## Session 8

### Disciples Follow Jesus

**Mark 1:14-20**

**Worship Theme:**

- Jesus is our leader.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**

- Kids will choose to follow Jesus and worship him as their leader.

### Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Praise God!</strong></td>
<td>Sing</td>
<td><strong>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>• “King Jesus Is All” (track 14)</td>
<td><strong>Songs From FaithWeaver</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “Fairest Lord Jesus” (track 4)</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 12)</td>
<td>4 photocopies of “Pick a Leader”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “The Books of the Bible Song” (track 17)</td>
<td>(p. 111), CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “Into My Heart” (track 13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong> 4 photocopies of “Pick a Leader” (p. 111), CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Come, Follow Me</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong> Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>Act out the story of Jesus calling his disciples.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Jesus Says</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play a variation of Simon Says.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>I Will Follow Jesus</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make and follow Jesus puppets.</td>
<td>1 paper lunch bag and 1 “Jesus Puppet” per child, several glue sticks, scissors, markers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Session 8 • KidsOwn Worship

**Elementary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong> (up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Which One to Follow?</td>
<td>Choose a leader to follow, and compare earthly leaders to Jesus as a leader.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: 2 boxes, gold wrapping paper, white wrapping paper, scissors, tape, newspaper, paper, marker, red construction paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Fishing for Men</td>
<td>Discuss what made Jesus compelling to the fishermen.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* “Come, Follow Me” (Matthew 4:18)</td>
<td>Watch a video about following Jesus.</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: KidsOwn Worship DVD: “Come, Follow Me” (Matthew 4:18) Classroom Supplies: TV, DVD player</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Pray!</strong> (up to 10 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Offering</td>
<td>Offer their gifts, and praise Jesus for his leadership qualities.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls, paper strip and pencil per child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus, Our Example</td>
<td>Consider ways to follow Jesus’ example.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie a Yellow Ribbon</td>
<td>Tie ribbons on their fingers as they remember how Jesus makes their lives different.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: 1 yellow ribbon per child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.
  Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.
  Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
At the beginning of this passage, we read that John the Baptist was put in prison. Mark doesn't tell us why, but we know from Luke 3:19-20 that Herod had put John in prison for having rebuked the ruler for taking his brother's wife and for doing other evil things. We also know from Matthew 14:6-11 that Herod eventually—likely in the midst of a drunken party—had John the Baptist beheaded.

After John was imprisoned, Jesus began his ministry in earnest. Mark relates Jesus' message in a nutshell: "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." For Jews, this would indeed have been good news. What they heard was that David's earthly kingdom would be restored! They'd be freed from Roman bondage! Though their interpretation was incorrect, Jesus' message certainly caught their attention.

At this point, Jesus began gathering around him the band of disciples who would be with him throughout his ministry. The first four Jesus called were Simon, Andrew, James, and John. We tend to think of these men as simple, ordinary fishermen, and to some degree that perception is correct. They were in a rather lowly occupation and had no formal education. However, they had likely been disciples of John the Baptist and, to some degree, followers of Jesus already. They were spiritual men who were seeking to follow God as closely as they knew how. John the Baptist had introduced them to Jesus, so when Jesus asked them to follow him, they did so without hesitation.

We shouldn't think that they abandoned their nets and boats along the seashore. James and John left their fishing business in the care of their father and hired hands. Peter and Andrew's situation was probably much the same.

The decision to follow Jesus didn't mean that these disciples recklessly dropped their responsibilities, but it did mean that they were totally committed to Jesus. They had to leave their boats and nets to truly follow him. They had to commit to sitting at his feet and learning as he taught. They had to give themselves to living the way he lived and taught them to live. They had to make following Jesus the most important aspect of their lives.

