



**Volume 70, Quarter 1, 2020**

## **The Twelve Disciples**

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## Fishers of Men

While Jesus lived on earth, He preached and taught people how to live for Him. Lots of people followed Him and wanted to hear what He had to say and to be healed. Jesus needed help teaching and taking care of all those people, so He asked twelve special men to be His disciples or followers.

The first two men He asked were Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew. They were fishermen. While Jesus was teaching, He asked Simon Peter if He could preach from his boat. Peter said “Yes.” As soon as Jesus was finished teaching, He said, “Push your boat out onto the lake and throw your nets out to catch some fish.”

Peter said, “We have been fishing all night and haven’t caught anything. But we will do what you say.” As soon as he obeyed, there were so many fish his nets were breaking! Peter asked his partners to come help too, and soon both ships were sinking under the weight of all the fish! That had to have been too many fish to even count!

Jesus had performed an amazing miracle and Peter knew it. He fell down before Jesus and said, “Leave me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” Jesus answered, “Do not be afraid. From now on, you will be a fisher of men.” Peter and Andrew immediately left their boats and nets and followed Jesus.

Being a “fisher of men” means you work for Jesus and show other people how they can love and obey Him too!

### Memory Verse:

And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not;  
from henceforth thou shalt catch men.  
Luke 5:10

## The Big Catch

“Dad, can I go fishing tomorrow?” Jack asks around a mouthful of pancakes.

“Fishing?” Anderson says. “Isn’t it a little cold?”

“I don’t care! All this talk about fishing for men today in Sunday School got me thinking about fishing for fish!”

Anderson, smiling, says “Sure. Do you have a friend from school whom you might invite? Someone who wasn’t in church today?”

Jack chews another large bite of pancake and thinks, “Well, there’s Tommy Jenkins. But I don’t like him much. He’s not really my friend.”

Anderson urges Jack to invite him anyway, and the next day Tommy comes home from school with Jack. The boys pull a little rowboat to a small, secluded lake on the Mackey’s property.

“Why can’t we fish in Salmon River?” Tommy asks.

“Too dangerous by ourselves,” Jack responds.

Tommy snorts. “Whatever.”

Jack ignores him and climbs into the boat. He pretends to ignore Tommy when Tommy gingerly steps into the boat and grabs the side as though he’s a little nervous. Jack realizes Tommy may never have had the opportunity before to go fishing. His heart softens.

The boys sit and wait. And wait and wait. Tommy gets antsy, and Jack decides to tell him the story of Jesus and the disciples and fishing for men. Tommy sits quietly, then says, “We aren’t catching any fish ourselves. Let’s pretend we are the disciples and cast our nets on the other side. And let’s pretend Jesus sends us all the fish I am sure are hiding in this lake.”

The boys fling their fishing lines to the other side, then start reeling empty lines in and shouting at each other over the size and quantity of their imaginary catch.

They are having so much fun they don’t notice Violet standing on the edge of the water. She stares incredulously at the boys hopping around and waving their empty fishing poles.

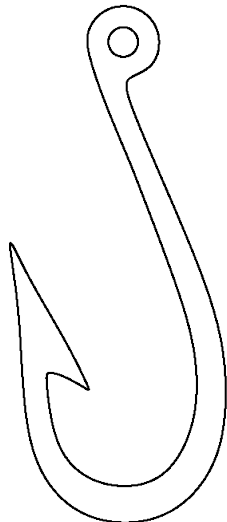
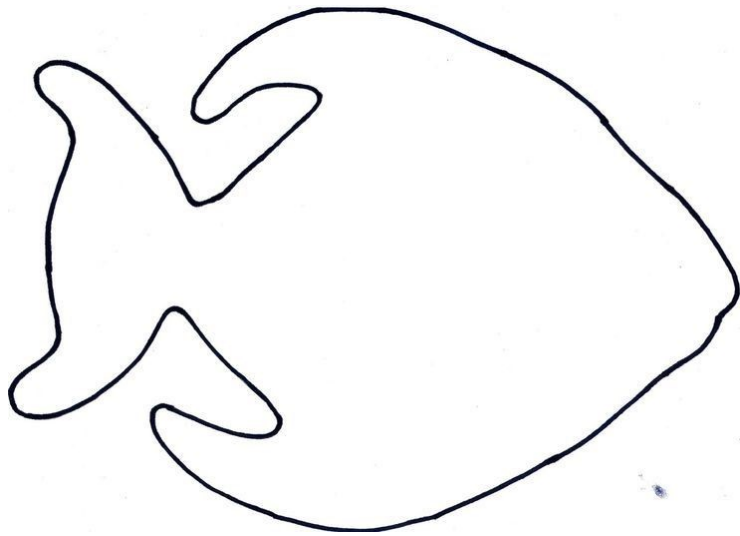
“This is my biggest catch yet!” Tommy shouts. “Boy oh boy. I’m sure glad you invited me, Jack. Say, maybe I can go to Sunday School with you next week. We can tell all the boys about our fish!”

# FISHERS OF MEN

**Supplies:** Colored construction paper (including blue), yarn or string, scissors, glue, fish template, hook template, banner to color cut with words, "Fishers of Men"

**Directions:** Cut and color banner, glue to blue paper.

Cut four fish templates and four hook templates from colored paper. Write the names/titles of four people you can "fish" for: neighbors, schoolmates, family, friends, etc. Glue string and hooks as if they are dropping into the water. Glue fish to the paper by each hook.



THOU SHALT CATCH  
MEN  
Luke 5:10



Impossible. Does anyone know what it means? Let's read where God does the impossible.

In Matthew 14, Jesus fed five thousand men, plus women and children, with five loaves of bread and two fish. After they ate, Jesus sent the people away and sent his men on a boat across the sea.

One of the men in the boat was Peter; he was a fisherman. That night there was a bad storm--bad enough to scare even fishermen. All of a sudden, the men saw a man walking on the water. They cried out in fear but then Jesus called to them. He told them not to be afraid.

Peter asked Jesus to allow him to join Jesus on the water. The Bible doesn't say the storm had stopped yet, so Peter was very brave and bold to ask--maybe he remembered the miracle Jesus had just performed. Peter jumped out and had enough faith to walk on water! Did he make it all the way to Jesus? He didn't. He looked at the storm and high waves, became scared, and began to sink. When he cried out, Jesus was there and helped Peter to the boat and calmed the storm.

Peter teaches us a good lesson: we need to have faith and keep our eyes on Jesus. No matter what is going on around us, He will take care of us. We also learn that faith is very powerful! When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, He does the impossible for us!

Memory Verse:  
With God all things are possible.  
Matthew 19:26b

## The Big Catch, Part 2

Jack and Tommy take their paddles and row toward shore. Their cheeks are flushed from both cold air and the excitement of their large, imaginary catch of fish.

Tommy's line trails in the water. Jack sees the fishing pole twitch. He grabs it just before it bends toward the water.

"Tommy! You've got a bite! Take it, take it."

Tommy is so surprised, he drops his paddle. He grabs at his fishing pole and holds tight, staring in awe at the mysterious resistance on the end of the line.

"Reel it in, Tommy! You've got a real, live fish on the end!" Jack whoops.

Tommy falters. He looks at the line and back at Jack. "But I... I don't know how," he says quietly. "I've never fished before."

Jack is at his side before he finishes his sentence. He shows Tommy how to hold the pole with one hand and reel in the line with the other. He places a firm hand over Tommy's shaking one.

Tommy's confidence grows the closer the fish gets to the boat. His face shines as boy and fish dance the age-old ritual of give-and-take.

Jack grabs the flailing trout and shows Tommy how to release the hook as quickly and gently as possible. He tells Tommy how important it is to treat animals with respect.

"Dad tells me to remember that God created these animals just like He created me, and He expects me to respect my position. God gave us the ability to hunt and fish, and we must be responsible and kind with the animals we use for our good."

Tommy nods, a serious expression on his young face. Jack asks him if he'd like to eat his fish for dinner, and Tommy's sober expression turns into a big grin.

The boys head for home. Jack shows Tommy how to filet the fish and prepare it for cooking. Kathryn helps the boys dust the filets in cornmeal, then they pan-fry the fish in a sizzling cast-iron skillet.

"I wish I could live with your family," Tommy suddenly blurts to Jack. He looks a little embarrassed, but Kathryn smooths his unease away with a quick smile and the response, "Tommy, you are welcome at our home anytime."



