____ was rolled against the door (Matthew 27:60)

Down

- 1. “It is ____!” (John 19:30)
- 2. “Father, ____ them” (Luke 23:34)
- 3. He said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Matthew 27:54)
- 7. They ____ the stone and set a guard (Matthew 27:66)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 4-6

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: _____

Words go across, down, and diagonally.

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

Find these words: ALIVE • ANGEL • CROSS • FORGIVE • GUARDS • JESUS • JOSEPH • MARY • RISEN • SAVIOR • STONE • TOMB

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 4-6

Word Scramble

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: _____

Unscramble each word from today's Bible story.

Scrambled	Your answer
1. OCSSR	_____
2. TBMO	_____
3. TNSOE	_____
4. ELGAN	_____
5. RNISE	_____
6. VSORIA	_____
7. IGVRFOE	_____
8. ALEVI	_____

Bonus

Use three of the unscrambled words in a sentence about today's lesson.

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 4 · GRADES 4-6

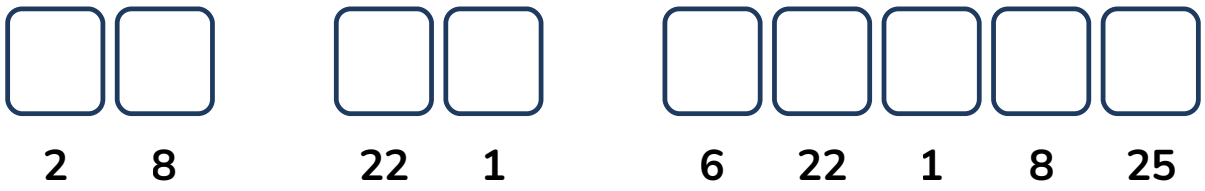
Secret Code

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 code key to find the secret message. Write the letter that matches each number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
16	5	4	23	8	26	20	2	22	11	19	9	21
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	18	14	15	6	1	10	24	13	7	17	3	12



Hint: the answer is today's big idea. Read Matthew 28:6.

Write your own

Write a short message about following Jesus in code for a friend to solve.

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · GRADES 4-6

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

- Find and read the key passages (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3-11; Acts 2:22-41).
- Explain the 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.
- Say Mark 16:15-16 from memory.
- Choose one specific 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: Cord or pipe cleaners; Pony beads in 6 colors; Key card (printed)

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
0:00-0:04	Welcome and review	Attendance; quick review of earlier days.
0:04-0:08	Opener	Show a globe or world map. Ask the opening question.
0:08-0:20	Bible study	Have students find the passages and read aloud as you teach (script below).
0:20-0:26	Discussion	Ask the discussion questions; let students answer from the text.
0:26-0:30	Memory verse	Verse card race: put word cards in order, then say it from memory.
0:30-0:38	Activity sheets	Bible lookups first, then crossword, word search, scramble, and code.
0:38-0:40	Wrap-up and prayer	One-sentence takeaway from each student. 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 His resurrection, Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days" (Acts 1:3). Before He returned to the Father, He gave His followers their mission, often called the Great Commission.

Matthew records it this way: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Mark adds, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Jesus promised the apostles power when the Holy Spirit came, and said they would be His witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Then He was taken up and a cloud received Him. Two men in white said, “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

On the Day of Pentecost the apostles began preaching in Jerusalem. Peter proclaimed that Jesus was crucified and that God raised Him up (Acts 2:22-24, 32). He concluded, “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). The crowd was “cut to the heart” and asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37).

Peter answered, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). About three thousand gladly received his word and were baptized that day (Acts 2:41), and “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

Look at what happened: they heard the word (Romans 10:17), believed that Jesus is Lord and Christ (Mark 16:16), repented of their sins (Acts 2:38), confessed their faith (Romans 10:9-10), and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Then they “continued steadfastly” (Acts 2:42). That same good news is for us today, and now it is our turn 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 does “gospel” mean? What are the three main facts of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)?
2. What did the people on Pentecost do when they heard the gospel?
3. Why is it important to do what the Bible says about being saved?
4. What makes it hard to tell others about Jesus? How can we be brave?

Review

- Where did Jesus say to go? (Mark 16:15) Answer: into all the world

- How many days was Jesus seen after He rose? (Acts 1:3) Answer: forty
- What received Jesus out of their sight? (Acts 1:9) Answer: a cloud
- What did the people ask? (Acts 2:37) Answer: Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- What two things did Peter tell them to do? (Acts 2:38) Answer: repent and be baptized
- About how many were baptized that day? (Acts 2:41) Answer: about three thousand

Memory verse activity

Verse card race: write each phrase on a card, mix them up, and let teams race to put the verse in order. Then say it from memory.

