How to Be Jesus’ Disciple

Lesson 1: Disciples Join God’s Team
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Unit Summary
We spend a great deal of time in ministry doing a great many wonderful things—reaching, teaching, and training kids for Jesus. However, Jesus gave just one primary command when He returned to heaven: “Go and make disciples.” What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? Can young followers of Jesus experience victory in their Christian walk? This unit introduces children to five basic principles for having P-O-W-E-R to follow Christ in their faith: Praying from the heart, Obeying the Holy Spirit, Worshiping with the Church, Explaining their faith to others, and Reading their Bibles daily. Yes, children can experience profound P-O-W-E-R in their walk with God when they begin to apply these life-changing disciplines.

Lesson Summary
When Jesus invited people to follow Him, He was asking them to become His disciples. In the simplest definition, a disciple is a follower of Jesus. Disciples have made the decision to trust Jesus for their salvation and to follow Him with their lives. Often people try to apply the teachings of Jesus—prayer, Bible reading, or His wise sayings—without first determining to be one of His disciples. The first step to being a disciple of Jesus is making that all-important decision to trust Jesus alone for your salvation and to follow Him for the rest of your life. That decision begins your journey with God. All else follows.

Paul’s Power Principle: Being a disciple means you’ve chosen to follow Jesus!

In this lesson, your children will...

KNOW
• Christians who truly live for Christ experience God’s P-O-W-E-R

FEEL
• Eager to follow God’s wonderful plan for their lives

DO
• Decide to be Jesus’ true disciples—to invite Him to take 100 percent control
Welcome!—Lions and Mice

Supplies: clipboards and pens

As kids arrive, have two clipboards available. Explain to the kids that you will be dividing them into teams, but they can choose which team they want to be on. At the top of one clipboard print “Team Name: The Mighty Lions”; on the other one, “Team Name: The Tiny Mice.” Most children will sign up to be on the Mighty Lions simply because the name sounds like the more powerful team. Of course, some will sign up on the Tiny Mice team, but that’s okay. When the lesson begins, ask the Mighty Lions to stand up and cheer. Then ask the Tiny Mice to stand and cheer. Look surprised that there are so many more Mighty Lions than Tiny Mice. Ask a few Lions why they chose that team. Look for answers that indicate it sounded like a better team, a stronger team, or one more likely to win. We all want to be on a winning team. Today we are going to talk about joining God’s team. If you want to be on the winning team for all of eternity, you would be wise to choose God’s team. Even the Bible describes how mighty a lion is (Proverbs 30:29–30). Several times in the Bible God is compared to a lion in how powerful He is! One of them is Hosea 13:7: “So I will come upon them like a lion, like a leopard I will lurk by the path.”
Let's Meet-n-Greet!

Have the kids turn and greet the people next to them. If they are sitting next to a good friend, encourage them to get up and find someone they don’t know. Tell them to ask each other who their favorite sports team is and what was the last sports game they went to. Did their team win?

Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the How to Use DiscipleTown guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)

Let’s Worship!

In your time of worship during this lesson, focus on the power of God and how He is in charge of the world and knows what is best. The song below is a praise song lifting up the God who reigns. We want to be on God’s Team because He is the God who reigns, and we want to be on the winning team!

Recommended Song: Our God Reigns from Jesus Music Box by Yancy (not Nancy), available at Kidology.org/jesusmusicbox.

Puppet Intro

Leader & puppet introduce today’s lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson.

