

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**  
**3RD-5TH GRADE**  
**TEACHER'S PACKET**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

Study 5

*Follow Me*



# Follow Me

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** To show the students that no matter who we are or where we come from, Jesus wants us to follow Him.

## Key Verses

Luke 5:1-11, 27-31—Main Teaching Passage

Luke 9:23

Luke 9:57-62

Luke 18:28-30

**Memory Verse** - Matthew 4:19-20

"Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed Him."

## Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Luke 4:32.

Play a quick game of follow the leader around the classroom. Pick a few students and tell them that they have to follow you and copy every movement that you make. Proceed to walk around the room making silly gestures as you go.

Explain to the students that one way to follow someone is just to go where they go, but another way to follow someone is to do what they do, or do what they tell you to do. If we want to follow Jesus, we need to think about what He would do and try to follow His example.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

Many people had gathered by the Sea of Galilee to hear Jesus teach God's word. In fact, it was so many that Jesus approached some fisherman who were washing their nets. He got into Simon's (Peter's) boat and asked him to put his boat out a little from the land, and it was from there that He began to teach the multitude.

As He finished teaching, He instructed Simon to go to the deep part of the sea and cast his nets back in. Simon said they had been fishing all night without success, but obeyed and soon had so many fish filling his net that it began to break. As the other fisherman came to help, both boats began to sink! Peter fell on his knees and declared himself a sinful man, but Jesus told him not to be afraid. Peter would soon catch men! As soon as they got to land, the fishermen left everything and followed Jesus.

Later, Jesus found another man busy at his work. The man's name was Levi, and he was a tax collector. "Follow Me," Jesus said. Immediately Levi left everything and followed Jesus. He invited Jesus to his house for a feast. Levi invited all his friends to meet Jesus. The Pharisees looked down on this and complained, but Jesus said that He had come for this very reason, to call sinners to repentance.

# LOOK

What was it about Jesus that drew people to Him? He is scarcely alone in the Gospels. At times He even attempted to get away from the crowds without success. People were almost always with Him. Some were His disciples, others were just curious onlookers, having heard about Jesus and wanting to see Him and hear Him for themselves. Some just hoped to see a sign done by Him, and didn't care much for His words. Others watched Him closely, waiting and hoping for Him to make some mistake.

But what was it about Jesus that made people want to follow Him? We find Peter, a seasoned fisherman exhausted from a long night's work with nothing to show for it, overwhelmed at Jesus' feet. For such a miracle to be performed at Jesus' word filled Peter with a sense that He was not worthy to be with Jesus. He was filled with a new awareness of how sinful he was. Jesus did not depart, though Peter had requested it. Sinners were the reason Jesus came! And these fishermen would help. They seem to have left their miraculous catch behind along with their boats and nets. It was time to follow Jesus.

But what about Levi? Though rejected by his own people and looked upon as a traitor, Matthew was wealthy. He had money and power,

The interpretation/  
exegesis of the passage.  
What does this passage  
mean? How does this  
passage apply to my  
life?

# LOOK (Continued)

but didn't have everything. We don't know what he had heard or witnessed before Jesus called him, but it was enough. It only took two words for Levi to leave it all behind. He left his job and invited Jesus to his home.

Jesus wants us to follow Him so that He can make us fishers of men. He wants us to hear His voice and respond with the same faith that Peter and the other disciples did, so that other people can hear about how good and loving Jesus is, and they too can follow Him in faith. As 3rd-5th graders, Jesus is not going to ask us to leave our home or family behind, but He might one day when we grow older. If we can place our trust fully in Him, it doesn't matter what He asks us to do, we will be able to walk in obedience.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Matthew 4:19-20.

**Pray:** Thank God for providing a way for us to follow Him. Ask for help to do what He instructs us to do in His Word.

**Parent Question:** What does it mean to be fishers of men?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Luke 5:1-11, 27-32 by David Guzik

### DISCIPLES ARE CALLED

#### A. The call of four fishermen.

##### 1. ([Luke 5:1-3](#)) Jesus teaches from a boat.

**So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing *their* nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.**

a. **The multitude pressed around Him to hear the word of God:** The large crowd showed the increasing popularity of Jesus as a teacher. The crowd was so big that Jesus **got into one of the boats** and **taught the multitudes from the boat**.

i. "Note the many strange pulpits in which Christ preached." (Morrison)

b. **The Lake of Gennesaret:** This was another name for the Sea of Galilee, as it is more familiarly known. It was also sometimes called the Sea of Tiberias.

c. **One of the boats, which was Simon's:** Simon must have felt privileged that Jesus wanted to teach from his boat. We can also be sure that Simon listened to this teaching all the more attentively.

