



I am Made for Community Kindergarten - 5th grade

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Jesus Chose His Followers- Matt 4:18-25, Luke 5:1-11

Bottom Line: Jesus invited good friends.

Leader Context: Jesus invited good friends, which we see in how He chose His followers. Jesus invites us to follow Him, just like the disciples, and then we get to be in community with Him and with others! How can we follow Jesus and be “All In”?

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Social

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today.”

Videos

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

Jesus invited some fisherman to follow Him. He continued to invite others to join Him as He traveled. And guess what? They were all in. They left their jobs, homes, and local communities to join Jesus in His community on mission with Him. Jesus taught and preached about the kingdom of God and these followers got to see and hear it all.

We are all made for community. Jesus could have done all these things by Himself. I mean, He is God! But He chose to invite these people to be with Him. Following Jesus means being part of a group. Jesus wanted to be in community with others, and He wants that for us too! When we believe and trust in Jesus, we become part of His family, part of His community.

So what does that mean for us? Jesus created a community to show that we can know and experience God best when we are in relationships with others who believe in Him.

God wants us to spend time with other people who know, love, and follow Jesus. That's the community He wants us to be in, and the community He wants us to invite our friends into. We aren't meant to be lonely or alone. God made us to be in His family with others people who follow Him. We are all made for community.

Let's pray together. Remember prayer is listening and talking to God.

God, thank You for wanting us to be in community and giving us people who encourage, serve, and love us. Please continue to guide us so that we know how to love others compassionately. We want to honor You with everything. Amen.

Simple Truth Catcher (20 minutes)

What You Need: Simple Truth Catcher (1 set per kid), crayons or markers, pencils, scissors

What You Do:

Today we are going to make Simple Truth Catchers to help us remember the Bible story we just heard about Jesus and His disciples and how it affects us. There are instruction sheets for you to look at, and if you get stuck, ask me or a friend to help you. You'll use four different colors on the outside diamonds as written. Fold it up and then pair with a partner and take turns playing and answering the questions together.

Note: Engage with kids as they make their craft and remind them about how God made us for community and gives us a place to belong in His family- the church.

Say: Just like Jesus called Peter in today's Bible story to fish for people, we can fish for people too. That sounds a little silly, right? This doesn't mean we are headed out on a boat anytime soon, but it does mean that we can tell others about Jesus and invite them to follow Him too. We can welcome new friends and help them see they have a place to belong at church. Use this "catcher" to talk to your family and friends about ways that you can talk with people in your community this week about the things you are learning about God and Jesus."

Discussion Questions:

- Think about some of your friends. What makes them good friends? *(Allow kids time to answer and share your own answer. Encourage them to think about things like being kind, sharing, being funny, and having things in common.)*
- It's great to think about our friends and what makes someone a good friend. When we have a group of friends, we call it a community. A community is a group of people coming together for a purpose. The Bible tells us that Jesus had good friends- men and women who He spent time with and worked together with to teach people about God. What are some things that make you a good friend? *(Give each child time to share qualities about themselves that would make them a good friend- such as being funny or kind or that they're really good at video games. Help the kids that are struggling by asking them questions and then pointing out how those qualities can make them a good friend.)*
- When we see a phone, it can remind us that we have good friends, and we have a place to belong. The Bible tells us that Jesus chose His followers. These followers, or disciples, loved Jesus and were His friends. They went where Jesus went and they taught what Jesus taught, so even more people could be invited into God's community. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 4:18-20 and read about it together.. *(Invite kids to open up their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* Does anyone want to share what they think that passage is talking about?
- When Jesus chose His friends, it wasn't because of anything they did or because they really impressed Him. Jesus chose these men even though they weren't really impressive. They didn't know everything, but they loved God and wanted to follow Him. And Jesus chooses us for the same reason. We can't know everything there is to know about God of the Bible. We aren't particularly impressive to God because of what we do. But God sees us, He loves us, and He ways He wants us. We have a place to belong with God and with one another because of who God says we are. Look around our group right here. These are God's friends who could be your good friends! Everyone needs to have friends at church. Make sure you get to know the people in this group and enjoy our time together as we learn and play.
- When we love and follow Jesus, God promises us a community where we can belong. That community is the Church! Not the church like a church building but the Church, meaning other people who love and follow Jesus too. We all have one thing in common- we know we need Jesus! Do you have any questions or thoughts about what it means to follow Jesus? *(Allow kids a chance to respond and share your own experience with how being God's friend has impacted your life.)*

Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- Pass out coloring pages for kids to take home.
- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.