

# Experiential Learning: Disciples Follow Jesus

Lesson on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Time/context:** 10 minute activity at the beginning of the lesson for Years 3/4

**Aim:** An introductory activity to consider what it meant for the disciples to follow Jesus to follow Jesus and how to do so, whilst also how we today should follow Jesus in our day to day lives.

**Biblical Text:** Matthew 4: 18-22

Matthew 4: 18-22 - <sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**Materials Required:**

N/A

**Background/Contemplation for servant**

- ⊕ What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- ⊕ Do we follow Jesus daily?

**Description of Activity (est. 3-4 minutes)**

The activity is similar to ‘heads down thumbs up’ concept, whereby children are asked to place their heads down (with closed eyes) and hands up. While the children have their eyes closed and hands up the activities facilitator will give an example of situations in our day to day life whereby we are asked to follow Jesus (i.e. stop watching TV and reading our Bible, helping a sibling in need or playing a game etc), the Sunday School servant will then tap the hand of a few children who will remain anonyms unless they decide to ‘Follow Jesus’. After the children are selected, the whole class will then say “Follow Jesus” if the child picked decides to ‘Follow Jesus’ in the certain situation will then come to the front of the class and say why they chose to make the sacrifice. The fact that children close their eyes in the selection stage, means that no one knows who is selected, so no one knows who didn’t stand up, this allows for the kids to make the decision on their own and not feel judged if they decide to remain seated.

**Discussion (est. 5 minutes)**

- ⊕ What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- ⊕ Why should we follow Jesus?

- ⊕ Why is it not enough to just be Christians and say we follow Jesus and not necessarily to anything about it?
- ⊕ Do we need to leave our parents and everything we know to follow Jesus or can this be done everyday?

### **Conclusion / Life Application (est. 1 minute)**

- ⊕ This week we may like to, especially that it will be Joanh's fast, to practice following Jesus daily but doing the things that he would want us to do, whether it be praying, reading the bible, helping our parents, being nice to people etc.