Puppet* comes out wearing a baseball cap and shirt for a local sports team. Leader says, “I thought you were going to join [another local team].” Puppet says, “I was, but then the weirdest thing happened! I was trying to call my friend Billy and I got a wrong number and some old dude named Bill answered the phone. It turned out it wasn’t a wrong number; I had somehow called Billy in the future!” Leader says, “Really? In the future?” Puppet says, “Yeah, that’s what I thought, but I asked him lots of questions about the future, and he told me everything—who will be the next president, when cars will fly, and even who will win the Little League Championship this year.” Leader says, “I see. And I’m guessing it is [the team of Puppet’s cap and shirt], not [the other local team].” Puppet says, “How did you know? You aren’t from the future!” Leader says, “I’m guessing that is why you switched teams!” Puppet, “Of course! I want to be on the winning team! Everyone wants to be on the winning team! Who wants to be on a losing team? Not me!” Leader says, “I agree. That’s why I’m a Christian.” Puppet says, “Huh? What’s being a Christian have to do with being on a winning team?” Leader says, “Well, God’s enemy, Satan, started a rebellion against God, and it’s been raging for years. Jesus said that anyone who isn’t for God is against God. Christians are on God’s team, and God is going to win the final battle.” Puppet says, “Aha! So we are just in the middle innings of the great game of life?” Leader says, “Something like that.” Puppet says, “Well, it is time for me to go have my seventh inning stretch and eat a hot dog. Glad to hear I’m now on two winning teams! Go God!” Leader says (as Puppet leaves), “Wait, you never told me who is going to be the next president!” (Doesn’t get an answer.)

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com.
Let’s Play!—Extreme Pictionary

In the classic game of Pictionary, contestants race to illustrate a word or phrase on a board or paper while their team tries to guess what it is before time is up. If their team fails, the other team gets a limited amount of time to identify the drawing. In this “Extreme Pictionary” game, the pencils and markers are gone, and the drawing is done with physical objects. The rest of the rules are primarily the same.

Divide the room into two groups, usually the right and left side of the room. Choose three or four children to come up on stage to participate in “drawing.” They get 60 seconds to create the word or phrase they take from a bucket while their team tries to call out what they think it is. The team members are “drawing” on the floor with the item described below. (It changes each week.) The other team watches silently. If the first team identifies it correctly, it gets 1,000 points. If it wasn’t guessed correctly when time is up, the other team gets 15 seconds to try to guess. No changes are made to what has been “drawn.” If the other team guess correctly, it is awarded a “steal” and gets 500 points.

You may play up to three rounds if time permits, so six words are provided.

**Week one:** Play with standard drinking straws. You will want to provide plenty of straws. They often can be donated by a fast food restaurant or purchased in bulk at a warehouse or department store. Players can “draw” by laying down the straws in patterns and shapes on the floor.

**Optional:** Use glow sticks and play in the dark for an extra element of challenge and fun!

**Application:** Psalm 34:8 says, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” It is best to choose God!

**Connect with Your Kids**

During this time connect the lesson to yourself, yourself to your kids, and therefore the lesson to your kids. This segment makes the material real to your students because it demonstrates how the material impacts you in a real-life situation.

Did you ever play on a sports team or compete in some other manner? Music? Chess? Academics? Did you win (or lose)? What was that like? Such experiences have value and relate to the desire to be on a winning team. We all want to be winners, whether we have had that experience or fallen short of it. Share your personal experience with such competition as a child, teen, college student, or adult. Then transition to the spiritual realm and what it means to be on the ultimate winning team—God’s team. If you have a trophy or certificate, or even just a picture of yourself in a team uniform, show it to the kids while you talk about this subject. It adds a personal dimension to you as their teacher and will increase your effectiveness as you teach.
DiscipleTown Visitor

Coach Knuckles: An enthusiastic coach for a thumb-wrestling team. Each lesson during this unit, he will visit the group; his experience with his team helps illustrate the lesson.

Costume/Props: Coach Knuckles should come in dressed in athletic gear, with a water bottle, towel, whistle, clipboard and pen, and running shoes. He is carrying a cellphone in an armband or athletic holster. He should have some business cards in his pocket or on his clipboard.

[Coach enters talking on his cellphone. He is overly enthusiastic about thumb wrestling, and his anticipation for the new season has him very excited.]

Coach: [On the phone:] Absolutely! I am assembling a team of rock stars this year. Some of these kids have incredible talent! I haven’t seen talent like this in years! I am very hopeful for our season this year; we might even win the Monkey Thumb Championship ring this year. Yup. Anyway, let me know if you are willing to be my assistant this year. Gotta run—meeting some new recruits this morning.

