

MAY 3, 2020
JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES

GAME TIME

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Instruct all players to stand in a single-file line. Select someone to lead the line around the room. They may do various motions or move in silly ways. The rest of the family in line must mimic their motions and movements. After a minute or so, select someone new to lead the line. Play as long as you'd like!

SAY: *Jesus had begun His ministry. Jesus chose disciples to follow Him. He said to each of those twelve men, "Follow Me." Jesus told His disciples to tell people about Him. Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and save people from their sins. Everyone in the world needs to hear this good news!*

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 4; Matthew 9; Mark 1-3; Luke 5-6

Jesus' ministry had begun. Jesus taught people about God and His Kingdom. People started talking about Jesus and the things He was saying. They wanted to know more, so big crowds of people followed Jesus to hear Him teach.

One day, Jesus was walking along the sea. He saw two brothers: Simon—who was called Peter—and Andrew. Peter and Andrew were fishermen. They were throwing nets into the sea to catch fish. Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people!" Peter and Andrew dropped their nets right away and followed Jesus.

Later, He saw two more brothers: James and John. James and John were in a boat with their father. The men were fixing their fishing nets. Jesus talked to them and they got up, too. James and John left their father and their boat, and they followed Jesus. Jesus traveled further, and He saw a man named Matthew, also called Levi. Matthew was a tax collector, sitting at an office where people paid taxes. Some people didn't like tax collectors because they often took more money than they were supposed to and kept it for themselves. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow Me!" So Matthew got up. He left everything behind, and he followed Jesus.

Matthew had a big party at his house for Jesus and His friends. Tax collectors and other sinners came. The religious leaders did not think Jesus should be friends with people who did wrong things. They asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does Jesus eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus heard the leaders and said, "People who are healthy do not need a doctor, but sick people do. I did not come to help good people; I came to help sinners turn back to God."

Later, Jesus chose 12 of His friends to be His disciples. That meant Jesus was going to give them a special job to do. They would work with Jesus and tell others about Him. These are the men Jesus chose: Simon (who was called Peter), Simon's brother Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus (al FEE uhs), Thaddaeus (THAD ih uhs), Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot (iss KAR ih aht).

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and save people from their sins. This is very good news! Jesus told His disciples to tell people about Him, and we are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear about Jesus.

BOATS IN THE WATER

Provide each kid with a sheet of aluminum foil. Help the kids to form their foil sheets into boat shapes. Provide a basin of water and allow the kids to see if their boats will float. You may use pennies, marbles, or other small weights to see whose boat can hold the most weight before sinking.

SAY: *Many of Jesus' disciples were fishermen when Jesus met them. When Jesus called them, they left their boats and followed Jesus immediately. Jesus promised to teach them a new way to fish. What do you think they would catch?*