Craft (Craft Time): Acts 2 Bracelet

Materials: Cord or pipe cleaners; Pony beads in 6 colors; Key card (printed)

1. Assign a bead to each step: Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized, Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10).
2. String the beads in order.
3. On the key card, write the reference for each step.
4. Practice explaining Acts 2:36-41 to a partner using the bracelet.

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)

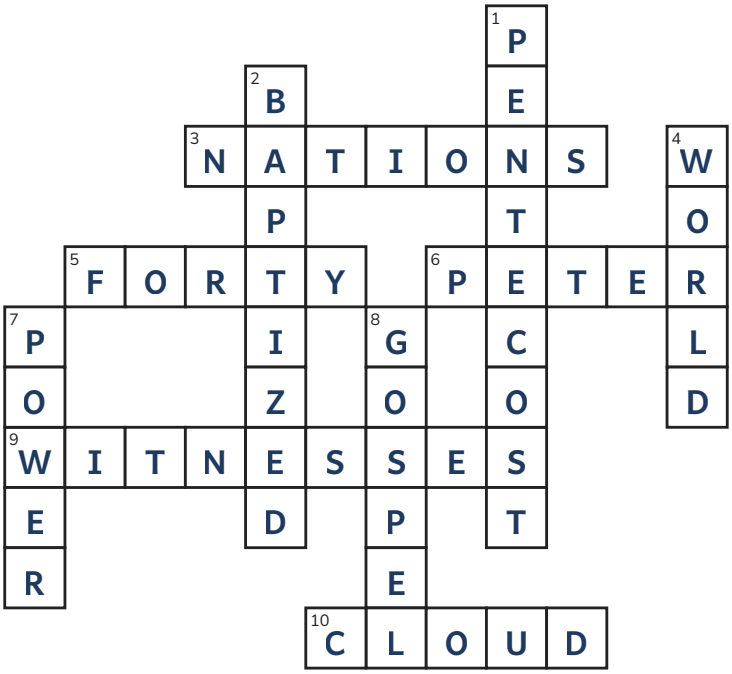
Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Go Ye Into All the World; I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; He Is Lord; Jesus Loves the Little Children; Where He Leads Me.

Answer keys

Bible lookups

Reference	Answer
Mark 16:15	into all the world
Acts 1:3	forty
Acts 1:9	a cloud
Acts 2:37	Men and brethren, what shall we do?
Acts 2:38	repent and be baptized
Acts 2:41	about three thousand

Crossword



Across: 3 NATIONS; 5 FORTY; 6 PETER; 9 WITNESSES; 10 CLOUD

Down: 1 PENTECOST; 2 BAPTIZED; 4 WORLD; 7 POWER; 8 GOSPEL

Word search



Word scramble

1. GOSPEL, 2. WORLD, 3. BAPTIZED, 4. REPENT, 5. BELIEVE, 6. CONFESS, 7. WITNESS, 8. HEAVEN

Secret code

Answer: GO AND TELL

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 4-6

Student 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)

Bible reading: 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 His resurrection, Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days" (Acts 1:3). Before He returned to the Father, He gave His followers their mission, often called the Great Commission.

Matthew records it this way: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Mark adds, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Jesus promised the apostles power when the Holy Spirit came, and said they would be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Then He was taken up and a cloud received Him. Two men in white said, "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

On the Day of Pentecost the apostles began preaching in Jerusalem. Peter proclaimed that Jesus was crucified and that God raised Him up (Acts 2:22-24, 32). He concluded, "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The crowd was "cut to the heart" and asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Peter answered, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). About three thousand gladly received his word and were baptized that day (Acts 2:41), and "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

Look at what happened: they heard the word (Romans 10:17), believed that Jesus is Lord and Christ (Mark 16:16), repented of their sins (Acts 2:38), confessed their faith (Romans 10:9-10), and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Then they "continued steadfastly" (Acts 2:42). That same good news is for us today, and now it is our turn 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)**

Four points to remember

- 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).

How did people obey the gospel in Acts 2?

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

Think it through

1. What does "gospel" mean? What are the three main facts of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)?
2. What did the people on Pentecost do when they heard the gospel?
3. Why is it important to do what the Bible says about being saved?
4. What makes it hard to tell others about Jesus? How can we be brave?

Following Jesus this week: I will tell someone about Jesus by

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 4-6

Bible Lookups

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: _____

Look up each verse in your Bible and answer the question.

Look up	Question	Answer
Mark 16:15	Where did Jesus say to go?	
Acts 1:3	How many days was Jesus seen after He rose?	
Acts 1:9	What received Jesus out of their sight?	
Acts 2:37	What did the people ask?	
Acts 2:38	What two things did Peter tell them to do?	
Acts 2:41	About how many were baptized that day?	

Memory verse: fill it in from memory.