Leader: Good morning, Coach Knuckles, how are you?

Coach: I’m fantastic, so grateful you let me stop by. I’m looking for some top players to join my team this year. [Begins to wander around the class inspecting children’s hands, giving special attention to their thumbs.]

Leader: I see. Isn’t that something anyone can do—an assistant coach, perhaps?

Coach: Not when you are going to be the winning team.

Leader: How do you know you are going to be the winning team?

Coach: Glad you asked! The reason we are going to be the winning team this year is because I have acquired last year’s individual champion and the coach from the winning team last year. [Continues to wander and inspect hands.]

Leader: Wow, you sure have the deck stacked! So why are you here? You already have a winning team, don’t you?

Coach: No, you don’t understand. The bigger my team, the more competitions we can enter. With the sort of training I can offer, we could take over state championships across the nation. I need people who want to be on the winning team!

Leader: So what kind of skills do these competitors need?

Coach: Ahh! I have already found my recruits! [Selects two or three kids whose hands he inspected, and begins to escort them to the door.]

Leader: You have? I’m pretty sure you’ll need their parents’ permission, perhaps a uniform. Not sure I even know what sport you play!

Coach: Oh, golly, I can’t believe I missed that! [Laughs and turns to one of the children, holding up the child’s thumb.] This, ladies and gentlemen, is a winning thumb! Perfect for round two in the Thumb Wrestling Championships!

Leader: Thumb wrestling? Wow! Now I have seen everything!

Coach: Yes, and these kids will be on the winning team! Feels great, doesn’t it kids? Come on! [Starts to leave with the kids, but Leader intercepts.]

Leader: Tell you what. Why don’t you leave these magic thumbs with me, and I’ll give them your business card. You can contact their parents to arrange for tryouts.

Coach: [Suddenly realizes what he was doing.] Oh my goodness, you are absolutely right! I was just so excited about starting a thumb-wrestling tryout that I clearly lost my brain! [Turns to recruits.] I’m sorry, children! Tell you what: practice this [Demonstrates a thumb exercise.] and we’ll chat next time!
Let’s Search!—Bible Dash

**Supplies:** Bibles

Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command “SEARCH!” have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, “FOUND IT!” Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson.

- **James 4:4**  
  A friend of the world is an enemy of God.

- **Joshua 24:15**  
  Choose this day whom you will serve.

- **Matthew 12:30**  
  You are either with or against Jesus.

- **Romans 14:11**  
  Someday everyone will confess Jesus is Lord.

- **Romans 10:13**  
  Everyone who calls on Jesus will be saved.

- **James 4:13-15**  
  Make plans saying, “If it is God’s will, then …”

- **Psalm 33:11**  
  God’s plans stand forever through all generations.

- **Proverbs 19:21**  
  God’s plan is the one that will happen.

**Paul’s Power Principle:** Being a disciple means you’ve chosen to follow Jesus!

**Suggested Bible Narrative**

*Joshua 1—Joshua Installed as Leader*

After the death of Moses, God made Joshua the new leader. He told Joshua to be strong and very courageous and to be careful to obey all the law Moses had passed down to him. God promised if he would do this, he would be prosperous and successful. God would be with him wherever he went! Joshua told God’s people that they would be taking the Promised Land, and they chose to obey Joshua. They had a choice to make, and the people chose to follow God. Read Joshua 24:15.

Let’s Learn!—Disciples Join God’s Team

**Supplies:** (for each week): five large T-shirts each with one of the following letters on them: P-O-W-E-R. Make them look as much like superhero logos as possible.

Invite five children to come on stage. Put the T-shirts on the children and let them know that they are the Power Team for this week! This month we will be learning about how to have P-O-W-E-R in our Christian walk! And each of these letters in the word power contains a secret to how we access God’s power to win over evil and live for the Lord! Explain that you are going to teach a motion for each “superhero.” Each child will act it out as they say their “superpower.”