# PETER WALKS ON WATER SNACK

**Supplies:** knife, napkins/paper plates, graham crackers, teddy grahams, blue icing

**Directions:** Break the grahams into squares (one square per child). Spread blue icing on each one to represent the water. Put two teddy grahams on in the icing to represent Peter and Jesus walking on the water.





## Peter Denies Jesus

Do you remember Peter? The bold and brave man who jumped into a storm to walk on water? In Matthew 26, we read more about Peter. Jesus was telling his disciples He was going to be taken by soldiers, put on trial and die on a cross. Jesus said no one would stand by his side.

Peter disagreed and said, “Even if everyone leaves you, Jesus, I will not leave you!” But Jesus knew the truth. He told Peter, “Before the rooster crows, you will have betrayed me three times.” Peter again said it wasn’t true. He said, “Even if I die with you, I will not deny you.”

When Jesus went to trial, Peter stood far away from Jesus. He was scared someone might recognize him as Jesus’s friend—and that’s exactly what happened. Three different people recognized Peter and three different times Peter said he didn’t know Jesus. Then Peter heard the rooster and saw Jesus looking at him. He went out and cried and cried! His heart hurt! He had done the very thing he told Jesus he wouldn’t do.

Sometimes we’re like Peter. Maybe we’ve done something that has made Jesus very sad or disappointed with us. But thankfully, Jesus wasn’t done with Peter. He forgave and loved Peter. And Peter went on to tell many, many people about Jesus. When we make a mistake, let’s not be discouraged for a long time. Jesus still loves us, forgives us and wants to use us for His Kingdom.

### Memory Verse:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38

## Tommy Rejects Jack

“Wow, I sure had a fun time with Tommy today,” Jack tells his parents before bed. “I wonder if we’ll be friends at school now. Tommy said, ‘See you tomorrow,’ before he got out of the truck, too.”

Once Jack and Violet are in bed, Anderson and Kathryn sit together in Anderson’s chair and talk. “I hope Tommy is nice to Jack tomorrow,” Kathryn says after taking a sip of hot chamomile tea. She places a hand on her belly and grins. “The baby is awake. I hope he or she decides to go back to sleep soon so I can get some sleep, too!”

Anderson smiles at his beautiful wife. He squeezes her hand and says, “I hope Tommy is kind, but I won’t be surprised if he is not. Tommy doesn’t know what it’s like to have a real friend, and he may react out of embarrassment and fear. I told Jack to not be surprised. I told him Tommy might act like a scared animal. He wants help but he’s also afraid of that help.”

The next day, Jack sees Tommy in the hallway. “Hi, Tommy!” he calls.

Tommy looks down at the ground and hurries past. Jack feels a pang in his heart. He remembers his Dad telling him this might happen. “Still, it doesn’t feel good,” Jack mumbles to himself.

Jack sees Tommy again at lunch. Tommy is looking for a place to sit and eat his lunch. Jack nods his head at Tommy and motions at the empty spot beside him. Tommy shuffles over, avoiding eye contact.

He sits down and says quietly, “I’m sorry for ignoring you earlier. I don’t really know how to be friends, I guess.”

“I know,” Jack says.

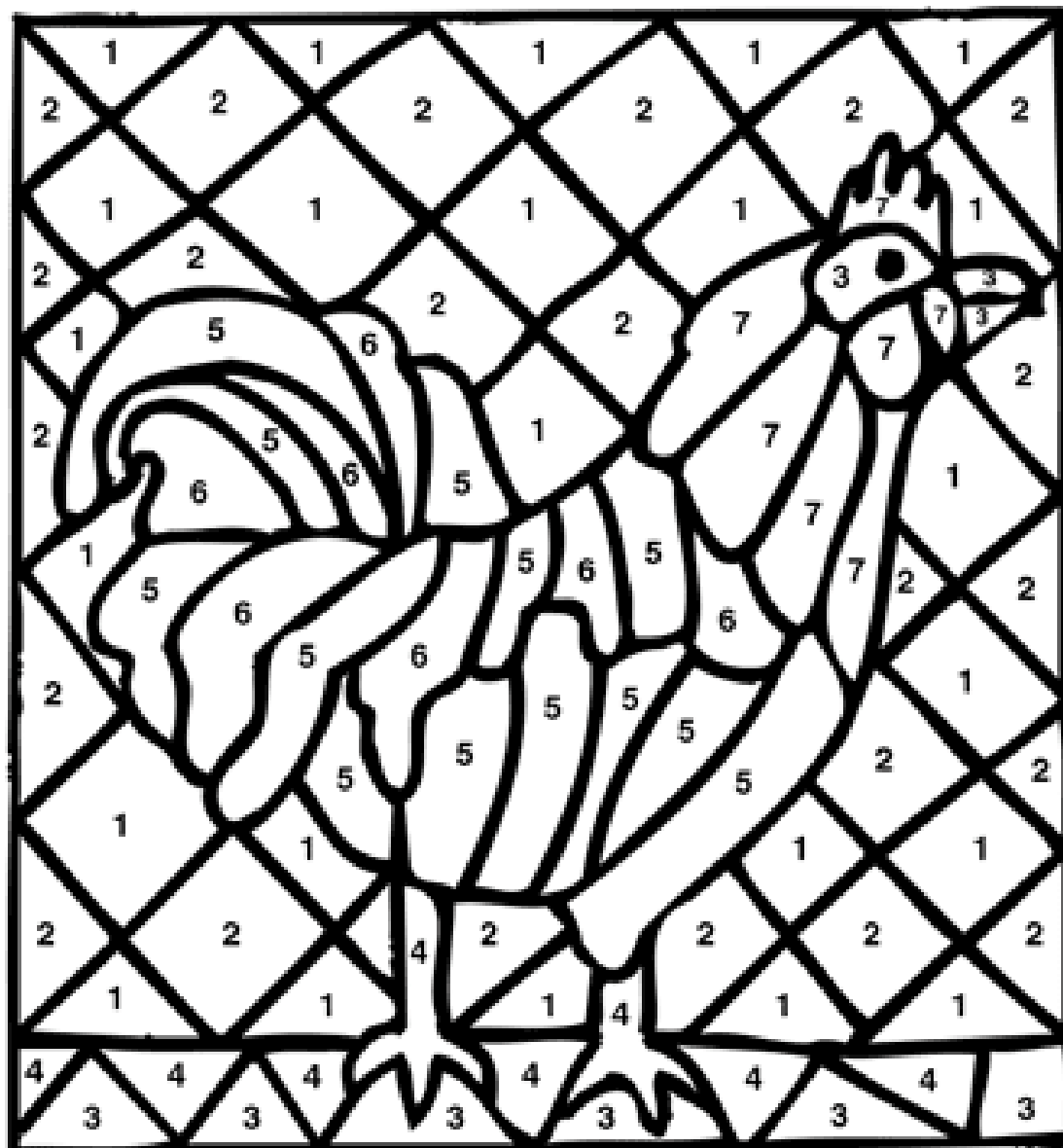
Tommy glances up, surprise on his face. Jack smiles kindly at him then changes the subject. “I’ve been thinking of that fried fish all day. Maybe you can come back sometime and we can try and get some more?”

“Yeah!” Tommy says loudly. His cheeks flush and he quietly repeats himself.

Jack looks around at the boys sitting at the table. “Tommy caught a big fish at my house last night,” he announces.

The boys look at Tommy, interest in their expressions. They talk to Tommy about his fish the rest of lunch hour.

## *I Don't Know Him*



Luke 22:54-62

At the last supper Peter professed his love for Jesus. But later he denied knowing Jesus three times.

What farm animal reminded Peter of his lies?

Use the color code to find out:

1=Green 2=Blue 3=Yellow 4=Orange 5=Brown 6=Black 7=Red



## James and John, Sons of Thunder

Imagine you are fishing with your dad and brother. Catching fish gives your family money to live. All of a sudden, someone comes along and says, “Follow me.” You knew if you followed him, you would be leaving your home, money, family and you might face hard things. Would you follow him?

The brothers are James and John and Jesus is the man that said, “Follow me.” James and John followed Jesus immediately. How courageous they were! They must have been quite the pair of brothers! Jesus named them the Sons of Thunder. Yes, thunder like the loud noises you hear outside in a storm. We have a few stories about them to give us a clue of their nickname.