##### 2. ([Luke 5:4-5](#)) Peter receives as Jesus directs his service.

**When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."**

a. **He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets":** After Jesus had finished teaching, He wanted to do something good for Simon, who had lent Him the use of the boat. Peter could not give something to Jesus without Jesus giving even more back to him.

i. As far as we can tell, *Jesus was in the boat with them as He directed this*. His presence gave confidence. "It is a blessed thing to see Christ sitting in the boat while you cast out the net. If you catch a glimpse of his approving smile as he watches you, you will work right heartily." (Spurgeon)

b. **Master, we have toiled all night:** The particular ancient Greek word Luke used for **Master** (*epistata*) is unique to Luke's Gospel. The word has the ideas "commander," "leader," or perhaps even "boss." With this title, Peter showed he was willing to take orders from Jesus.

c. **We have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net:** Peter could have come up with any number of possible excuses.

- "I worked all night and I'm tired."

- “I know a lot more about fishing than a carpenter does.”
- “The best fishing is at night, not in the day time.”
- “All these crowds and loud teaching have scared the fish away.”
- “We already washed our nets.”
- “Jesus may know religion, but He doesn’t know fishing.”

d. **At Your word I will let down the net:** This was Peter’s great statement of faith, and trust in Jesus’ word. God’s people throughout all ages have lived and gone forth with this confidence in the word of Jesus.

- **At Your word**, there was light.
- **At Your word**, the sun, moon, stars, and planets were created.
- **At Your word** life came to this earth.
- **At Your word** creation is held together and sustained.
- **At Your word** empires rise and fall; history unfolds His great plan.

### 3. ([Luke 5:6-7](#)) The miraculous catch of fish.

**And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.**

a. **They caught a great number of fish:** Peter *didn’t* make such excuses, and His faith in Jesus was well rewarded. Peter understood that he probably knew more about fishing than a carpenter did and that he had worked all night without any results. The only reason why Peter did what Jesus asked was because *he believed in Jesus*, not because the circumstances seemed right.

i. When Jesus *directs* our work, it makes all the difference. We can work — even work hard — for a long time with no results. But when Jesus directs our work, we see results; and we always miss something great when we make excuses instead of allowing Jesus to direct our work.

ii. “Here the dumb fishes do clearly preach Christ to be the Son of God.” (Trapp)

b. **So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them:** Peter had to work with others to get the job done. This is reminiscent of what God did in a man named James McGready on the frontiers of Kentucky starting in the 1790s. In Kentucky he pastored three small churches that met in roughly built shacks. He said that the winter of 1799 for the most part was weeping and mourning with the people of God and that it was like living in Sodom and Gomorrah on the rough, lawless, and often godless frontier. McGready started the concerts of prayer, but he also got his congregations praying for him and for his ministry of the word of God — for a half hour before they went to bed on Saturday night and for a half hour when they woke up on Sunday morning. In 1800 came an extraordinary outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and so many people began to come to Christ that McGready called out: “Any preacher of any kind who loves the Lord Jesus come and help me.”

i. “Some will rather leave souls to perish than admit of *partners* in the sacred work. It is an intolerable pride to think nothing done well but what we do ourselves; and a diabolic envy to be afraid lest others should be more successful than we are.” (Clarke)

### 4. ([Luke 5:8-11](#)) Peter’s reaction and the call of four disciples.

**When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said**

to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

a. **He fell down at Jesus’ knees:** Jesus had already miraculously healed Peter’s mother-in-law ([Luke 4:38-39](#)). Yet there was something about *this* miracle of the blessed catch that made Peter worship Jesus and surrender himself to Him.

b. **Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!** When Peter saw the great power of Jesus — displayed in Jesus’ knowledge in an area where He should have no knowledge — it made Peter realize his own spiritual bankruptcy compared to Jesus.

i. Because Peter was such an experienced fisherman, and because he knew how unfavorable the conditions were, he knew all the more what a great miracle this was.

ii. Peter had hardly met Jesus, yet he already knew much about Jesus; and because of that he understood some things about himself.

- Peter knew that Jesus was **Lord**.

- Peter knew he was a **man**.