**The first is P.** Have the child wearing the P shirt step forward. P represents “Pray from your heart.” Have the child wearing the letter P fold his or her hands as if in prayer and say, “Pray from your heart” loudly!
The next letter is O. Have the child wearing the O shirt step forward. O stands for “Obey the Holy Spirit.” The child will give two enthusiastic thumbs up while yelling, “Obey the Holy Spirit!”

Continue having each child step forward in order. Teach the following letters and what they mean while each child does the appropriate motion.

- **W**: “Worship with your church.” The child holds hands up as if in worship.
- **E**: “Explain your faith to others.” The child points to his or her heart with both hands and then motions outward, pointing at everyone else in a sweeping motion.
- **R**: “Read your Bible daily.” The child makes a circle with his or her hands, starting at the top and ending with hands in front in the shape of an open Bible (representing the globe, or daily).

In summary:

- Pray from your heart
- Obey the Holy Spirit
- Worship with your church
- Explain your faith to others
- Read your Bible daily

After the children return to their seats, note the letters you are teaching on today. Put those shirts on hangers and leave them on display throughout the lesson. In this lesson, the focus is on all five, so leave all the shirts on display.

Read Acts 1:8. When we become Christians, God promises to give us power! This power comes from the Holy Spirit. This power is a gift to people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior. This month we will be learning about all the ways we can have power in our Christian life with God. But in order to HAVE this power, you have to BE a Christian. That means you need to have received Jesus as your personal Savior and Friend.

Note: Do you have a favorite Gospel presentation? Too often we teach the benefits of being a Christian while assuming all the children are Christians. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite children into a relationship with God so that they can enjoy the power that God offers them in the lessons to come! Included in the Supplemental Resources is an easily reproduced Gospel tract you can use in your teaching as well as in small groups to explain the Gospel and invite children to make a decision for Jesus. A resource you may want to consider is the U-Turn Cards available from Kidology: kidology.org/uturncards

Trust God’s wonderful plan. God created you for a wonderful purpose. Read Jeremiah 29:11.

Object Lesson—Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Book

Have you ever read a choose-your-own-adventure book? The choices you make determine how the story unfolds! Have you ever stuck your fingers in the pages so that if you don’t like how something turns out, you can go back and make the other choice instead? Have you ever run out of fingers trying to make sure you go back and have lots of options? Too bad we can’t do that in life. Once we make a decision, it is too late to go back! The Bible says that God has a great plan for your life—but in order to experience that awesome plan, you have to make right choices along the way. There is no going back. We need to be wise in the decisions we make so that we can enjoy the “story” he wants to write with our life!

But what about the things that happen that are tough, that aren’t necessarily the fault of our making a wrong decision? There is good news there!

Object Lesson: Show a map. Point to two different places on the map. With a highlighter show that there are several ways to get between the two locations on the map. If you can project Google Maps, you can find a location ahead of time and search for it “live” on-screen and show that Google will provide three or four different routes to get there. Some may take longer than
others, but all the suggested routes will get there.

Read Romans 8:28. Talk about how God has a plan for where He wants to get us, but He can get us there in different ways. When bad things happen, or even when we make mistakes, if we confess our sins, God can still find a way to work things out for good to get us to where He wants us to be. Sometimes it will take longer, or maybe it will take us over a rougher road, but we’ll learn things along the way. What is most important is that we follow Jesus and trust Him along the way.

Mini Skit—“God Juice”

Supplies: unopened soda can (of a flavor the leader likes!) with a new label around it that says, “POWER UP! GOD JUICE!” (Best if refrigerated.)

Act worn out and tired. Say something like, I’m not sure I can keep teaching. I’m just weary and worn out! Have a volunteer rush up onto the stage with the can of POWER UP! GOD JUICE! and say to the audience, (with exaggerated enthusiasm, like a television commercial)

Do you not know? Have you not heard of POWER UP! GOD JUICE? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who drink POWER UP! GOD JUICE and put their hope in the Lord will renew their strength! They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint!

