

# Following The Leader

## PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Following Jesus

**Scripture:** Leviticus 22:31

**Memory Verse:** Keep my commands and follow them. I am the Lord. - Leviticus 22:31

## The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, we're going to talk about something really important. It's about who we choose to follow in our lives. Imagine you're playing follow the leader. You would want to follow someone who knows where they're going, right? Well, in life, we have the best leader we could ever choose to follow, and His name is Jesus.

In the Bible, in Leviticus 19:37, it says, "Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the LORD." That's like God saying, "Hey, I've got some really good advice for you. If you follow it, things will go well." And then, in Matthew 4:19, Jesus tells us, "Come, follow me," and He promises to teach us how to fish for people. That means He wants to show us how to help others and share His love.

Jesus said "Follow me" a lot of times. I found at least 20 times in the Bible! So, it's super important. When we choose to follow Jesus, we're choosing the best leader ever. He knows everything, loves everyone, and always knows the right thing to do.

Now, you might wonder, "How do I follow Jesus?" Well, it's like following the best kind of friend. You listen to what He says, you learn about His life, and you try to act like Him.

Jesus is kind, loving, and forgiving. So, when we follow Jesus, we try to be kind, loving, and forgiving too.

Imagine you're on a playground, and you see someone playing alone. Following Jesus might mean going over to that person and asking if they want to play with you. Or, if someone says something mean, instead of saying something mean back, you remember that Jesus teaches us to be kind and forgiving. So, you choose to be nice or walk away instead.

The apostle Paul, a very wise man who followed Jesus, said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." That means we can also look at people who follow Jesus and learn from them. Maybe it's your parents, a teacher, or a friend at church. When they do things like Jesus, we can learn to do the same.

Following Jesus isn't just for Sundays at church; it's for every day. When you wake up, you can say, "Today, I'm going to follow Jesus." That might mean sharing your toys, helping your parents without being asked, or saying kind words to your brother or sister.

Sometimes, following Jesus can be hard. Maybe your friends want to do something you know isn't right. Following Jesus means choosing to do what's right, even when it's tough. But the cool thing is, Jesus promises to be with us and help us when things are hard. He's like the best coach, cheering us on and giving us tips on how to do better.

And guess what? When we follow Jesus, we get to share His love with others. It's like being a light in a dark room. When you're kind and loving, other people see that light

and might decide they want to follow Jesus too. So, by following Jesus, you're helping others find the best leader too.

Remember, following Jesus is a big adventure. It's not always easy, but it's the best choice we can make. Every day, we can choose to listen to Him, learn from Him, and love like Him. And when we mess up, because everyone does sometimes, Jesus is always ready to forgive us and help us try again.

So, let's all try to follow Jesus every day. Let's be kind, let's be loving, and let's share His light with everyone we meet. And when we're not sure what to do, we can ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" That's a great way to make sure we're following the best leader of all, Jesus.

PRAY: Dear Jesus, thank you for being the best leader we can follow. Help us to listen to You, learn from You, and love like You. When things are hard, please help us to remember You're with us, guiding us every step of the way. We want to follow You every day and share Your love with everyone we meet. Amen.

## Bible Memory Verse

**Keep my commands and follow them. I am the Lord. - Leviticus**

**22:31**

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

- Crayons or markers
- Stickers with stars or hearts

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on a large poster board and display it where all the children can see.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and ask them to decorate it with crayons, markers, and stickers. Explain that the heart represents their love and willingness to follow Jesus.
2. Once they have finished decorating, help them write the memory verse on their heart. Younger children may need assistance with writing.
3. Gather the children in a circle and have them share their hearts. Encourage them to say the memory verse together. Explain that just like they keep their hearts safe and beautiful, they can follow Jesus by keeping His commands.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A simple picture or icon of Jesus (e.g., a printed image or a small statue)
- Several small, easy-to-handle objects that represent commandments or good deeds (e.g., a heart for love, a small toy that could represent sharing, a smiley face for kindness)
- A basket or box to hold the objects

Get Ready:

- Place the picture or icon of Jesus at one end of the room.
- Scatter the small objects around the room, but not too far from the picture or icon of Jesus.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that they will go on a special mission to follow Jesus by doing good deeds, just like in Leviticus 22:31, where it talks about keeping God's commandments.
2. One at a time, ask each child to pick an object from around the room and bring it back to the group.
3. After a child picks an object, explain the good deed it represents (e.g., "This heart means we should love others"). Then, together, walk the child to the picture or icon of Jesus to "offer" their good deed by placing the object near it. Encourage them to say, "I will follow Jesus by [name of the good deed]."

## Snack Activity: Follow Jesus Fish Crackers

You'll Need:

- Goldfish crackers
- Blue paper plates (to represent water)
- Small cups of water

Get Ready: Place a blue paper plate in front of each child.

Do this:

1. Tell the children that just like fish follow each other in the water, we can follow Jesus in everything we do. Leviticus 22:31 says, 'Keep my commands and follow them. I am the Lord.'

2. Give each child a small handful of Goldfish crackers to put on their 'water' plate.
3. As they eat their crackers, encourage them to think about ways they can follow Jesus, like being kind, sharing, and listening to their parents and teachers.

## Game Activity: Follow Jesus Path

You'll Need:

- Colorful tape or chalk
- Pictures of Jesus (can be simple drawings or printed images)
- A bell or any musical instrument

Get Ready: Use the tape or chalk to create a simple path on the floor or ground. Place the pictures of Jesus along the path at various points.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that the path represents our journey in following Jesus, and the pictures are reminders to keep our focus on Him.
2. Have the children line up at the start of the path. When you ring the bell or play the instrument, they start walking along the path.
3. As they reach each picture of Jesus, encourage them to stop briefly, look at the picture, and say, 'I follow Jesus.' Then, they continue walking until they reach the end of the path.

## Craft Activity: Follow Jesus Footprints

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (preferably blue and brown)
- Child-safe scissors

- Glue stick

Get Ready: Pre-cut footprint shapes out of the brown construction paper. Each child will need a set of footprints (about 6-8 footprints).

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that following Jesus means we walk where He leads us, just like walking in someone's footprints. Leviticus 22:31 tells us to 'Keep my commands and follow them. I am the Lord.'
2. Give each child a piece of blue construction paper. This will be their 'path'.
3. Have the children glue the brown footprints in a path across the blue paper, showing them how to follow Jesus by placing the footprints one in front of the other.
4. Encourage them to talk about ways they can follow Jesus in their daily lives as they work on their craft.

## Prayer Activity: Following Jesus Footsteps

You'll Need:

- Colorful footprints (paper or foam)
- A clear pathway or space in the room
- A simple image of Jesus

Get Ready: Place the colorful footprints in a path leading to the image of Jesus. Ensure the footprints are spaced well enough for little steps.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that we are going to follow Jesus by walking in his footsteps, just like Leviticus 22:31 teaches us to follow God's commands.

2. Encourage each child to walk along the path of footprints, one by one, as a physical representation of following Jesus.
3. At the end of the path, lead the children in a simple prayer: 'Dear Jesus, help us to follow you every day. Amen.'