One time, their mom came to Jesus with a request. She wanted her sons to be the best in God’s kingdom—to sit on the right and left side of Jesus. Jesus knew it was really James and John asking. Another time, they wanted to call fire down from heaven to destroy a Samaritan city. At the same time, they seemed to be good friends of Jesus—they were there for him in his personal moments.

When we follow Jesus, it changes us. John was later called the disciple of love. Imagine going from thunder to love! James was one of the first to lay down his life after Jesus died. These brothers are a good example of how Jesus wants to change us to be more like Him.

### Memory Verse:

He which hath begun a good work in you  
will perform it until the day of Jesus  
Christ. Philippians 1:6

## Violet Goes Fishing

“We’ve sure been talking a lot about fishermen and ‘fishing for men’ at church, and now we’re eating fish at home,” Violet says as she takes a bite of her fish dinner. “I thought people fished in the summer, not the winter!”

“It’s nice to throw a line out in any season,” her father Anderson responds. “What has Miss Charlotte said about fishing in your Sunday School class?”

“Last Sunday we talked about James and John. They were brothers and both fishermen. Then Jesus said ‘Follow me,’ and they stopped fishing so they could follow Jesus. But I don’t really understand what ‘fishing for men’ means. That would be kind of hard to catch a big man on the end of a fishing line!”

Violet giggles at her thought. Jack rolls his eyes. “You can’t actually catch a person, Vi. Well, I guess you could accidentally snag the hook in their skin. But that would hurt, and I doubt they’d want to follow you afterward!”

Violet is a little embarrassed at Jack for laughing and says crossly, “I see you have a lot to say, but you didn’t answer my question. You must not know the answer, either.”

“Children,” Anderson warns. “There is no reason to squabble. I will answer your question, Violet. The phrase ‘fishing for men’ simply means that the disciples were vessels for the Lord to lead people to Christ.”

“Oh. I think I understand,” Violet says. “Well, I want to go fishing for actual fish today.”

Later that day, she stands on the banks of the small pond. She slowly reels her line through the water, when suddenly the pole jerks and the bobber disappears under the water.

“Jack!” she yelps. “I caught one! Woo-hoo!” Violet starts hopping up and down. Jack tries to tell her to be still, but she gets so excited that she starts running back and forth, fishing pole in hand. “This is more fun than watching you and Tommy catch imaginary fish!” Violet shouts gleefully.

She finally quiets enough to hear Jack telling her that she will break the line and lose the fish if she isn’t careful. She slows down and concentrates on slowly reeling. Her heart flutters with excitement as she sees the little lake trout swimming into view.

“I did it, Jack! Now on to fishing for men!”

*The Beautiful Way* can be downloaded at [sundayschoolliterature.com](http://sundayschoolliterature.com) and [churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way](http://churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way).

Volume 70, Quarter 1, Week 4. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



# JAMES AND JOHN

## BEING A SERVANT

**Supplies:** Colored construction paper (including red), washable craft paint, paper towels, newspaper (or something to cover the table with), glue, markers/crayons

**Directions:** Cut a red heart from construction paper and paste it onto the center of the paper (make sure there is enough room on either side for a handprint.) Paint the child's hands and have him/her press them on either side of the heart. Cut and color the banners below and glue them to the top and bottom of the page. Write the words "Servants Hands" on the top of the page, and "Humble Heart" at the bottom.

**Optional:** Instead of washable paint, have the children trace their hands on colored paper, cut them out, and paste them on either side of the red heart.

**Example:**





Primary Sunday School

February 2, 2020

V70, Q1, W5

## John— The Disciple Jesus Loved

Do you remember the “Sons of Thunder?” Right! James and John. John is one of the well-known disciples—we have a lot of information about him. In your Bible we have several books he likely wrote: The Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John as well as Revelation.

When Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover together, the Bible tells us John was sitting close to Jesus and leaning on Him. It describes John as the disciple whom Jesus loved. (Read John 13:23.) How special to be loved by Jesus! Later, when Jesus was hanging on the cross, He looked down at John and asked him to take care of Mary, his mother. The day Jesus arose from the grave, John was told by Mary the tomb was empty. John ran as fast as he could to see it. How happy he must have been when Jesus appeared to him later! Can you think of any other stories that include John? (Hint: there is a song about fishing that includes him).

John focused on love in his writings. He explained that God loved us before we loved him. He encouraged us to love our brothers--not only say we love them but prove it by our actions and truth (1 John 3:18). Loving our brothers and sisters may not always be easy, but if we stick close to Jesus, like John did, it makes it easier to love those around us.

### Memory Verse:

If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 John 4:11

## Lost in the Woods

An owl hoots and the wind moans softly through the trees. Violet shivers and tucks her hands deeper in her pockets. Jack knows she must be scared, because he is afraid. He reaches for one of her hands and holds it tightly. She gives him a wobbly smile.

“We’re out a little later than expected,” she says softly.

Jack laughs under his breath and squeezes her hand. “Dad will find us. It’s my fault, really. I should have turned us around before the shadows fell.”

“It is not your fault!” Violet responds in a voice shriller than either one expected. She lowers her voice and adds, “We were having such a good time exploring. We haven’t been able to play in the woods together in a long time. I didn’t want it to end.”

Siblings will have squabbles and spats, but siblings are also the closest friends. Tonight, Jack and Violet felt that friendship as they clung to each other, lost in their big woods.

“If it were light, I might be able to figure out where we are. We can’t be too far from home. I know we are heading in the right direction, because I know to check which side moss grows on the trees, and I know how to follow the north star,” Jack says gravely.

“Daddy will know how to find us,” Violet says and swallows tightly. “I’m sure glad we are here together and not one of us alone. I’d be so scared if I were all by myself or if I knew you were all by yourself.”

Jack grins and playfully tugs one of Violet’s pigtails. “Nothing like getting lost in the woods to remind us that we still love each other, huh?”

Violet opens her mouth to respond when a bright flashlight cuts through the darkness. A large man emerges from the shadows, and Violet runs to him shouting, “Daddy, daddy! I knew you’d find us! How far from home?”

Anderson picks her up and swings her around. “Not too far, baby. You all have been walking in circles around the trail that follows the pond. I followed your voices and found you here.”

“I’m so glad Jack was with me,” Violet says as she leans on her father’s chest. “He kept me safe.”

Jack puffs out his chest and tries to match his father’s strides as they return home safe and sound.

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# BOOK OF REVELATION

**Supplies:** Crayons, scissors, stapler or tape, and glue

**Directions:** Color the pages of the book. Cut out pages one and two together, and the front and back covers together. Staple them together in order, and then glue the insides of pages one and two together so the book doesn't have extra pages.

Jesus  
loved  
John.



1

John wrote Revelation on the island of Patmos.



2

**Book of  
REVELATION**



## Philip

Can you name the disciples we've studied so far? Let's focus on Philip today. When Jesus started calling his disciples, He called to Philip, "Follow me." Philip was so excited he found Nathanael and said, "We've found him! The one Moses and the prophets wrote about! Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!" Nathanael came to Jesus and after talking with Jesus, agreed with Philip—they had found the Son of God!

Remember the story when Jesus fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish? When the people were hungry, Jesus asked Philip, "Where will we buy bread so everyone can eat?" Philip answered, like we might have, saying "We don't have enough money to feed everyone!" Philip believed in Jesus but was unsure if Jesus could do the impossible. We also find Philip asking questions when he didn't understand Jesus's teaching.

Philip leaves a good example for us to follow. He excitedly told others about Jesus; he led others to know and understand Jesus better; he looked to Jesus in faith during hard times and he asked questions when he didn't understand.

It is believed that Philip later went to upper Asia, the country we know as Turkey today, to preach about Jesus. He would be considered a missionary. Think and talk about what his life as a missionary might have been like. Would you be willing to do that for Jesus?

### Memory Verse:

The day following Jesus would go forth  
into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith  
unto him, Follow me. John 1:43

## Jesus Found Blanche

"Hi, Miss Blanche!" Jack and Violet excitedly call out as they open the door to Springs Birth Center. Miss Blanche greets them with a smile. "Well, hello children! Are you two staying out here to play or will you be going in with your mother?"

"Out here for a few minutes. But we told Dad to come and get us before the heartbeat because we like hearing that," Jack says.

Blanche smiles softly. Many months ago, she found work at the front desk of this center. She realized Jesus was calling her toward care for women and babies just as sweetly as He called her name and drew her to Himself when she first arrived in the town, penniless and alone.