Volunteer turns and offers the drink. Jump up and down—you are suddenly full of energy and excitement! Thank the volunteer and ask the kids, Can a drink help you get energetic and excited? Allow kids to answer. Well, maybe a little. But what about in your spiritual life? What about when you get down or discouraged or feel weak spiritually? Is there something like POWER UP! GOD JUICE! for your soul?

Read Isaiah 40:28–31. Sound familiar? You see, God has a plan for your life. He promises to work all things together for good and give you the strength and energy to succeed if you are trusting and following Him.

Read Hebrews 12:2. We might go through some tough times, but so did Jesus. And where is He now? Sitting on a throne next to God! So we can trust Him. We need to keep our focus on Him, and the plan God has for us will come to pass—because we are on God’s team!

Dee’s Disciple Tip: Everybody loves a winner, so everybody should love God!

KeyVerse

Topic: God’s Power
Reference: 2 Peter 1:3

During this week, point out the phrase “His divine POWER” and talk about how God’s power is what gives us our power to succeed as disciples. Next, refer to the end of the verse where the source of God’s power is revealed, “who called us by his own glory and goodness.” God is good and He can enable is to be good, too. God saved us in order to bring Him glory. That is the chief end of man.

Object Lesson: A flashlight with no batteries. It needs a power source. Put batteries in, and it works! We need God’s power in us in order to “work” the way God planned.
Dramatize the Point

The drama for this series is read by a narrator while the actors simply act out what is said. It is optional whether you have them say their few lines or whether the narrator says them and they simply move their mouths and hands and pretend to be speaking. Having Jack and Jill familiar with the script is helpful but not necessary.

Dark Pretender has stolen a bucket of Living Water and taken it up to the top of Deception Hill. Adventurers Jack and Jill are invited on a quest to get it back!

Characters:

- Jack should be dressed like Tom Sawyer—overalls, gold crown, handkerchief hanging out of his pocket, pants rolled up, white socks, and sneakers.
- Jill is dressed in a longer dress with a bonnet, a picnic basket and braided hair, kneesocks, and Mary Jane style shoes.
- Sign Holder: no costume required.
- Messenger: Dressed in running shorts and running shoes, carrying a letter on parchment paper, rolled and tied with a ribbon.

Props:

- letter on parchment, tied with a ribbon; birthday crown; picnic basket with picnic items (food, plates, cups, napkins, etc.); picnic blanket; five signs, one that says each of the following: Wind, Footsteps, Dark Pretender, Chirping, Suddenly

[Create a grassy knoll with a 6’ x 6’ piece of green turf or carpet and large houseplants/greenery. Narrator stands at the side of the stage and explains the noises the audience will need to make to add to the story! Hold up the signs one at a time and have children practice making the sounds.]

Wind: Whoosh! Whoosh!

Footsteps: Kids slap hands on knees like footsteps.

Dark Pretender: Kids all say, “Oh no!”

Chirping: Kids all chirp like birds.

Suddenly: Kids all say, “Da-da-da-dum” (holding out last sound).

[Assign a sign person to hold up the signs whenever you say the key words on the signs. Jack and Jill are ready in their costumes for narration to start. Narrator should pause to allow noises and action as he/she reads.]

Narrator: Our story begins on a bright sunny morning. The WIND was blowing through the trees and the birds were CHIRPING. Jill was very excited as she hopped through the meadow with her picnic basket, whistling all the while. She arrived in the center of the meadow, where a few small trees swayed in the WIND. She twirled around, checking out the space from all angles! Yes, this was the perfect spot for a picnic with Jack! She unpacked her blanket and spread it out on the grass and began unpacking her picnic lunch. The birds were CHIRPING and Jill was so happy. Jack would be arriving any minute.

Narrator: SUDDENLY the wind stopped, the birds stopped and it got really cold. Jill shivered. What had just happened? She looked around. What she didn’t know is that the DARK PRETENDER had just walked by. SUDDENLY she heard FOOTSTEPS. They got louder and louder. Jill was afraid and moved to hide behind one of the small shrubs. SUDDENLY she saw a messenger running. He was carrying a scroll, and he was running at a furious pace. He stopped at the picnic blanket and looked around. He called out “Jack? Jill? Is anyone here?” Jill poked her head out from behind the shrub. The messenger spotted her and quickly ran up to her. He wanted to know if she was Jill. She nodded and slowly came out to meet the messenger.

