

**Bible Story Focus:** I can follow Jesus.

The Twelve • *The Gospels*

**Memory Verse:** “Come and follow me,’ Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19, NIV

**Key Question:** Who can you follow?

**Bottom Line:** I can follow Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### **Preschool (2-5 Years)**

“Today we learned about Jesus’ 12 special friends called the disciples. Did they follow Jesus? *(Pause.)* Yes!

“Are the 12 disciples from our story the only people who can follow Jesus? No

Jesus wants us to follow Him, too! Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

*“Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and follow me (march),” Jesus said (hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19.” (Open hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)*

Let’s pretend you are little puppies and I’m the big dog leader. Can you go, ‘Ruff-ruff,’ like a little puppy? *(Pause.)* You sound like little puppies to me! Come on, little puppies. Follow me!

*(Pretend you are a dog as you lead the children to a different spot.)*

“Here we are, little puppies! Thank you for following me. Now let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

*(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)*

“Our Bible story today was about 12 men called the disciples. Jesus told all of the men to follow Him. And they did! They became Jesus’ closest friends and they followed Jesus everywhere He went.

“Are the 12 disciples from our story the only people who can follow Jesus?

*(Pause for response.)*

“Noooooo. Everyone can follow Jesus! [Child’s name] can follow Jesus and *(repeat with each child’s name)*. So, tell me: **Who can you follow?**”

### **CHILDREN and Guardians: “I can follow Jesus!”**

“Yes, you can! You can follow Jesus just like the disciples did. And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that Jesus wants us to follow Him. I’ll read it one time and then we can say it together with the motions.

*(Turn the pages of your Matthew 4:19)*

*"Come and follow me," Jesus said, Matthew 4:19.*

*(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

"See? Jesus wants us to follow Him, too! Let's stand up and say that together with the motions."

### **Prayer**

"Dear God, thank You that *(name each child)* get to hear about how much Jesus loves them. Thank You we get to hear that Jesus wants to be our friend forever. I pray that *(name each child)* will follow Jesus, because He is the best friend we could ever have, and He will always lead us the best way. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."