Now, she attends school in the evenings to prepare to be a midwife herself.

Blanche directs the children into the living room. Violet rushes to the books. Jack finds a Lego blocks car kit.

Once it's time to hear the baby's heartbeat, Blanche peeks her head into the room to say hello to Kathryn. The midwife gently rolls the fetal doppler over Kathryn's belly. She stops, laughs, and the sound of a heartbeat fills the room.

"Still sounds like a train in a hurry!" Violet says happily.

"That's how we like it," Helen, the midwife, says. "Kathryn, you know the drill. You're 36 weeks along. Take it easy from here on out. Keep exercising, but get plenty of rest and stay hydrated. Children, can I count on you to help your mother?" Jack and Violet nod excitedly.

Kathryn looks at her precious family and midwife. Then she shares a private smile with dear Blanche.

Kathryn knows how lonely Blanche used to be and how Jesus called her by name to come unto Him. She hopes she can teach her children how Jesus calls each one of them by name, and how He wants to fill their hearts with love and belonging. Just like she feels right now.



JESUS FOUND PHILIP AND  
SAID TO HIM  
FOLLOW ME

**PHILIP THE  
MISSIONARY**

**Supplies:** Scissors and glue

**Directions:** Cut out the cross (or use it as a template and cut from heavier paper.) Color the world map. Using the cut-out cross, trace its shape onto the world map and cut the map in the shape of the cross. Glue the map onto the cross. Color and cut the missionary verse banner and glue to the cross section of the cross.





## You are Important

Mary slumps against the big oak tree.

“What’s wrong, Mary?” Violet asks.

“I’m not important,” she says sadly. “I’m just plain, regular me. Amy is important because she wears fancy clothes. Other girls say things that make people laugh. Some of the boys in our class always know the answer to questions. Everyone has something that makes him or her important. But what do I have?”

She buries her face in her arms. Violet looks around, wishing her mother or another adult could answer.

Violet prays silently. She remembers her mother explaining to her how God created everyone with a reason for being alive.

She wraps her arm around Mary’s shoulder and tells her to look around. “Don’t you see all these pretty trees, and the way the birds fly through the sky? Don’t you know that God created it all?”

Mary nods, smiling as she watches a little wren sing a sweet tune from a tree branch.

“Well, if God created the birds and the trees and all of nature, don’t you think He spent a little more time creating you? Don’t you think He created you with a purpose for this earth? This tree gives us a nice backrest and is probably home to lots of animals. The birds sing pretty songs and eat lots of bugs.”

“But I don’t know what God wants me to do! I don’t know what is important about me!” Mary exclaims.

“You are important because God created you,” Violet says simply. “That is enough. You are part of a royal people, because God is King and everyone who lives for Him is part of His kingdom. But I believe you are very important for other reasons, too. You may not know why, but one day you will.”

Mary’s eyes fill with tears. “I’m not crying because I’m sad now,” she says. “It’s because you’ve helped me feel happy.”

Violet squeezes Mary’s shoulder. “And I think you are the kindest person in our class. The people you call important always come to you for help with reading. That’s a gift. Maybe one day you will write for Jesus or read the Bible to someone who can’t see.

Mary, never forget: Jesus is the most important person of all and He thinks you are important too!”

We have already learned about five disciples that Jesus called to follow Him. Their names are Andrew, Peter, James, John, and Philip. When Philip was called, he was so excited that Jesus had found him, that he ran and told his friend Nathanael about the Messiah. Nathanael wasn’t sure that Jesus really was the Son of God, so he said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Remember, Jesus grew up in Nazareth, and most people did not like that place!

Philip convinced Nathanael to come and meet Jesus anyway, and when Jesus saw him, He said, “Behold, a man in whom is no guile!” That means, “Look, a man who always tells the truth.” Jesus told Nathanael how He had seen him sitting under a fig tree and already knew his name. Nathanael was so amazed! He believed that Jesus was the Son of God after that.

Jesus went on to call three more men whose names were James the less, Simon the Canaanite, and Thaddaeus. Jesus gave James the title “the less” so people wouldn’t get him confused with James, the son of thunder! It wasn’t because he wasn’t as important, or because Jesus loved him less.

There isn’t a lot that we know about Thaddaeus, Simon, and James the less. They aren’t in any more stories that we know about. Even though this is all we know about them, they were still important to Jesus because He asked them to follow Him!

You are important to Jesus, and He is asking you to follow Him too!

### Memory Verse:

But rather rejoice, because your names  
are written in heaven. Luke 10:20b

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Volume 70, Quarter 1, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

# INSIGNIFICANCE

**Supplies:** Scissors, crayons/  
markers, heavy cardstock  
(optional)

**Directions:** Cut and color the  
door hanger to the right. For  
extra sturdiness, use it as a  
template to cut from heavier  
cardstock and glue the two  
pieces together.

*I am  
important  
to Jesus.*





## Jesus Helps Thomas

This week we will learn about Thomas. He was one of Jesus' disciples, and sometimes people think he wasn't a very good one. That is because he had a hard time at first believing that Jesus had risen from the dead! Can you imagine if your friends told you something like that? You probably wouldn't believe it either.

Most of the other disciples had seen Jesus a few days after He had risen, but Thomas wasn't there. Jesus came to them while they were hiding from the people who had killed Him. They were so excited that Jesus was alive! When they saw Thomas next, they told him that they had seen the Lord. Thomas said, "I won't believe it until I have touched the scars in His hands."

That is how Thomas got his nickname: Doubting Thomas.

When Jesus came to see His disciples next, Thomas was with them. Jesus said, "Put your finger in my hands and touch the wounds in my side. Don't doubt anymore, but have faith."

Thomas wasn't a bad disciple because he doubted, and Jesus didn't get upset at him for it. He just showed Thomas His wounds and helped him have faith. He loved Thomas the whole time.

Jesus does the same thing for us. If we ever have a hard time believing that Jesus really will keep all His promises, He helps us to see that He is still alive and strong enough to do anything!

### Memory Verse:

Blessed are the that have not seen, and yet have believed. John 20:29

## Jesus Promised

"Have you ever found yourself wishing you had not made a promise that you now must keep?" Anderson asks his family at devotions.

Violet scrunches her nose and thinks. "Well, one time I promised Jack that I would help him pick apples from our tree if he would dry the dishes when it was my night to dry. But then I wished I had never promised that because I didn't want to pick apples one bit!"

The Mackey family all laugh. "Jack, how would you have felt if Violet went back on her word?" Anderson asks Jack.

"I would not have been happy. I didn't want to pick those apples one bit, either! I needed all the help I could get." Jack says.

"But you two are glad you picked them now, aren't you?" Kathryn asks her children with a smile. "Those pesky apples gave us our apple jelly and apple pies through winter!"

The children nod happily. Violet licks her lips. She hopes to enjoy a little bit of toast with a lot of apple jelly before bedtime.

"Well, I'm asking these questions tonight because as humans it's easy to make promises and sometimes not so easy to keep them. However, as Christians we know we must keep any promise we make. Who is our example, the one who keeps every promise He ever makes?"

The children both answer, "Jesus."

"Sometimes, we may doubt Jesus and His promises. Life gets hard. We struggle with faith, just like the disciple Thomas. Maybe we feel like we're sinking into the water like Peter when he, too, lost faith. But Jesus reached out to both His disciples and reminded them He always delivers.

No matter how hard life feels, know that Jesus keeps every promise."

"I wondered where Jesus was the other week when we were lost in the woods," Jack says quietly. "I thought Jesus would help us out before it got dark. I was wondering why we hadn't been helped."

"Son," Anderson says. "You will face trials in life where you do not see the way out. Maybe a boy at school is being mean, or maybe you will have questions for God that you want answered. But hold tightly to the knowledge that Jesus is right beside you, even if it's too dark to see or feel Him with you."