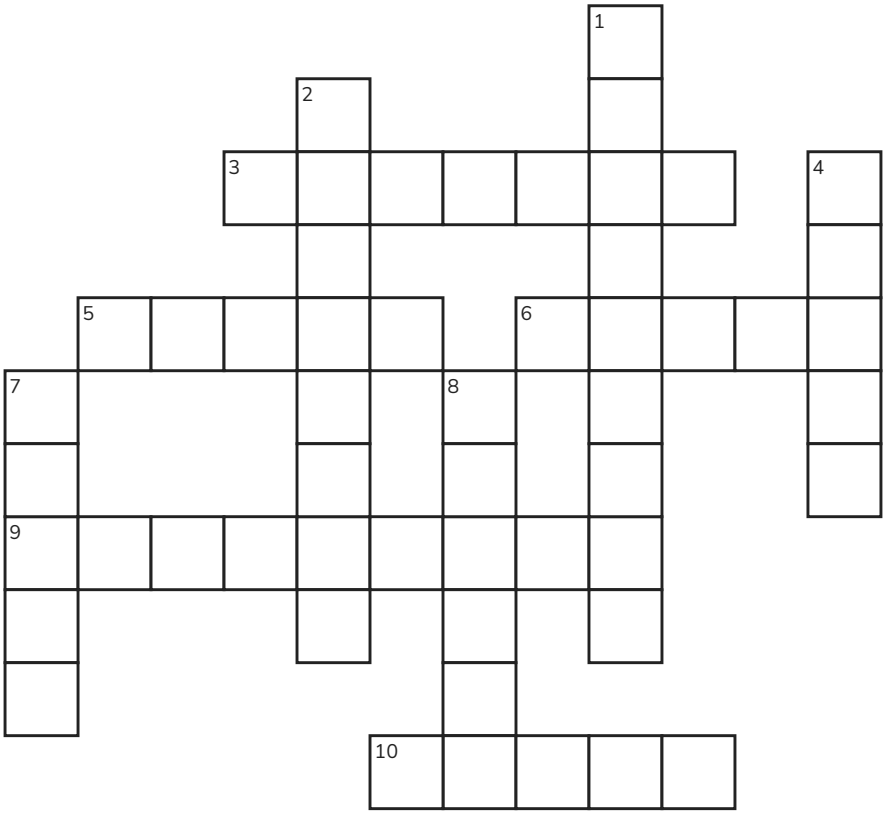
Mark 16:15-16

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 4-6

Crossword Puzzle

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: _____



Across

- 3. “Make disciples of all the ____” (Matthew 28:19)
- 5. He was seen by them during ____ days (Acts 1:3)
- 6. He preached on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14)
- 9. “You shall be ____ to Me” (Acts 1:8)
- 10. A ____ received Him out of their sight (Acts 1:9)

Down

- 1. The day the apostles first preached the gospel in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1)
- 2. “He who believes and is ____ will be saved” (Mark 16:16)
- 4. “Go into all the ____” (Mark 16:15)
- 7. “You shall receive ____” (Acts 1:8)
- 8. “Preach the ____ to every creature” (Mark 16:15)

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 4-6

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: _____

Words go across, down, and diagonally.

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

Find these words: BAPTIZED • BELIEVE • CLOUD • CONFESS • GOSPEL • HEAR • HEAVEN • NATIONS • PETER • REPENT • TELL • WORLD

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 4-6

Word Scramble

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: _____

Unscramble each word from today's Bible story.

Scrambled	Your answer
1. PESGOL	_____
2. LDRWO	_____
3. EAIDPTBZ	_____
4. TNEREP	_____
5. EEVEIBL	_____
6. ENSSOCF	_____
7. TNEWISS	_____
8. AVEHEN	_____

Bonus

Use three of the unscrambled words in a sentence about today's lesson.

FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 5 · GRADES 4-6

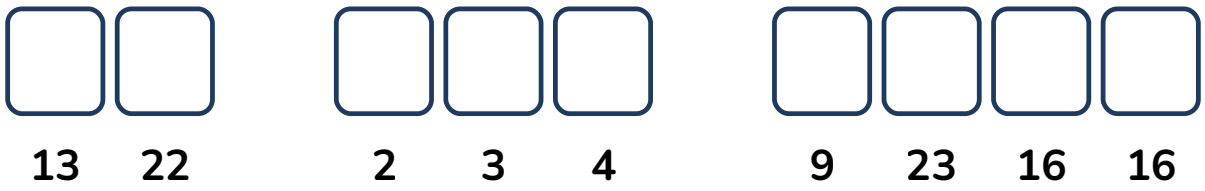
Secret Code

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 code key to find the secret message. Write the letter that matches each number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
2	11	8	4	23	6	13	19	10	25	24	16	20
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	22	21	1	26	12	9	5	17	15	7	18	14



Hint: the answer is today's big idea. Read Mark 16:15-16.

Write your own

Write a short message about following Jesus in code for a friend to solve.