Narrator: The messenger held out the rolled-up piece of parchment and insisted she take it. She reached out to grab it. SUDDENLY, the sun came out, the WIND started to blow and the birds...
began their CHIRPING. Jill looked around, and before she knew it the messenger was off and running again. Just then, Jill heard more FOOTSTEPS. She looked up to see Jack arriving on the scene. Jill jumped up and gave him a high five. She showed him the letter that had just arrived, and together they sat down to read the letter.

**Narrator:** It said “Dear Jack & Jill, A dreadful thing has happened. The DARK PRETENDER has stolen the bucket of living water and taken it to Deception Hill. We need someone to go after it. This is a dangerous mission. Deception Hill is steep and rugged. The WIND is strong and it is cold. Will you go and save the bucket of Living Water before it is forever gone?”

**Narrator:** It was signed by the mayor of Living Springs. Jack and Jill sprang to their feet! Questions and wonderings were swimming through their brains. They looked at each other! Could they even do this? Could they climb Deception Hill? Jill was so afraid. What if Jack fell down? Jack held his head and worried. What if he broke his crown? Jill sat down in a hurry! What if Jill came tumbling after? All these questions, but Jack and Jill had to decide. Jack grabbed Jill’s hands and pulled her to her feet. They had to try; surely the King of a Thousand Hills would be with them. They decided then and there with a big high five that they would do it! They were off, the WIND at their back and their FOOTSTEPS fading into the distance. The birds were still CHIRPING. [Jack and Jill run off stage.] Come back next week to find out what happens to Jack and Jill when they go up the hill to fetch the bucket of Living Water!

**Object Talks—The ABC’s of Salvation**
**Supplies:** video projection

The short video clip for this lesson features Karl, the Kidologist, doing a short object lesson featuring three letters—A, B, and C—who interact with the voice of a child to explain the “A, B, C’s of Salvation.” Use this short teaching video to show the kids or to train a leader to do the talk “live.” (Special voice guest: Luke Bastian)

*Featured Verses:* John 1:12, Romans 10:13
Let’s Talk!—Small Group Discussion

Supplies: masking Tape

Ahead of time, tape a line down the middle of your small-group area. As children join you in your small-group area, have them all sit on one side of the tape. Explain to the kids that if they like the color brown, they should move to the other side of the tape. (Allow the kids to move.) Once the kids have moved, explain that the group that moved likes the color brown and the group that didn’t move likes the color purple. The kids may begin to argue that they don’t like purple or brown, but as a leader you need to explain that these are the only two choices. After a few minutes of discussion and arguing, move to the teachable point and use the discussion questions to finish the discussion.

Teachable Point: Life and faith are just like our two color choices. We have only two options. We either choose to be on God’s team by accepting Christ or we don’t. If we don’t choose Christ, we automatically choose Satan’s side. Many people don’t want Satan’s side—or God’s side either—so they try to invent another color, or another side of the tape. But there are only those two options.

Use these questions to discuss the day’s topic within your small groups:
1) If we don’t choose to follow Christ, what choice are we making?
2) Why is it important to choose?
3) Can we choose both? Why or why not?
4) What side are we on if we do not choose Christ?
5) Why is it important to choose today and not wait for tomorrow or another day?

DiscipleTown Super Citizen

Award the Super Citizen certificate to someone wearing a Christian logo shirt to root for God.

Let’s Pray!

Dear Jesus, we thank You for making a way for us to have our sins forgiven. We thank You that we have a choice now to be on Your winning team and to live our lives with and for You. Help us to pray for those people in our lives who have not yet chosen to be on Your team. We choose today to love You and serve You with the rest of our lives. We love You, Jesus. Amen.