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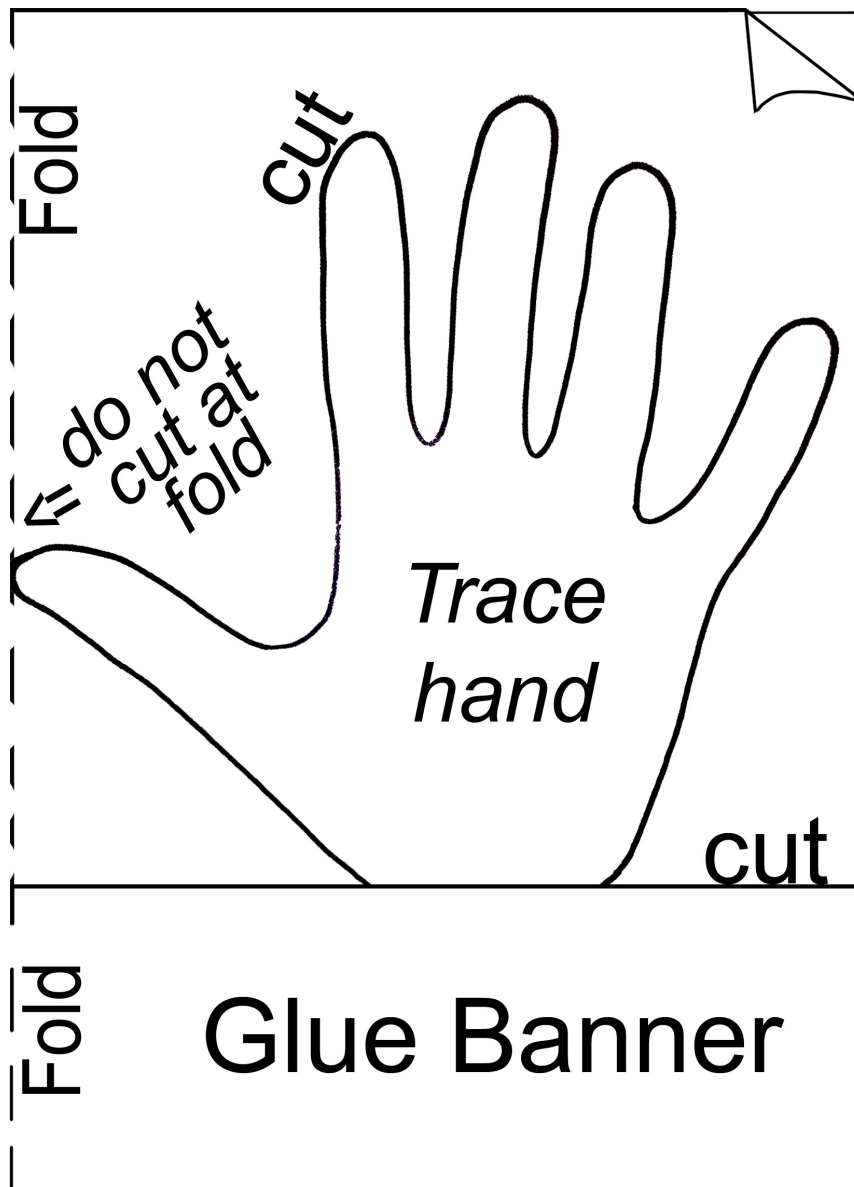
Volume 70, Quarter 1, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



# DOUBTING THOMAS

**Supplies:** Colored paper (including red), scissors, crayons, glue

**Directions:** Cut and color the banner to the right and glue it to the long side of a piece of colored paper. Fold the paper in half width-ways as if to make a book. Trace each child's hand on the paper as pictured below, making sure their thumb is touching the folded edge. Cut the hand and banner portion out and open the page. Cut two red hearts from colored paper and paste them to the palms of each hand.



BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HAVE  
NOT SEEN, AND YET HAVE  
BELIEVED



## Matthew Believes in Jesus

Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman government. That means that he took money from his own people, the Jews, and gave it to their enemies, the Romans. Because he did that, a lot of the Jews didn't like Matthew at all. They thought that he was siding with the Romans instead of them. In fact, if someone besides Jesus had been able to choose the disciples, they definitely wouldn't have chosen Matthew! That's how much they didn't like him!

Jesus didn't care about that, though. He looked into Matthew's heart and saw someone who would be willing to learn from Him and help spread the Gospel after He went back to heaven. While Jesus was walking past Matthew's tax collecting table, He asked him to follow Him.

Matthew was so excited that he agreed right away and then ran home to make a huge dinner and invite people over in Jesus' honor. Jesus came to Matthew's house and sat down to eat with other tax collectors and sinners. There were some Jews who thought they were very important, and they asked Jesus, "Why are you eating with sinners?"

"People who are well don't need a doctor, but people who are sick do!" Jesus answered. He was trying to tell those people that He had come to heal people's bodies and to save them from sin! Most of them didn't understand, but Matthew learned the truth from Jesus. After Jesus went back to heaven, Matthew traveled to Egypt and Ethiopia to tell people about the Lord!

**Memory Verse:**  
**They that are whole need not a  
 physician; but they that are sick.**  
**Luke 5:31**

## Two New Lambs

Violet wakes. She lies in her bed without moving. Something feels different about today. Then she hears humming in the kitchen. The voice of the hummer is not the voice of her mother! She pops up and out of bed and runs for the kitchen.

"Oh! Ms. Charlotte! What are you doing here?" Violet gasps as she nearly runs into her Sunday School teacher pulling muffins out of the oven.

"Violet. You are up early! Sit down at the table and I'll tell you while I get your breakfast."

Violet thinks she knows. "Is Mama having her baby?"

Charlotte nods and grins. "Your parents telephoned early this morning. They waited until I got here, then left for the birth center. I'll be taking you and Jack over as soon as we get a call."

Violet bounces in her seat. She's so excited she can barely eat her muffins.

Jack stumbles out of bed about an hour later, rubbing tired eyes and looking in confusion at Violet's bright and cheery ones. "Why are you the one so awake this morning, Vi?"

"Mama's having her baby!" Violet gushes. "Ms. Charlotte is here because she's taking us into town as soon as our parents call the house."

Jack is very excited, but he pretends the news is not big news at all. He gravely eats his muffins, then retires to the living room where he sits in his father's recliner and tries to read the newspaper. But when the phone rings, he jumps up faster than Violet did that morning.

An hour later, the children crowd around their mother and the new little bundle she holds close to her chest. They stare in awe at the perfect little eyes looking back at them.

"Meet your sister, Carrie-Ann Emerson," Kathryn says gently. Jack stares at the little girl and decides this is what falling in love feels like.

But then, a tiny little cry behind him fills him with confusion. He whirls around to see his father holding a second tiny bundle. "What?" he asks slowly. Violet's eyes go very round. "Twins?" she squeaks.

Anderson laughs--the picture of a proud father. "We didn't know it was twins when we told you all. But then we kept it a secret. Meet your brother, Carter Lee."







## Judas Kisses Jesus

Judas was also one of Jesus' disciples, but he is not remembered for a good reason. He acted like Jesus' friend, but he is the one who showed the evil men where Jesus was so they could crucify Him.

A few days before He died, Jesus was eating the last Passover supper with His disciples. He told them, "There is one of you who will betray me." To betray means to act like you are friends with someone and then to do something hurtful to them. Each of the disciples wanted to know if it was he, but Judas already knew in his heart that he would betray Jesus. When he asked Jesus if he would do it, Jesus said, "Whatever you are going to do, do it quickly."

Judas immediately got up and left. He went to the chief priests, or the leaders in Israel, and told them he would lead them to Jesus. They gave him thirty pieces of silver as payment.

Later that night, Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas knew Jesus liked to go there, so he led the soldiers there. He came up to Jesus and kissed him. That is how the soldiers knew Jesus was the one they wanted to kill.

Judas was so sad that he had given Jesus to the soldiers that he cried sadly and took his own life.

If we want to be good disciples of Jesus, we must always be faithful to Him! Jesus would have forgiven Judas if he had asked, and Jesus will always forgive us if we mess up.

### Memory Verse:

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but  
the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.  
Proverbs 27:6

## Amy Betrays Violet

"I think I am slowly becoming friends with Amy," Violet says happily. She holds Carter over her shoulder and pats him on the back to help him burp, just like her mother showed her.

Kathryn smiles sleepily at Violet. She holds Carrie in her arms. "I'm happy to hear it, Vi. And I'm glad you can help me. You are a big sister and a little mommy!"

Violet beams. She laughs when Carter burps. "Well, I better leave if I want to catch the bus on time. I'll let you know how it goes today with Amy," Violet says as she places her new little brother in the cradle.

At school, Miss Jane tells her class about an exciting project. Each student will choose an adult in town to interview. Once the adult agrees, the children will ask them questions ranging from childhood memories to knowledge they want to share with younger generations.

"You will need to take good enough notes during these interviews so that you can write a report and present your findings to the class. Don't worry, I will help you each step of the way."