**Devotion for Leaders**

Jesus *calls* us into relationship with him. His purpose in coming to this world was to provide a way for us to be good friends with him. Follow Jesus, and you’ll find a true friend.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** To follow Jesus, we don’t just follow his example or his teachings, though that certainly is important. Nor do we tag along behind him unnoticed. We *follow* him—we walk alongside him in community and in friendship. Are you aware of Christ’s presence in your life? Are you purposeful in following his guidance? Today, imagine yourself to be at Jesus’ side, his constant companion. Then act accordingly.
Why We Worship for Leaders

It’s amazing that when Jesus came upon Simon and Andrew fishing, all he said was “Come, follow me…and I will make you fishers of men,” and they at once left their nets and followed him. There was something so compelling and dynamic about Jesus that these men left their jobs, families—everything—to follow him.

Jesus is the perfect leader. A perfect leader leads by showing the way, by going ahead of us, and by setting an example. Let us worship and praise our perfect leader, Jesus!

Easy Prep for Leaders

Which One to Follow?

- Prepare two boxes: In one box, place a wad of newspaper and slips of paper with the words evil, sin, hurt, and sadness written on them. Make enough slips so more than half the children can take one. Wrap the box in gold paper or aluminum foil. In the second box, place a cross cut from red construction paper and slips of paper with forgiveness, eternal life, peace, mercy, and blessings written on them. Make enough slips so more than half the children can take one. Wrap the box in white paper.

- Set the boxes somewhere in the room where they’re visible but not obvious. It’s OK if children can see the boxes, but the boxes should not be obvious.

- Recruit at least two adult leaders for this activity. Plan to have a leader for every 10 children. Read the activity, and explain leaders’ roles to them.

“Come, Follow Me” (Matthew 4:18)—Set up a TV and DVD player. Set the KidsOwn Worship DVD to the segment titled “Come, Follow Me” (Matthew 4:18). Watch the segment at least once before the children arrive.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

Web Help: Get bonus leader tips and ideas at kidsownworship.com!

Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver, Winter 2011-2012 as children arrive. Ask several adults to act as greeters—one adult for every seven to 10 children. Ask greeters to say, “Hi! Welcome to children’s church,” and then say, “Come, follow me.”

Then have children each hold on to the waist or hand of the person in front of them as they greet other children. See how many children the greeters can get to follow them around the room without breaking their hold. If possible, get all the children in the room attached to the greeters.

When everyone has arrived and is attached and wandering around the room, begin the worship session.
Hello, everyone! What a great job you all are doing of following your leader! Now you can find your own place to sit.

We’re going to talk this morning about following leaders. There are all kinds of leaders to follow in our lives. It’s important to choose the right leaders to follow. Some leaders may lead you right into trouble. The leaders God puts in your life will lead you to him. There is only one leader who is perfect. Jesus is the only perfect leader. Let’s stand and praise Jesus for being our Lord and King; he is our everything!

Sing “King Jesus Is All.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

When the song is over, have children sit down.

That sounded great! When you came in this morning, you were asked to follow a leader.

- How did your leader set an example of what you were supposed to do? (Leaders did what they wanted us to do; they showed us where to go.)
- Was it easy or hard to follow your leader? (It was easy because I was attached; it was hard because my leader was moving too fast.)

Let’s think of some leaders we have in our lives today. Turn to the person next to you, and name five leaders in your life. Remember, a leader is someone who teaches or leads you by setting an example.

After a couple of minutes of discussion, have volunteers share their answers with the rest of the group.

Some of the leaders we follow are parents, teachers, friends, and police officers. All of these people are leaders, and they do their best at leading. But because they are human, they make mistakes.

There is one Leader who never makes mistakes; he is the perfect Leader. His name is Jesus! Jesus leads us not only by teaching but by setting an example.

- How did Jesus set an example for us while he was here on earth? (He showed us how to love others; he cared for people the way we should care for them.)
- Why is it good that Jesus, who is God, leads us by setting an example for us to follow? (We can see that it’s possible; it helps us learn how to live.)

By looking at how Jesus lived his life here on earth, we can learn a lot about what kind of leader Jesus was and what a leader should be like.

Select four volunteers from the older kids in your group to perform a variation of The Dating Game. Arrange an interview setting with three chairs for the candidates and a chair facing the candidates for the interviewer.
Select your interviewer. Give the interviewer and each of the candidates a copy of “Pick a Leader” (p. 111).

