



*Use Week of:*

## Unit 23 • Session 2

# The Cost of Following Jesus

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 8; 16;  
Luke 9; 14

**STORY POINT:** Jesus taught about God.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 14:26

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Following Jesus means knowing He is in charge.

### Bible Story for Toddlers

Many people wanted to follow Jesus. A man told Jesus, “I will follow You wherever You go.” Jesus told the man, “Foxes have dens, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down.” Another man told Jesus, “I will follow You, but first let me bury my father.” Jesus told the man, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury the dead.” Jesus told His friends, “Anyone who comes to Me must be willing to leave everything and follow Me. Whoever gives up his life for Me will find true life. What good is it to have everything you want in the world if you give up life with God forever?” Jesus was telling His friends that His followers must love Him most of all.

### Babies Gospel Gems

- \* Many people wanted to follow Jesus.
- \* Jesus told people they must love Him most of all to follow Him.
- \* People who follow Jesus will have life with Him forever.

Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

For free training and session-by-session help, visit [MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject](http://MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject).

# BABIES Activities

## Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Luke 9. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

**SAY** • Many people wanted to follow Jesus. Jesus told people they must love Him most of all to follow Him. People who follow Jesus will have life with Him forever. **JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** [*Pray for the babies.*]

## Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O”:

“Jesus came to teach people all about God’s kingdom!

Jesus taught about God [*Clap each syllable, repeat 3x.*]

And how to live in His kingdom!”

**SAY** • **JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Jesus told people they must love Him most of all to follow Him. Following Jesus means knowing He is in charge.

## Make cross art

Cut a cross shape out of heavyweight paper for each child. Provide squares of colorful tissue paper for babies to glue on the cross. Make sure babies do not put the tissue paper in their mouths. Write *Jesus said, “Follow Me!”* on each child’s cross. Set aside to dry. Talk about the Bible story.

**SAY** • When **JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD**, many people wanted to follow Him. Following Jesus means knowing He is in charge.

## Shake shakers

Place coins in clear plastic spice jars. Duct tape the lids to seal. Encourage babies to shake the coins. Talk about the Bible story.

**SAY** • Many people wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus told a story about counting the cost. Jesus told people they must love Him most of all to follow Him. **JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.**

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the gospel gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

# TODDLER Activities

## Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Luke 9. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

## Make JESUS art

Write the name *JESUS* in large letters on construction paper for each child. Provide heart stickers for toddlers to stick to their paper. Older toddlers may be able to trace Jesus' name with the stickers. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY • JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Jesus told people they must love Him most of all to follow Him. Following Jesus means knowing He is in charge.

## Read a book about Jesus

Print and assemble the "Jesus Taught About God Book." Consider laminating the book to use throughout the unit. Review last week's story and point to today's story as you read to toddlers. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY • JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Jesus said it is not always easy to follow Him, but people who follow Jesus will have life with Him forever.

## Build with blocks

Guide toddlers to build houses with blocks. Provide people figures to play out family scenes. Talk about the Bible story as toddlers play.

**SAY • JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Many people wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus said following Him meant they would not always have a place to stay or family around them. Jesus told people they must love Him most of all to follow Him. People who follow Jesus will have life with Him forever.

## Play out a grocery store

Provide empty food boxes and toy food. Place stickers on each item showing a price. Give toddlers play money to play out a grocery store. Tell the Bible story.

**SAY • JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Jesus told people they must love Him most of all to follow Him. That means loving Jesus more than food or money!

# BONUS Teaching Hour

**SESSION TITLE:** The Cost of Following Jesus

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## Transition activity: Find the Bible

Before the session, hide a Bible or storybook Bible in plain sight. Encourage toddlers to look for the Bible. Open the Bible to the Bible story picture. Tell the story.

**SAY • JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Many people wanted to follow Jesus. Jesus said whoever gives up his life for Jesus will find true life. People who follow Jesus will have life with Him forever.

## Perform a fingerplay about homes

“Here is a nest for a robin. [*Cup palms together.*]

Here is a hive for a bee. [*Clasp hands together.*]

Here is a den for a bunny. [*Make a hole with clasped hands.*]

Here is a home for me.” [*Make a roof shape with both hands overhead.*]

**SAY • JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Many people wanted to follow Jesus, but they did not want to leave home. Jesus told people that they must love Him most of all to follow Him.

## Leave everything behind

Invite toddlers to play freely, but explain that when you say, “Follow me, [*child’s name*],” that child must stop and follow you in a walk around the room. Repeat with each child. Then retell the Bible story.

**SAY • JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD.** Jesus said we must be willing to leave everything to follow Jesus. Following Jesus means knowing He is in charge.

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, story point, or gospel gems throughout the week.