The children chatter in excitement as they file out to the cafeteria. Violet walks with Amy. "Aren't you excited about this project, Amy? I am going to ask Miss Blanche! She works at the birth center in town, and she's going to be a midwife. I'm sure she has lots of exciting facts to share. Who will you pick?"

Amy says, "Oh, I'm sure I'll think of someone."

The children eat lunch and enjoy a long recess. Afterwards, Miss Jane calls on each student to hear their ideas. She calls on Amy before Violet. Amy says, "Miss Blanche. She's fairly new in town and has a new job working with babies."

Violet stares in shock. Amy took her idea on purpose! She feels anger and sadness at the same time. Amy has betrayed her! A tear slips out of one eye, and Violet rubs it fiercely away.

Miss Jane knows Violet is trying to be Amy's friend, and she sees Violet's reaction. She tells her, "Violet, come to my desk during reading hour and we will think of someone."

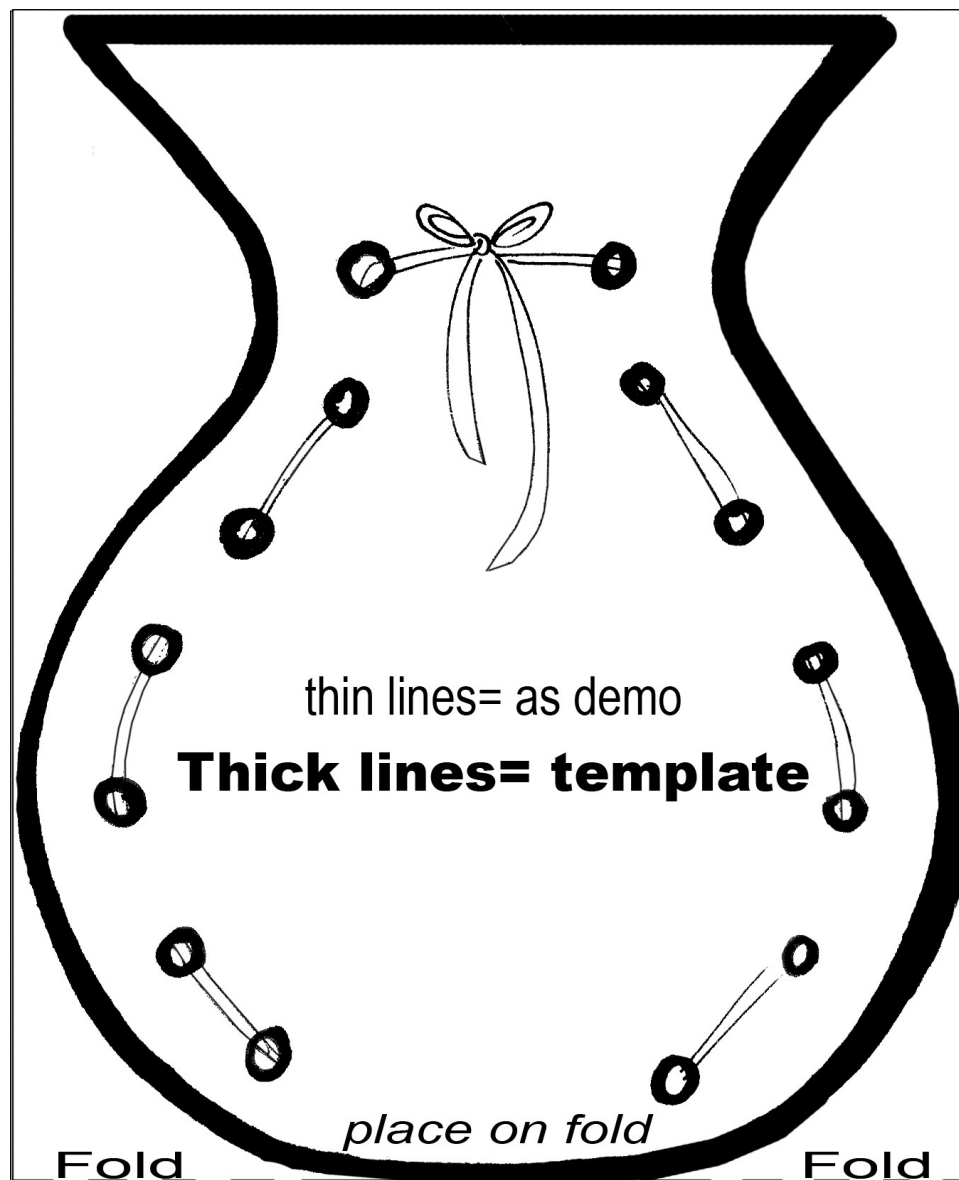
Amy doesn't look at Violet the rest of the day.



# JUDAS' BETRAYAL

**Supplies:** Brown paper, yarn, single hole punch, grey paper, scissors

**Directions:** Fold a piece of brown paper in half widthwise. Cut the money pouch template below, trace onto the brown paper, making sure to line the bottom of the bag up with the folded edge of the paper, and cut. Punch 6 - 8 holes along each side of the money pouch, weave the yarn through, and tie at the top. Cut 30 (or fewer) pieces of silver from the grey paper and place them in the money pouch.





Primary Sunday School

March 15, 2020

V70, Q1, W11

## I am a Disciple

We have learned all about the twelve men Jesus called to be His disciples! Can you name them all?

**Andrew**, the brother of Peter. **Peter**, the man who walked on the water! **James and John**, the sons of thunder. **Philip**, the man that Jesus found. **Nathanael**, **James the less**, **Thaddaeus**, and **Simon the Canaanite**. We don't know a lot about these men. **Thomas**, the one who doubted Jesus had risen from the dead. **Matthew**, the tax collector. **Judas**, the disciple who betrayed Jesus.

There were lots of other people that followed Jesus while He was teaching on earth. But did you know that He is still calling people to be His disciples? Jesus still needs men and women and boys and girls who are willing to learn from Him and tell other people that He died to save them!

If you want to be a disciple of Jesus, you need to ask Him to forgive you for your sins and to come live in your heart. If you haven't done that, your parents or Sunday school teacher would be happy to pray with you! Next, you need to learn from Jesus and obey what He asks you to do. Your parents and Sunday school teacher can help you with that too. Every day, pick a little part of your Bible to read and pray to God to ask Him to help you with your day.

If you do these things, you will be a disciple of Jesus too! He is asking you to follow Him, just like Peter, James, John, and all the others!

Memory Verse: And he said to them all,  
If any man will come after me, let him  
deny himself, and take up his cross daily,  
and follow me. Luke 9:23

## Violet Forgives Amy

Violet rushes through the door. She flings herself on her mother's lap and bursts into sobs. She tells the story of Miss Jane assigning a new project at school and how Amy took Violet's idea. "Why would she do that, Mama? How could she?"

Violet bursts into another round of sobs. Kathryn smooths her daughter's hair. "Violet, look at me honey. Amy hurt you today. Very much. You are a wonderful friend to her and it takes strength to be nice to someone who can be very mean. I do not know why Amy chose to betray you. But I do know we can think of a new project idea together. And I know what Jesus says about forgiving those who hurt us. And I know that you are a little disciple of Jesus, and that He will help you every day."

Kathryn pats the couch. "Come sit beside your little brother and sister and me. We'll figure out a project idea first."

Violet climbs on the couch. She wipes her teary eyes with the back of her sleeve. She gives a wobbly smile at Carrie Ann and kisses Carter's soft forehead. Mother and daughter talk about different ideas before settling on Mr. Waters, an old mechanic who's lived in Timber Springs all his life.

"Well, now I have a brand-new idea for my project and I'm really excited! But what about Amy? What am I supposed to do?" Violet asks, calm and happy now.

"What do you think Jesus wants?" Kathryn asks.

"I know He wants me to forgive her. But it hurts so much."

"Violet, forgiveness doesn't mean you'll forget how you were hurt. Forgiveness helps your own heart feel better so you can serve Jesus with a heart full of love. It's up to Amy to feel sorry for her actions. But you can show her what forgiveness and mercy look like, and maybe she's never been shown forgiveness before you became her friend.

That's one way you serve Jesus as His disciple. Sometimes children feel like they aren't that important in the kingdom of God, but they are very important. You can reach Amy in a way no adult ever can. That's why we are all disciples."