**Say**  
We’re going to imagine that our group has to leave home and travel across the country. There are no adults with you; you are on your own. You need a leader who will lead you safely across the country. You have chosen three people to interview as possible leaders. Our interviewer will help us select the person with the best leadership qualities.

Have the volunteers read the script. After the interview, have kids vote on who would make the best leader.

**Say**  
OK, all those who want to follow candidate 1, please stand up.  
(Pause.)

**Ask**  
- Why do you think he [or she] would be a good leader? (That leader would give clear directions; it would be easy to follow that leader.)

**Say**  
All those who want to follow candidate 2, please stand up.  
(Pause.)

**Ask**  
- Why do you think he [or she] would be a good leader? (This leader would care about me; this leader would set an example.)

**Say**  
All those who want to follow candidate 3, please stand up.  
(Pause.)

**Ask**  
- Why do you think he [or she] would be a good leader? (There’s more freedom with this leader; this person wants to be my friend.)

**Say**  
It looks like candidate [number of winning candidate] is our leader! Thank you very much, candidates and interviewer; you may all sit down.

**Ask**  
- What were some of the characteristics we thought a leader should have? (Leads by example; cares about people.)

**Say**  
Choosing the right leader is very important. Let’s praise our true leader, our fairest Lord Jesus.

Sing “Fairest Lord Jesus.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**  
This song describes Jesus as our Lord. Who can tell me what Lord means? Pause for responses. Lord means someone who has great authority and power—a ruler or master. Jesus has all authority and all power. Jesus is our ruler. He is our Lord!

One very important characteristic of our perfect Leader is that he cares for the people he is leading. Jesus loves us so much that he left heaven and came to live on earth to give us an example of how to live and to teach us about himself. Let’s praise Jesus for being a loving leader.

Sing “Jesus Loves Me Rock.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
We know that Jesus loves us because the Bible tells us so. The Bible tells us a lot about Jesus, our leader. That's why we need to read the Bible—to know more about our wonderful Leader. We can get to know God's Word. Let's sing a song to help us do that now.

Sing “The Books of the Bible Song.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Great singing! We are discovering that Jesus is the perfect leader. He has all power and authority. He is good, he is kind, he is forgiving, he brings us peace, he gives us joy, and he loves us! I don't know about you, but I want to make Jesus my leader. And the best part is that when Jesus is your leader, he comes into your heart.

Sing “Into My Heart.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Let's praise Jesus for being the perfect leader.

Jesus, we praise and worship you as the Lord of all lords and the King of all kings—the only perfect leader. We praise you for being a loving, kind, forgiving leader. We praise you for loving us, for giving us joy, and for bringing us peace. Thank you for living in our hearts and being with us always. Amen.

Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 105-106

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* Which One to Follow?

In our praise time, you chose a leader based on what candidates said about themselves. A leader is someone who leads someone to something, right? A leader doesn’t just take you in circles but has a plan and a direction. We have some leaders with us this morning. They’re going to tap you on the shoulder, and you can choose whether or not you want to follow. You all must choose one leader to follow. Let's see where your leader will lead you!

(continued on page 107)
Disciples Follow Jesus
Mark 1:14-20

Worship Theme:
Jesus is our leader.

Easy Prep for Leaders

I Will Follow Jesus—Cut “Jesus Puppet” faces from the photocopies of “Advent Symbols and Jesus Puppet” (p. 33) you made for Sessions 1-3. You’ll need one face for each preschooler.

Using Theo
Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo call out the instructions in the “Jesus Says” activity.
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit created to tie in to this week’s worship session.

Come, Follow Me

Set up two sets of chairs as two “boats” that are facing each other. Boats should be on opposite sides of the room. Preschoolers will enact the story as you tell it.

Select six volunteers to play Simon, Andrew, James, John, Zebedee, and Jesus. Tell “Simon” and “Andrew” to sit in one boat and pretend to fish. Tell “James,” “John,” and “Zebedee” to sit in the other boat and pretend to fish.

