

JULY 12, 2020
THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

GAME TIME

GUESS THE LEADER

Instruct kids to sit in a group. Choose one kid (the “guesser”) to stand to the side with his eyes closed while you point to a seated player to be the leader. Explain that the rest of the kids should “follow the leader” by copying any movements she does. Invite the guesser back into the circle. He should watch kids’ movements and try to guess who the leader is. The leader should try to change movements when she thinks the guesser is looking at someone else.

SAY: *What do you think it means to follow someone? [Allow kids to respond.] Today we will find out what Jesus meant when He said, “Follow Me,” and what important things He wanted people to think about before they followed Him.*

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 8; Luke 9, 14

Many people wanted to follow Jesus. Large crowds followed Him around. One man said, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” Jesus told the man, “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down.”

Another disciple said, “Lord, I will follow You, but first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus replied, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Jesus told the crowds that following Him would not be easy. “Anyone who comes to Me must be willing to leave everything,” he said. “You must love Me most of all—more than your own life! Anyone who thinks life should be easy cannot follow Me,” Jesus said.

Jesus wanted the people to choose carefully. He told them a story: “If you wanted to build a tower, you would first sit down and see what you would need to make the tower. If you did not, you would build the foundation and could not finish. People would laugh at you.”

Then He told them another story: “If you were a king, you would not go to war against another king without thinking about if your army is great enough to win the war. If you don’t have enough men to fight, you would send some men to ask for peace before the fighting even started.”

Jesus wanted people to think about the cost. “If you are not willing to give up everything you have, you cannot follow Me,” Jesus said.

Jesus said, “Whoever gives up his life for Me will find true life. What good is it to have everything you want in the world if you give up life with God forever?”

GUESS THE PRICE

Place various items around the room at different places. Make sure you have a list of all their prices and then give each child with a sheet of paper and a pencil. Invite the kids to go from station to station and write down what they think the price of each might be. For very young kids, this might be difficult. Encourage them to try anyway, and remind them that there is no penalty for guessing incorrectly. Once the kids finish, reveal the correct prices. Congratulate all the kids for their efforts.

SAY: *When your mom and dad go to the grocery store, it is important to count up the cost of the items they want to take home. Today we will learn that following Jesus is worth any cost.*



CHRIST CONNECTION: Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it. When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. Jesus gave up His own life to rescue people from sin and give us life with God forever.