Violet's face radiates peace. "I forgive Amy right now!" she exclaims. "I'll keep being nice to her and giving her second chances over and over. I want her to know how much Jesus loves her!"

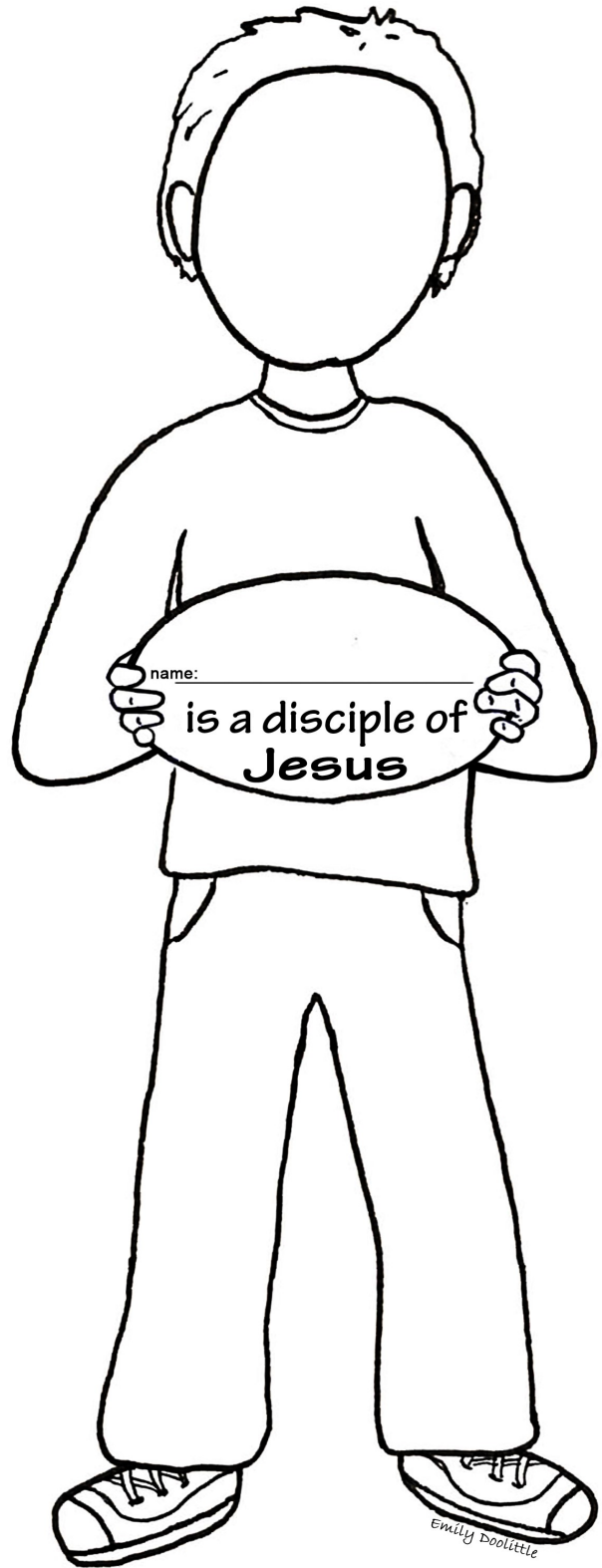
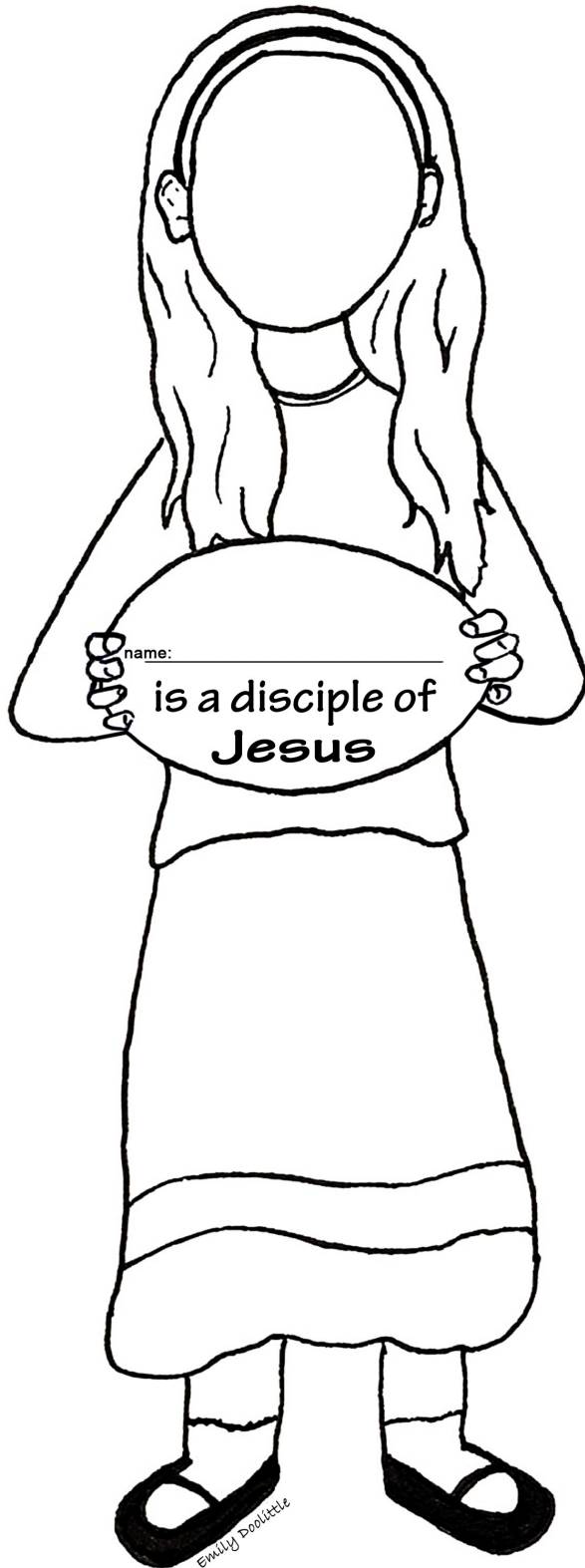
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Volume 70, Quarter 1, Week 11. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

# I AM A DISCIPLE

**Supplies:** crayons, scissors, white paper, glue

**Directions:** Color and cut either boy or girl disciple. You may need to assist child in cutting the hole for the face. Have each child draw their face in a square (1.5" tall by 1.25" wide) cut it out, and paste it behind the child's cutout, giving it a face. **OR** bring a Polaroid camera to class and take a picture of each child to paste behind their cutout. Write each child's name on their discipleship sign.





Do you remember that we learned last week what you need to do to be a disciple of Jesus? Do you remember the names of the twelve disciples He called to follow Him in the Bible?

There is another part of being a disciple of Jesus that includes other people too! Jesus wanted His followers to work together to spread the Gospel. He even sent His disciples out in pairs to travel and preach.

One time, while Jesus was still teaching on Earth, His disciples were fighting with each other about who was the most important. They each wanted to be a little better than the rest. Finally, they asked Jesus so He could tell them who was the most important. He said, "The one that is the least among you, that person will be the greatest." Jesus was basically telling the disciples that it didn't matter who *looked* the most important. What matters is that they all loved and obeyed Him.

Is it easy to look around your group of friends and want to be the most important? Sometimes we like being the ones who get a lot of attention or who seem like we're the best at something. Instead of choosing to act like that, get together with your friends and be disciples for Jesus. Work together to help someone who is hurting or hungry. Invite someone who is all alone to join your group of friends and tell him or her about Jesus! That is what it means to be disciples together.

### Memory Verse:

For the body is not one member, but many. 1 Corinthians 12:14

## Shine a Light

"Children, I've been thinking of ways our family can be disciples together," Anderson tells Jack and Violet during evening devotions.

"I know we are disciples on our own; Jack and Violet at school, and Kathryn and me in town or around neighbors. But I want to do something together. Tomorrow evening we will eat dinner at Mrs. Knelson's cafe. I plan to invite Mr. Neil and Miss Blanche to dine with us. I haven't given Mr. Neil a good supper in awhile, and Miss Blanche will enjoy seeing Kathryn and the babies. I dare say they both will enjoy some company with their dinner."

The children cheer, excited about this plan. They count down the hours until it's time to head into Timber Springs the next evening.