Tell your preschoolers to act out the story as you tell it. Open your Bible to Mark 1:14-20, and tell the story using the following paraphrase.

Say

One day Jesus was walking on the beach by the Sea of Galilee. He saw Simon and his brother Andrew fishing in the lake. Jesus called to them and said, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Pause and have the child playing Jesus say the words.

Right away, Simon and Andrew rowed their boat to shore. They jumped out of the boat (pause) and followed Jesus.

Jesus continued walking along the shore. Simon and Andrew walked with him. Soon they came upon James and John fishing with their father, Zebedee.
Preschool Activities

Jesus Says

Have all the preschoolers line up on one side of the room and face you. Stand on the other side of the room. Give the following instructions.

Say Jesus is our leader. We are to listen to him and do what he says. Remember to follow the instructions only when you hear the words Jesus says. If I don’t say, “Jesus says,” don’t follow my instructions. Be sure to do the “Jesus says” actions yourself to set an example for the followers.

Jesus says, “Touch your toes.”
Jesus says, “Take two steps forward.”
Jesus says, “Turn around.”
Yell and scream.
Jesus says, “Shake your neighbor’s hand.”
Jesus says, “Give a big smile.”
Jesus says, “Reach for the sky.”
Stomp your feet.
Jesus says, “Take three steps forward.”

Ask What did you notice about the instructions that were not from Jesus?
• Why is Jesus a good leader?
• What kinds of things does Jesus really want us to do?

Say Jesus set an example of how we are to live. We are to follow him because he is the perfect Leader.

I Will Follow Jesus

Give each child a paper lunch bag and a face. Also provide glue sticks and markers.

Say We’re going to make Jesus puppets. Color the face of Jesus, and glue it to your paper bag.

Give children five to seven minutes to color the faces and glue them to their bags.

Say Now that we have finished our Jesus puppets, put them on your hands. Now hold your hand way out in front of you. Everyone line up in front of me with their puppets held out in front of them.

Wait until all the children are lined up. Then have the children walk around the room, holding their puppets in front of them.

Say You are all doing a great job of following Jesus!

After children parade around the room, gather them to discuss the following questions.

Ask • What kinds of things does Jesus do that he wants us to copy?
• Why is Jesus a good leader?

Say Jesus is a good leader because he loves us! He leads us away from danger and through scary places so we’re not afraid, and he will always be here for us.

Jesus says, “Spin around three times.”
Jesus says, “Pat your neighbor on the back.”
Run around and yell.

Preschool Leader Tip

Don’t make children stop playing if they get an action wrong or do something at the wrong time. Instead, comment on how we have to be good listeners to be good followers.

Take your puppets home, and show your family how you can follow Jesus.
You’ll need at least two adult leaders. Have at least one leader for every 10 children. Half of the leaders will represent the world, and the other half will represent Christianity. None of the leaders should tell the children what they represent. The leaders will tap various children on their shoulders and give those children the choice to follow them or to stay where they are. All the kids should follow one of the leaders; have the leaders continue tapping children until all are following leaders.

The “world” leaders will lead kids on a wandering route—sometimes in circles and sometimes tripping over things—until they finally reach the foil-wrapped box you prepared before the session.

Meanwhile the “Christian” leaders will lead kids in a more direct route, maneuvering around obstacles but going directly to the white box you prepared before the session.

Once the leaders and kids have made it to their boxes, bring the groups together. Have someone from the “world” followers open their box. Have all the “world” children reach in and take a slip of paper. When all the slips are taken, have kids read aloud each one to the entire group. Have older children help nonreaders.

Have someone from the “Christian” followers open their box. Have all the “Christian” children reach in and take a slip of paper. When all the slips are taken, have children read aloud each one to the entire group. Have older children help nonreaders.

Have kids form discussion groups of three to four, and have them discuss the following questions.

**Ask**

- **Why did you follow the leader you did?** (It seemed more fun; he was the first leader to tap me; I thought about which one to follow as I watched them walk.)

