



Children's Church

Below are lessons, games, and activities to do with children who are dismissed from church during the sermon time. Use one, some, or all of the activities offered to help teach the passage of the day. Each lesson can be adapted for 10, 15, or 20 minutes!

Lent 5: Serve and Follow

John 12:20-33

Pages 446-447 of the Spark Story Bible

Bible Memory Verse: *Jesus said, "God says it is time to follow me."*

Supplies

- Rhythm sticks, optional
- Spark Story Bible
- An object to hide

Sing a Song

If you don't have access to a piano or guitar, bring out rhythm sticks! Together, create a beat, and sing together. Ask kids what they want to sing.

Open the Bible

- Have the kids march in a circle while you read the story. When they hear the word "follow" have them march in the opposite direction. Practice a couple of times.
- Read the Spark Story entitled "Serve and Follow" which begins on page 446.
- Once done, ask these questions: What does it mean to serve others? What does it mean to follow Jesus? Is it easy or hard to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- Share the simple explanation: God made a promise to the people that Jesus was their savior and king. Jesus would teach the people how to care for others, how to serve the poor, and how to love one another. We are God's people now, and we can follow what Jesus teaches us.

Practice the Bible Memory Verse

Jesus said, "God says it is time (point to wrist like a watch) to follow me". (march in place)

Hands-On Activities

Activity 1: Follow Me!

Play a game of "Follow me!" Let each kid take a turn leading the group. (Discuss: Is it hard or easy to lead a group? Why or why not?)

Activity 2: Jesus Says!

Play a game of "Simon Says" but change "Simon" to "Jesus." If someone makes a mistake, they are out. Play until there are just one or two players left. (Discuss: We try to follow what Jesus says, but sometimes we make mistakes.)

Activity 3: Hot or Cold

Hide an object in the room. Pick one kid to find the object using the words "hot" if they move closer to the hidden object or "cold" if they move away from the object. Once found, hide it again, and pick someone new to search for the object again. (Discuss how we have to listen for Jesus' voice and his stories to help us follow him.)

Closing Cheer

Repeat after me.

Jesus loves me. (point to self)

Jesus loves you. (point to others)

Jesus loves the world. (make a world with arms)

Amen.