

# Life of Christ

## Jesus Sends out the Disciples

## Matthew 10:1-42

### Younger Verse

Let your good deeds shine out for all to see. Matthew 5:16

### Older Verse

Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father. Matthew 5:16

### Lesson Goals

Learn that God has a special job for His followers to do  
Understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ  
Recognize things we can do to help others know Jesus

### Welcome Time

Ask students if they have ever played “Follow the Leader.” Say that today we will learn how Jesus wants us to follow Him and lead others to Him also!

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus had 12 special friends called **disciples** that walked with Him everywhere He went. These men listened to Him and learned from Him. Their names were: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Alphaeus, Thad- daeus, Simon, and Judas.

After Jesus had taught His disciples many things, He sent them out to different towns. Jesus wanted them to tell the people about God and the Kingdom of Heaven. He told them that they would be able to make people well and help them with their needs. Je- sus also told His disciples not to worry about what to take with them. He instructed them not to take any money with them or even a mat to sleep on. Jesus knew that someone in each town would be kind and let them sleep in their home. Jesus encouraged them to be grateful to those who helped them.

Next, Jesus warned His friends that not everyone would want to hear their mes- sage. He told them that some people would not listen and might even try to hurt them! He said to be as wise as snakes and as innocent as doves. This means that Jesus wants His followers to have wisdom to make good choices. He also wants them to follow God’s ways and stay away from sin in their lives.

Jesus reminded the disciples that if people treated Him badly, they would treat His followers badly too. **Ask: Have you ever been mistreated for being a believer in Je- sus?**

Jesus told the disciples that they did not need to be afraid. He told them that God loved them so much that He even knew little things about them—like how many hairs they had on their heads! Jesus also told His disciples not to be ashamed to tell others about God and Heaven.

Finally, Jesus reminded His followers that they needed to put Him first in their lives. This means giving up anything that might get in the way of following Him.

Today, those who believe in Jesus and follow Him are His disciples. **Ask: Are you a follower of Jesus?** Just like Jesus sent out His disciples then, He wants us to go out and tell others about Him!

**Have you ever told someone about Jesus? Do you know what to say? Let's go over it.**

God loves us so much. He cares so much that He wants us to be in Heaven with Him one day. The problem is that we have dirty hearts because of our sin (bad things we have done). His Son, Jesus, took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross. He got punished for the bad things WE had done. When we believe in Jesus, He cleans our hearts and makes us pure. We are not dirty anymore!

**How do you believe in Jesus?** A person must believe that Jesus died and came back to life. He must tell God he is sorry for all the wrong things he has done and ask Jesus to come into his life. Jesus comes into our life and changes us to be like Him—doing what is right and good.

#### Review Questions

1. How many disciples did Jesus have? (12)
2. Why did Jesus send out the 12 disciples to different towns? (to tell them about God and the Kingdom of Heaven)
3. Jesus told His disciples to be as \_\_\_\_\_ as snakes and as \_\_\_\_\_ as doves. (wise; innocent)
4. What is our job as a follower of Jesus? (to tell other about Him)

#### Prayer Time

Ask God for boldness to share our faith, and wisdom to make good choices. Pray for those who do not know Him yet.

#### Life Application

Jesus talked about being kind to others and helping them with their needs. That is a big part of being His follower. Whenever we help someone, we are showing them the love of Jesus! And they might be more willing to hear what we have to say about God when they know that we care about them.

Today's memory verse talks about this. We should make good choices and do kind things for people—not so they will think WE are great— but so they will praise God!

Think of ways we can “let our good deeds shine.” (Examples: help a younger child with their homework; help your Mom with chores; help teacher clean up; share your toys; share a Bible verse with someone). Remember to give the honor and glory to Jesus!

Planning for Next Lesson  
Jesus Heals a Man's Hand  
Matthew 12:1-13

## **Preschool Lesson for Jesus Sends Out the Disciples**

Jesus had 12 special friends and helpers. Their names were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas. They walked with Jesus and listened to all the good things that He said.

One day, Jesus asked His friends to go tell others about Him. He also wanted them to share about Heaven. Jesus wanted His friends to go to homes and tell people the good news of how they can love God and get to Heaven.

Jesus' friends walked down the dusty roads to the towns (Make walking noises). They knocked on doors (make knocking sound) and told people about Jesus. They smiled (SMILE) and shared wonderful things about Jesus and how much He loved them. It was fun to tell people about Jesus!

We can tell people about Jesus, too! He is the best thing we can tell people. Let's practice. Practice knocking and telling someone about Jesus or inviting someone to church. Another thing we can do is to be kind and help people. Then they might want to know more about Jesus because you were nice to them!

Pray and ask God to help us tell someone about Jesus this week.

Sing this fun song to the tune of "BINGO."

Jesus told His friends to go into all the town-s  
Go and tell the news, go and tell the news, go and tell the news,  
Tell it to all people.

The helpers went and told the news to everyone they me-t  
It was happy news, it was happy news, it was happy news,  
News that Jesus loves them!

## **Hands-on Activities For Jesus Sends out the Disciples**

Bring yellow construction paper and cut it out in the shape of the sun or let the children cut out—depending on the age group. Have students write the memory verse on the sun and take it home as a reminder to let their light shine for Jesus! Punch a hole in the top and put yarn through it so they can hang it.

Draw a map of your apartment complex and/or surrounding area. Place it on the wall. Cut out footprint shapes for each child and label them with their names. Blindfold one child and let them stick their footprint on the map (put tape on the back of the footprint). After everyone's footprint is on the map, explain how each child can go out like the people in today's story and tell ALL the people about Jesus!

Sing "This Little Light of Mine" and review ways to share the love of Jesus with people.

Invite the kids to go visiting with you this week. Let them go with you to knock on doors. Let them see how you knock on doors and invite people to church. This is a great way to teach by example.

Jesus mentioned that God loves us and knows many things about us. He even knows how many hairs we have on our head! Bring hair accessories, brushes, combs, etc. for the kids to remember how much God loves them.

Jesus talked about how telling others about Jesus is like giving them a cool drink of water. Bring bottled water and replace the label with the phrase, "Tell others about Jesus" or something similar.

Make a list of kids who have not attended church in a while. Separate the kids into groups and ask them to visit the kids and invite them to come to church now!