Cy’s Challenge: Invite someone to church next week!

Let’s Review!

Use these questions to review the lesson with the children:
1) What is a choice?
2) When it comes to where we will spend eternity, what two choices do we have?
3) Which team is the winning team? God’s or Satan’s?
4) What do you need to do to show which team you are choosing?
**For the Home**

**DiscipleTown Table Talker:** Give each child a copy of this week’s DiscipleTown Table Talker. As you show them how to put it together, encourage the kids to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

**Parent E-mail:** Copy and send the e-mail below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these e-mails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this e-mail as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

Dear Mom and Dad,

This week we are embarking on a four-week investigation into how we can be disciples of Christ. Often as Christians we overlook the significance of being a disciple and settle for simply believing in Christ. The Bible, however, is very clear that we are to make disciples, not merely believers. As we unpack what being a disciple is, we will look at what makes disciples different from believers; but this week we focused on step one, which is simply becoming a believer.

This week as you use the DiscipleTown Table Talker to start conversations about faith around your home, take the time to share your own story of coming to know Christ as your personal Savior. Talk with your child(ren) about their own journey and see if they are ready to make a commitment of their own (if they haven’t already).

If you need any resources to help you as you lead your family into deeper steps of faith, let us know. We are always here to help and support.

Building young disciples,

[Your Name]
Chip’s Snack Time!

**Supplies:** three different varieties of a snack (crackers, chips, etc.), plates

Show children the options and let them choose one kind for a snack.

**Teachable Point:** Today you had a choice of three different flavors of a snack. No matter which one you chose, you still got to eat a snack. When it comes to following Jesus, there are no different varieties. Satan wants us to think there are many different options to get to heaven through many religions. The truth is there is only one way to heaven, and that is through Jesus Christ. We must choose Him so that we can be saved.

**Additional Ideas**

**Avoiding Skit**—Have someone dressed in a funny costume come in and make a big deal about how he or she never makes choices/decisions. Have the person avoid making decisions at every turn. Present him or her with food options, clothes options, chair options, and so on. At the end, point out all the decisions the person had made. He or she chose to go hungry, to be cold, to stay standing, etc. Explain that avoiding a decision still means you are making a decision. There is no middle ground in life, and there is no middle ground in faith.
DIRECTOR’S NOTES

The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.

[Puppet* comes out wearing a baseball cap and shirt for a local sports team.]

**Leader:** I thought you were going to join [another local team].

**Puppet:** I was, but then the weirdest thing happened! I was trying to call my friend Billy, and I got a wrong number. Some old dude named Bill answered the phone. It turned out it wasn’t a wrong number; but I had somehow called Billy in the future!

**Leader:** Really? In the future?

**Puppet:** Yeah, that’s what I thought, but he told me everything—who will be the next president, when cars will fly, and even who will win the Little League Championship this year.

**Leader:** I see. And I’m guessing it is [the team of Puppet’s cap and shirt], not [the other local team].

**Puppet:** How did you know? You aren’t from the future!

**Leader:** I’m guessing that is why you switched teams.

**Puppet:** Of course! I want to be on the winning team! Everyone wants to be on the winning team! Who wants to be on the losing team? Not me!

**Leader:** I agree. That’s why I’m a Christian.

**Puppet:** Huh? What’s being a Christian have to do with being on a winning team?

**Leader:** Well, God’s enemy, Satan, started a rebellion against God, and it’s been raging for years. Jesus said anyone who isn’t for God is against God. Christians are on God’s team, and God is going to win the final battle.

**Puppet:** Aha! So we are just in the middle innings of the great game of life?

**Leader:** Something like that.

**Puppet:** Well, it is time for me to go have my seventh inning stretch and eat a hot dog. Glad to hear I’m now on two winning teams! Go God!

**Leader:** [As puppet leaves:] Wait, you never told me who is going to be the next president! [Doesn’t get an answer.] Well, I guess that remains a mystery for another day.

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com.
Each DiscipleTown Unit will teach your kids an essential “how to” skill to become victorious disciples of Jesus!