

SECTION
3.5

Jesus Wants Us to Follow Him



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Mirror Images

What You'll Need: Nothing

PREP: Explain to the group that they will be taking turns mimicking the movements of their partners. Ask two leaders to demonstrate the activity by standing and facing each other. Ask one leader to slowly make facial expressions and arm or leg movements without making any noise. Encourage the other leader to pretend to complete the exact movements without laughing.

STEP 1: Have the kids choose a partner and have partners face each other. Choose a child in each pair to go first. Remind the partners who are mirroring movements that their goal is to imitate the exact movements of their partners.

After one minute, have partners switch roles and repeat the activity.

Ask the following questions:

- What did you need to do to mimic your partner?
- What did you learn about that person by following his or her actions?
- What makes you want to follow someone else's actions or example?
- What makes a person a good example?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- An example is a pattern or a model that can be imitated.
- A person who is a good example always tries to do what is right and to do his or her best. We often want to imitate these people.
- In today's lesson, we will study the very best person we should try to imitate: Jesus Christ. He is the perfect example of how to love others.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus wants us to follow Him.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Example in Action

What You'll Need: Nothing

PREP: Ahead of time, ask several leaders to share an example of something they are good at doing (e.g., making a funny sound, playing an instrument).

STEP 1: Have leaders share their examples. As time allows, encourage volunteers to share an example of something they are good at.

Ask the following questions:

- What did you learn about that person by watching his or her actions?
- What makes you want to follow someone else's actions or example?
- What makes a person a good example?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- An example is a pattern or a model that can be imitated.
- A person who is a good example always tries to do what is right and to do his or her best. We often want to imitate these people.
- In today's lesson, we will study the very best person we should try to imitate: Jesus Christ. He is the perfect example of how to love others.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus wants us to follow Him.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Perfect Example of Love

What You'll Need: Bibles (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Bookmark kids' Bibles to the following passages:

Mark 2:1-12

John 11:32-44

Matthew 14:13-21

John 9:1-15

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 1 John 2:6. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- If we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, then we should want to follow Him.
- Jesus is the perfect example for us to follow.

STEP 2: Explain to the group that after Jesus rose from the dead, He went back up to heaven to be with His Father God. He still lives there now, so we can't see Him like people could see Him when He lived on earth. But we can still imitate His love by studying how He showed love to others in Scripture.

STEP 3: Have kids divide into groups of three or four. Give each group a bookmarked Bible. Encourage them to read their passage and be ready to act out their verses. Have leaders walk among groups, offering assistance as needed.

After five minutes, have each group act out their verses. Ask the following questions after each presentation:

- How did Jesus show love?
- How did Jesus show forgiveness?

STEP 4: Share these concepts:

- We can learn to follow Jesus' example by reading about how He lived in the Bible.
- Jesus demonstrated many good examples that we should follow, like love, forgiveness, and compassion.
- Jesus' greatest demonstration of love was His death that took the punishment for sin (Romans 5:8).
- God wants us to follow Christ's example of love. We can do this by forgiving others, showing them grace, and doing kind things for them (Colossians 3:13).

STEP 5: Ask kids to think of one way they can follow Christ's example of forgiveness, love, or kindness. Encourage kids to pray silently, asking God to help them follow Jesus' example. After a few moments, close in prayer.

STEP 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Demonstration of Love

What You'll Need: Bible, paper, scissors, pens or pencils, container, easel, whiteboard or large note pad and markers (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Write the following references on paper. Then cut the paper into strips and place the strips in the container.

Luke 17:11-19

Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 14:13-21

Set up an easel in front of the classroom, and place the whiteboard or note pad on the easel. Write the following questions on the board or note pad:

1. Who came to Jesus?
2. What did the person(s) want or need?
3. How did Jesus respond?

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 1 John 2:6. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- If we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, then we should want to follow Him.
- Jesus is the perfect example for us to follow.

STEP 2: Give each group a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Divide the kids into three groups, and have kids sit with their groups. Ask a volunteer from each group to choose a strip of paper from the container.

STEP 3: Give groups five minutes to study their passages and to be prepared to answer the questions on the board, based on the verses they read.

After five minutes, have each group answer the questions on the board.

Share these concepts:

- We can learn to follow Jesus' example by reading about how He lived in the Bible.
- Jesus demonstrated many good examples that we should follow, like love, forgiveness, and compassion.
- Jesus' greatest demonstration of love was His death that took the punishment for sin (Romans 5:8).
- God wants us to follow Christ's example of love. We can do this by forgiving others, showing them grace, and doing kind things for them (Colossians 3:13).

STEP 4: As time allows, read one or two of the following scenarios. Encourage volunteers to share how they could follow Jesus' example in that situation.

- There is a new student in your class. He looks lonely and doesn't talk to anyone. Yesterday he played by himself at recess.
- It's Saturday and you have looked forward to playing video games and playing with your favorite toys all week long. You look out the window and see your dad working outside.
- Your best friend has been sick all week.

STEP 5: Ask kids to think of one way they can follow Christ's example of forgiveness, love, or kindness. Encourage kids to pray silently, asking God to help them follow Jesus' example. After a few moments, close in prayer.

STEP 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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