



# WEEK 4

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



### **BIG IDEA**

Jesus invites us to be like Him.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jesus Calls the Disciples:** Matthew 4:18-23  
(Mark 8:34-36; Ephesians 5:1-2)

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Who's the Leader?
- **ACTIVITY** | Feed Your Friend
- **QUESTION** | What do you want to be when you grow up?
- **IMAGE** | Fishing Net
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 4:18-23
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus invites us to be like Him.
- **ACTIVITY** | Backwards Fishing
- **ACTIVITY** | Living for Jesus Charades
- **VIDEO** | Not Normal Animal Friendships
- **SCRIPTURE** | Mark 8:34-36
- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **TALK** | RECAP OF THE MONTH
- **MEMORY VERSES** | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24

## SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - Can you name the four men Jesus called to follow Him?
  - What did the men have in common?
  - What did the men do when Jesus asked them to follow Him?
  - Why do you think they dropped everything to follow Jesus?
  - What are some ways you can follow Jesus and be like Him?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Ephesians 5:1-2
- **ACTIVITY** | DIY Hovercraft
- **MEMORY VERSES** | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24



# WEEK 4

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

Jesus invites us to be like Him.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Calls the Disciples:** Matthew 4:18-23  
(Mark 8:34-36; Ephesians 5:1-2)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### ACTIVITY | Who's the Leader?

- Welcome back! We're having fun with our Not Normal series this month with some wacky, not normal activities. We're learning about how not normal Jesus is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have all the kids stand in a circle, and send one kid out of the room. Then choose a secret leader and tell them to start doing a continuous movement (marching in place, patting their head, clapping, patting their lap, etc.) while all the other kids follow and do that same motion. Every 30 seconds or so, the secret leader should change up the motion and start doing something else, and everyone else should follow along. Tell them to be sneaky and conceal the real leader by not looking directly at the leader. Invite the kid back into the room and let the kids start doing the motions while the kid in the middle tries to guess who the leader is in three guesses.*
- **Did anyone have a trick for figuring out who the leader was?**
- **When you were in the circle, was it easy to follow the leader?**

#### ACTIVITY | Feed Your Friend

- Let's try another game and see if it's easy to let someone else lead you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose three kids to come sit at a table, wearing ponchos with sleeves, and choose a partner to stand behind each one. Set sandwich making supplies in front of each contestant at the table: you can use jelly and bread, ham and cheese, or any other sandwich making ingredients you choose. **\*Note: Be mindful of food allergies.** Have the partners stand directly behind their sitting partners, and put their arms through the sleeves of the ponchos. The standing partners should be*

blindfolded. The sitting partners have to keep their hands in their lap, and allow their standing partner to prepare and feed them a sandwich. \*Optional: Instead of using food, you can have them sit behind their partner and put their partner's shoes on for them, and tie their shoelaces.

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Let them do this activity with a buddy, and let the kid be the one who helps the buddy with something such as putting on shoes or coloring a picture.
- **Was it scary to not be in control and trust your partner to make your food and feed you, when you didn't have any control over it? Did your partner do a good job of feeding you?**
- Today, we'll learn about some people who followed Jesus and let Him lead them. By hearing this story, hopefully we'll learn we can trust Jesus to lead our lives!

#### QUESTION | What do you want to be when you grow up?

- **Would you ever want to do a crazy job, like be an elephant trainer, a dog food taste tester, a professional sleeper, or a scuba diving pizza delivery person?** That's a real job, believe it or not!
- In today's story, we'll learn about two guys who were doing their normal, everyday jobs, when Jesus came and gave them a new, not normal job.

### SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

#### IMAGE | Fishing Net

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids the picture of the fish in the fishing net.
- **What do you see in this picture?**
- **What are some challenges of using a net versus using a fishing pole to catch fish?**
- **What do you think it would be like for fishing to be your everyday job?**
- In today's story, Jesus encounters some normal men who caught fish for a job, and He called them to live a not normal life!

#### BIBLE STORY | Matthew 4:18-23

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What were Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew doing when Jesus saw them?** They were fishing, which was a normal job at that time.
- **What did Jesus tell them to do?** Jesus told them two things: He said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."
- **Do you think they were surprised? Do you think they were confused? How did they respond?** They left their nets, their jobs, and their homes immediately and followed Jesus.
- **What do you think Jesus meant when He said they could be fishers of people?** Jesus traveled around teaching and sharing the good news about God and His love. He healed people who were sick, helped people who needed help, and changed lives.
- Jesus gave these men a chance to leave their normal lives and do something extraordinary, but they had to choose to follow Him for that to happen. Jesus invites us to do that, too.
- **What are some ways we can be like Jesus?**
- That leads us to our main point of the day . . .