- **What did your leader lead you to? Was it good stuff or bad stuff?** (The gold box, and it was actually bad; the plain white box filled with good stuff.)

- **How was this activity the same or different from choosing leaders in real life?** (In real life we can tell who will be a good leader for us; leaders in real life can lead us to bad things or good things; we have to be careful who we choose as leaders.)

- **How do we get sucked in to following leaders other than Jesus?** (They make us think following them is the best; they show us things that look good but really aren’t.)

- **What are the rewards of following other leaders?** (There aren’t any; the rewards of following other leaders end up hurting us.)

- **What are the hazards of following other leaders?** (They can lead us into sin; they end up hurting us or leading us into obstacles.)
What are the rewards of following Jesus as your leader? (He gives us life; we can have hope in Jesus; Jesus is our friend, and he cares for us.)

Who we choose to follow is so important. The world offers us so many false leaders and promises of treasures and happiness, but we will only be disappointed and hurt if we follow them. It is so important that we follow the only true and perfect Leader. In our story today, Jesus starts choosing disciples to follow him. As we hear the story, let’s think about what we would do if we had been one of these people.

Fishing for Men

Open your Bible to Mark 1:14-20, and tell the Bible story using the following paraphrase:

One day Jesus was walking on the beach by the Sea of Galilee. He saw Simon and his brother Andrew fishing in the lake. Jesus called to them and said, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Right away Simon and Andrew rowed their boat to shore, jumped out, and followed Jesus. The group continued walking along the shore, talking as they went. Soon they came upon James and John fishing with their father, Zebedee. Jesus called to them and said, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Right away James and John said goodbye to their father and left him sitting in the boat while they jumped out and followed Jesus!

Have kids form groups of five or six to discuss the following questions.

- Why do you think these men left their boats to follow Jesus? (They knew that Jesus is the best leader; they wanted to see what Jesus was all about.)
- What about Jesus made these men want to follow him? (He cared about them; he asked them to follow him; he knew all about them.)
- How were these men’s lives changed? (They left their jobs; they left everything they knew to follow Jesus; they had to trust Jesus.)
- What is it about Jesus that makes you want to follow him instead of following the world? (He loves me; he knows everything.)
- How do we follow Jesus today? (We learn from him; we worship him; we love others as he did.)

These men knew right away that Jesus was an important leader. And they knew it was very important for them to follow him. From what we read in the Bible and from what we learn at church, we also know that Jesus is an important leader. The men in this story were ready to follow Jesus. Let’s watch a video that talks about being ready to hear Jesus when he calls to us.
* “Come, Follow Me” (Matthew 4:18)

Show the KidsOwn Worship DVD segment titled “Come, Follow Me” (Matthew 4:18). It’s a music video about how we have all been called to be followers of Jesus.

After kids watch the segment, have them form groups to discuss these questions.

**Ask**
- What does the music video say we should do? (Follow Jesus, just like Peter and Andrew did; be open to God’s invitation to follow.)
- What do you think happens when we choose to follow Jesus? (Jesus gives us strength; Jesus gives us important work.)
- What do you think the song means when it says God chooses us and we choose God? (God made us but does not force us to follow; God wants us to choose to follow; God wants a relationship, not to be followed blindly.)

**Say**
When we follow leaders, it’s important for us to be aware of what they want us to do. When we listen for God’s voice, we’ll be ready to follow Jesus every day.

## Let’s Pray!

### The Offering

Have volunteers distribute a strip of paper and a pencil to each child.

**Say**
History is full of leaders—some good and some evil. But the greatest leader of all time is Jesus Christ. No human can ever equal his accomplishments. Jesus is not measured by his wealth, looks, or position, but by who he is and what he does. Take a minute to think about what makes Jesus different.

Write or draw on your slip of paper one thing that makes Jesus different from any world leader—one thing that makes Jesus a perfect leader.

Don’t talk to anybody else. Don’t let anyone else see your paper. I’ll give you two minutes to write or draw. When we’re finished, we’re going to praise Jesus for being our perfect leader!