Anderson drops off Kathryn and Violet at the birth center. Kathryn timed her appointment so that she and Violet could walk with Miss Blanche from the center to Mrs. Knelson's and meet back up with Anderson, Jack and Neil.

Violet is intrigued with her mother's office visit. First, Miss Blanche and Helen check on Kathryn to make sure she is feeling well. Then they weigh the twins and coo and laugh at the sweet babies.

Afterward, Kathryn, Violet and Miss Blanche walk a few blocks to the cafe. Each woman holds one of the babies in her arms.

Anderson, Jack and Neil are seated at a corner table. They stand up as the women arrive. Miss Blanche says a polite hello to the men and ruffles Jack's hair.

It's still chilly in March on the mountain, and Mrs. Knelson builds a roaring fire in the hearth. She serves her customers a hearty venison shepherd's pie for dinner.

The dinner party enjoys good conversation and good food. Anderson and Kathryn receive many compliments from other diners on the good manners of Jack and Violet. This makes Jack and Violet beam with pride.

A few hours later, after dropping off their guests, the family drives back up the mountain.

"Children, we can disciple in many ways," Anderson says. "Sometimes it's simply giving someone a hot meal and attention. You two were good examples to many of the diners by your good manners. And I dare say, many times I go with the intention of being the disciple and instead I'm the one who is challenged and blessed."

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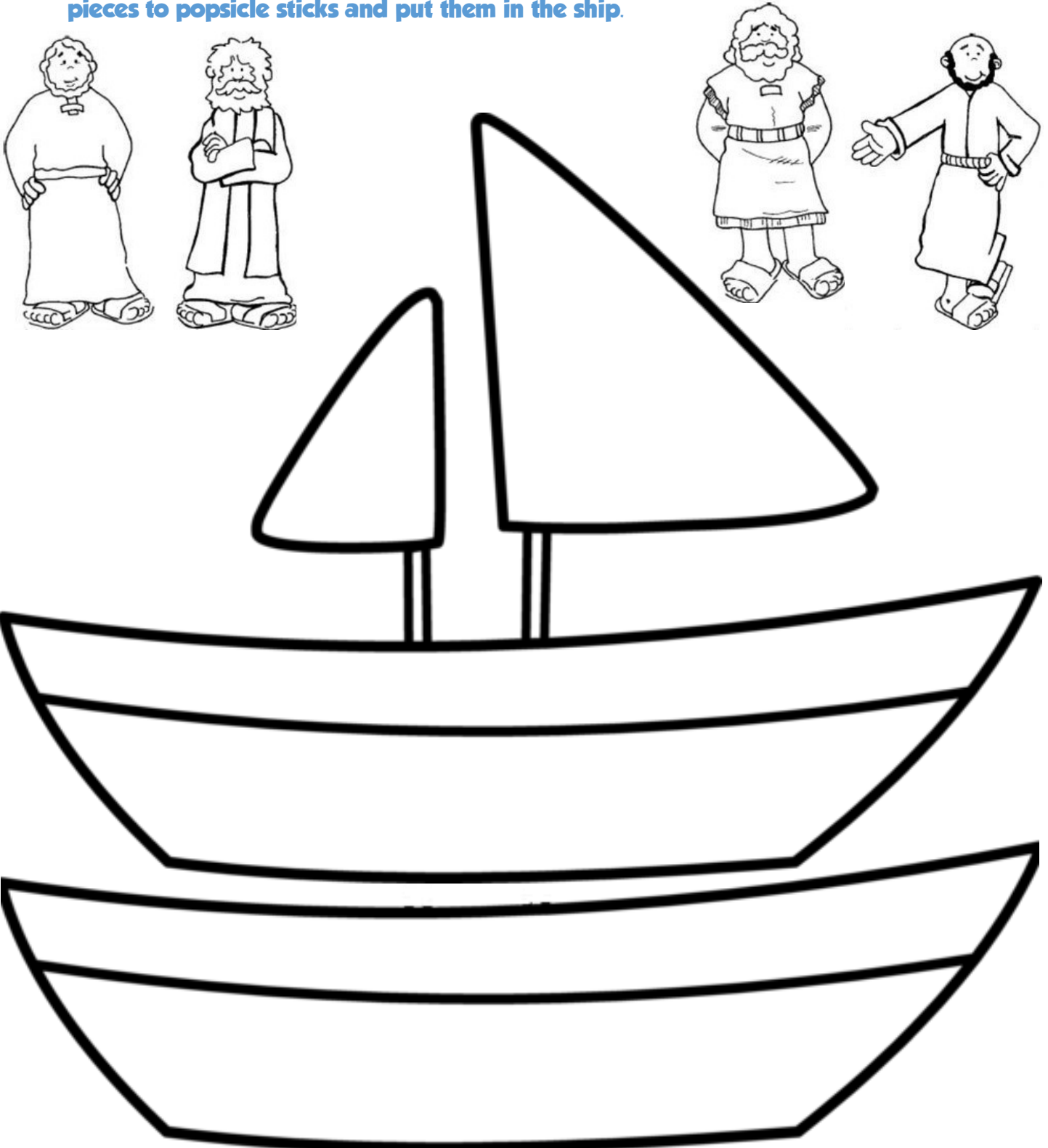
Volume 70, Quarter 1, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



# DISCIPLE-SHIP

**Supplies:** crayons, scissors, hot glue gun, cardstock (optional), popsicle sticks

**Directions:** Color and cut the two ship pieces below (consider tracing the portion with sails onto sturdier construction paper and gluing them together.) Glue the two pieces of the ship together along the edges, leaving the center open. Color and cut the disciples and glue the pieces to popsicle sticks and put them in the ship.





## The Holy Spirit

How would you like to take a test where someone gave you all the answers? It would be easy, right?

Did you know that Jesus promised His disciples, and *all the people* who would follow Him, that He would send someone who would always give the right answers? That “someone” is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the presence of Jesus that lives inside our hearts after we get saved.

After Jesus went to heaven, the disciples were all gathered in a room praying together. They were scared that the same people who had crucified Jesus would come kill them too! But suddenly, a sound like a strong, rushing wind filled the room and little flames like fire appeared over their heads. The Holy Spirit had come!

From that day forward, the disciples had power and reassurance in their hearts. They were able to preach the Gospel to many people and even give their own lives so people would know about Jesus. That is how powerful the Holy Spirit is!

If you have asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, He wants to give you power to obey and live a life without sin in it. You can only do that if you have the Holy Spirit living in you. Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit and He wants to give it to you too! Ask Him to give you power to do what’s right and always obey His commandments.

### Memory Verse:

But ye shall receive power, after that  
the Holy Ghost is come upon you.  
Acts 1:8b

## How Do I Know?

Jack walks in the door and flings his backpack down to the ground. He’s about to rush to his room, but his mother wraps her arm around his waist and pulls him back into the kitchen.

He tries to look annoyed, but his young heart yearns to tell her his troubles. It’s just that when boys start becoming a little bigger, sometimes they think they need to bear their burdens silently.

“It’s like she can read my mind,” Jack thinks as his beloved mom slides him a glass of milk and a peanut butter cookie bar. She smiles gently and says, “Jack, growing boys like you need to eat. You enjoy your snack and then tell me what’s on your mind.”

Jack doesn’t wait to tell. He starts talking around bites of peanut butter cookie and big gulps of milk.

“Mom, sometimes it is so hard to be kind, or at least calm, around some of the boys at school. It’s like they are trying to get me to do wrong! And then I keep thinking about the Holy Spirit and how Dad said it lives in our hearts. But how do I know it’s in my heart?”

Jack’s shoulders slump. Kathryn studies him for a moment, silently praying the Holy Spirit will send wisdom.

“What causes you not to react to those boys,” she asks. “It’s easy enough to hit someone or say an unkind word when you know no adult is watching to get you in trouble. But what causes you to do right anyway?”

Jack looks puzzled.

“Son, you are saved. You’ve asked Jesus into your heart. You have also invited His Spirit to live within your soul, filling your heart and mind with His love and guidance. When you’re in a tough position and you hear something like a still, small voice in your mind urging you to do or not do something, that is the Spirit talking with you. The devil would like to make this a complicated, confusing conversation. But it’s as simple as that.”

Peace fills Jack’s face.

Violet comes to the kitchen for a snack. As she reaches for a cookie, Jack snatches it from the plate and playfully pulls at her braid.

“Hey!” Violet laughs as she reaches for another.

“What’s got you so happy?”

“The Holy Spirit,” Jack replies.