**THE BIG IDEA | Jesus invites us to be like Him.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
  - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
  - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
  - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
  - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Combine the elements of the envelope reveal at an awards show with getting an invitation to a special event for this week's Big Idea reveal. For details, see your weekly instructions.
- This week's Big Idea: **Jesus invites us to be like Him.**

**ACTIVITY | Backwards Fishing**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, tie three foot long pieces of string to two extra-long dowel rods like [these](#) (or yard sticks). Tape a magnet to the other end of the string, like a fishing rod. Print four sets of the Backwards Fishing printables and cut apart the cards. Put a metal paperclip on each card and spread the cards out on one side of the room. Line the kids up on the other side of the room in two lines and give the first two kids in each line a fishing rod. Tell them to run down to the pile of fish cards and fish backwards by lowering the fishing rod behind their back to try and get the magnet to pick up a card. When they get one, they can run back to their team and give the fishing rod to the next team member. Most of the cards have fish on them, but a few cards in each pile will have people on them. The first team to get three people cards, wins.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** They may not be able to fish backwards, but they might enjoy using the fishing pole to pick up the fish. Let them play the game by trying to get as many fish as they can, or bring in a beta fish in a bowl for a them to look at while you tell the story.
- **What do you think it means to fish for people?** It means they were going to find people who needed to know about Jesus and tell them His story. These men became the first disciples, which means followers, who traveled with Jesus and became like Him.

**NOW WHAT?** What does God want us to do about it?

**ACTIVITY | Living for Jesus Charades**

- We can follow Jesus just like the disciples did. We don't have to leave our homes to follow Him. We just have to trust He will lead us in the right direction.
- Let's think of ways we can live like Jesus in our everyday life.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a kid to come to the front, and whisper a way we can live like Jesus. Have them act it out while the rest of the kids guess what they're doing.
- You can use the following actions:
  - Read the Bible
  - Go to church
  - Worship God
  - Be kind to others
  - Help people who are sick

- Pray for people to know Jesus
- Tell others about God
- Give to people in need
- Be brave
- The more and more we get to know Jesus, the more we become like Him and live like He wants us to live.
- These are all great things to do, but remember: living like Jesus is not about doing a list of exactly the right things, but it's the way we care for Jesus and others.

#### VIDEO | Not Normal Animal Friendships

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this](#) video. This video is ten minutes long, so we recommend only showing the first two minutes.
- **Which animal friendship surprised you the most? Do you think people would be surprised to know you have a friendship with Jesus?** Jesus had a different way of being in relationships. Jesus loved everyone. Jesus loved people that weren't usually accepted by others.

#### SCRIPTURE | Mark 8:34-36

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verses in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same.
- **What did Jesus say someone had to do to follow Him?**
- **If it is so hard, why would anyone want to try to be like Jesus and follow Him?**
- **What does it mean to deny ourselves? What is a situation when we might need to deny ourselves?**
- Following Jesus isn't easy. It is not normal, which means it might be hard, but living for Jesus is worth it. Jesus knows what's best. Jesus is perfect, so we can trust Him to help and care for us.

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a worship song and let the kids sing together. You can sing any song you like, but we like "I Will Follow" by Amber Sky Records or "I Will Follow" by Summit Kids.
- While you're singing today, think about what it truly means to follow Jesus and thank Him for all the amazing things He has done and will do in your life.

#### TALK | RECAP OF THE MONTH

- **FOR PRETEENS:** Use a popular game format to bring this recap to life for your preteens. For details, see your weekly instructions.
- We've had four weeks of being not normal! After all these great Bible stories, we hope you're excited to live like Jesus!
  - We learned that **Jesus is not normal** and he began showing everyone that at the age of twelve when He stayed in the temple to talk and listen to Bible teachers instead of going home with His family.
  - In the story of Jesus' baptism, we learned that **Jesus is God**.
  - In the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we learned that **Jesus is perfect**.
  - And today, we learned that **Jesus invites us to be like Him**, just like He invited the disciples.
- We learned so much this month! I hope you see how awesome it can be to forget blending in and being like everyone else, and instead standing up and standing out to be like Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSES | 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 118:24**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

**SMALL GROUP TIME**

**DISCUSSION**

- **Can you name the four men Jesus called to follow Him?** (Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John.)
- **What did the men have in common?** (They were fishermen.)
- **What did the men do when Jesus asked them to follow Him?** (They dropped their nets and followed Jesus.)
- Why do you think they dropped everything to follow Jesus?
- What are some ways you can follow Jesus and be like Him?

**SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 5:1-2**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verses in your Bible and read them.
- **What does it mean to imitate God?**
- **Is that always easy? Why not?**
- **What does it mean to "walk in love"?**

**ACTIVITY | DIY Hovercraft**

- Following Jesus is like following a leader who knows what's ahead and what will be best. If we go our own way, we could really end up in a discouraging place!
- The Holy Spirit lifts us up and guides us, kind of like this hovercraft, made in a not normal way!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a blank CD, a permanent marker, a balloon, a thumb tack, and a bottle cap. For older kids, you can let them use the thumb tack to poke four holes in each bottle cap. For younger kids, have an adult do this. Have the kids glue the bottle cap to the hole in the middle of the CD. Then have the kids (or an adult) blow up the balloon and carefully place it over the bottle cap without tying it, then release the balloon. The balloon will cause the CD to float like a hovercraft.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Prepare a Hovercraft for them ahead of time and help them use it and play with it as you talk with them about how God helps us.

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