Give children two minutes to write or draw an attribute on their papers. Younger children may need the help of adults or older children.

**Say**
We’re going to worship Jesus for being a perfect leader. All together, we will say, “Jesus, we worship you because you are...” Then I want the preschoolers to jump up and call out what they wrote or drew on their slips of paper. Then we’ll say together, “Jesus, we worship you because you are...” and the first-graders can stand up and call out what they wrote down. We will continue to worship grade by grade. All of you can jump up and call out your different things at the same time; Jesus can hear each one individually.
After kids stand by grade to call out an attribute, pass the offering bowls so children can put their paper slips and their offerings in the bowls.

**Pray** Jesus, we worship you because you are the perfect leader. We worship you because you love us, forgive us, and lived your life as an example for us. Amen.

**Jesus, Our Example**

Select a volunteer to read aloud John 13:15—“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

**Say** Jesus came to earth and lived his life as an example for us.

**Ask** • What are some ways we are to follow Jesus’ example? (We should love others; we should be forgiving; we should help people.)

Have kids form groups of three.

**Say** Let’s praise Jesus for setting an example for us to follow. In your group, pray, “Jesus, we praise you for setting the example for us to...” Then each person should share one way to follow Jesus’ example today. For example, you could complete the sentence by saying, “love your neighbor,” “treat others kindly,” “be humble,” or “go to church.”

**Pray** Jesus, we praise you for coming to earth and living your life as an example for us. You were a child once and went through all the same things we go through. You were tempted to lie, but you didn’t; you were tempted to brag, but you didn’t. Help us to follow your example. Thank you for being the perfect example. Amen.

**Tie a Yellow Ribbon**

Have children form pairs. Have volunteers distribute a yellow ribbon to each child.

**Say** Let’s think of one way our lives are different because we follow Jesus. For example, your life may be different because you pray, try not to lie, or go to church.

Share with your friend how your life is different because you follow Jesus. Your friend will tie the yellow ribbon onto one of your left-hand fingers. Then your friend will share, and you’ll tie the ribbon to one of his or her left-hand fingers.

Allow time for children to interact.

**Pray** Jesus, thank you for making a difference in our lives. Thank you for leading us to be kind, loving, and forgiving. Jesus, again we thank you for being the perfect leader. We don’t want to follow any other leader. Help us to follow you this week at home, at school, at sports, and at play. You are our Leader, and we love you. Amen.
**Pick a Leader**

*Interviewer:* As you know, we are looking for a leader to show us the way across the country. We are looking for a person with good leadership qualities. Candidate 1, can you tell us why we should pick you to be our leader?

*Candidate 1:* I am the best leader. It’s really easy to follow me as leader. I tell you what to do, and you do it. It’s that simple! No questions; no decisions for you to make. I make all the decisions. I make all the rules.

*Interviewer:* Are you willing to put yourself at risk for the safety of the people?

*Candidate 1:* Well, I think the leader should be safe. After all, if something happened to me, you wouldn’t have a leader!

*Interviewer:* Thank you, Candidate 1. Candidate 2, can you tell us why we should pick you as our leader?

*Candidate 2:* I believe there is only one true Leader, and I try to follow his example. My first concern is for the people who are following me. I feel very responsible for them. If you choose to follow me, you will need to follow my rules because they are for your safety.

*Interviewer:* Candidate 2, how do you plan to lead us?

*Candidate 2:* I think the best way to lead is for me to set an example for others to follow. Anything I ask the people to do, I will do myself first.

*Interviewer:* Thank you, Candidate 2. Now Candidate 3, can you tell us why we should pick you to be our leader?

*Candidate 3:* I don’t like being the one and only leader; I think everyone should do whatever they feel is right. We’ll all be leaders together. I believe we should do our own thing instead of having one leader. We’ll figure out what to do as we go along.

*Interviewer:* Candidate 3, how do you feel about the people who are following you?

*Candidate 3:* I think people are capable of taking care of themselves. We’ll all be friends, and I’m sure we’ll do just fine.