- Peter knew he was a **sinful man**

- Peter let this make him a humble man.

iii. We might say that Peter’s prayer was good, but there is even a better prayer to pray: “*Come nearer to me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!*”

c. **Do not be afraid:** In the grammar of the ancient Greek, this is literally *stop being fearful*; it calms an existing fear. Peter was afraid of Jesus in the sense of holding Him in such great awe, but Jesus told Him to put away that fear. God wants to relate to us on the principle of love, not the principle of a cowering fear.

d. **From now on you will catch men:** When Jesus told Simon that he would **catch men**, He told Simon that he would do what Jesus Himself did. There was never a greater fisher of men than Jesus Himself, but He wanted others to do the work He did. Jesus started with these three, then twelve, then hundreds, then thousands, and millions upon through the centuries.

i. Clarke says that the word **catch** signifies to catch something *alive*. That is true evangelism; it isn’t to bring dead people into a building, but to bring real life.

e. **They forsook all and followed Him:** This seems to mean that they left the miraculous catch of fish behind, because it was not as important as what it showed them about Jesus. It showed them that Jesus was much more than any carpenter, and this caused them to follow Him.

f. **They forsook all and followed Him:** They **followed Him** in the way that students followed their teaching rabbi in those days. In some aspects Jesus offered them a traditional education at the feet of a rabbi; in other aspects this was very different from a normal rabbinical education.

i. They started out relatively untrained and uneducated, but Jesus taught them. Their education and training came more upon an *apprenticeship* model than a *classroom* model.

ii. “The word ‘follow’ is a technical term in Luke for discipleship ([9:23](#), [49](#), [57](#), [59](#), [61](#); especially [18:22](#), [28](#)). As such, it is similar in nature to his term in Acts for following Christ, the ‘way’ ([Acts 9:2](#), [19:9](#), [23](#); [22:4](#); [24:14](#), [22](#)).“ (Pate)



## D. The call of Levi (Matthew).

### 1. ([Luke 5:27-28](#)) A tax collector is called to follow Jesus.

**After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.**

a. **After these things:** To this point in Luke's account Jesus has dealt with a paralytic, a leper, and a demoniac. Now He was ready for **a tax collector**.

b. **A tax collector named Levi... sitting at the tax office:** Levi (also known as Matthew in [Matthew 9:9](#)) was a tax collector. In that day, tax collectors were despised as traitors and extortioners.

i. The Jewish people rightly considered them *traitors* because they worked for the Roman government and had the force of Roman soldiers behind them to make people pay taxes. They were the most visible Jewish traitors with Rome.

ii. The Jewish people rightly considered them *extortioners* because they could keep whatever they over-collected. A tax collector bid against others for the tax-collecting contract. The Romans awarded the contract to the highest bidder. The man collected taxes, paid the Romans what he promised, and kept the remainder. Therefore, there was great motivation for tax collectors to over-charge and cheat any way they could. It was pure profit for them.

iii. "When a Jew entered the customs service he was regarded as an outcast from society: he was disqualified as a judge or a witness in a court session, was excommunicated from the synagogue, and in the eyes of the community his disgrace extended to his family." (Lane)

iv. "A Roman writer tells us that he once saw a monument to an honest tax collector. An honest specimen of this renegade profession was so rare that he received a monument." (Barclay)

c. **And He said to him, "Follow Me":** Understanding how almost everyone hated tax collectors, it is remarkable to see how Jesus loved and called Levi. It was a well-placed love; Levi responded to Jesus' invitation by leaving his tax collecting business and following Jesus.

i. In one way, this was more a sacrifice than some of the other disciples made. Peter, James, and John could more easily go back to their fishing business, but it would be hard for Levi to go back to tax collecting. "Tax collector jobs were greatly sought after as a sure way to get rich quickly." (Wessel)

ii. There is archaeological evidence that fish taken from the Sea of Galilee were taxed. So Jesus took as His disciple the taxman that took money from Peter, James, and John and the other fishermen among the disciples.

d. **He left all:** "This must have meant a considerable sacrifice, for tax collectors were normally wealthy. Matthew must have been the richest of the apostles." (Morris)

### 2. ([Luke 5:29-32](#)) Jesus is accused of associating with sinners.

**Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."**

a. **Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house:** Levi (Matthew) gave up much to follow Jesus, but he wasn't sad. He was happy enough to give a party for Jesus.

i. One reason Matthew gave the party was because he wanted his friends to meet Jesus. A saved man doesn't want to go to heaven alone.



b. **And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples:** Their complaint was that they had friendly relationships with notorious sinners, eating at the same table, attending the same **feast** with them.

i. The accusation came indirectly against Jesus, through His **disciples**. People often attack Jesus in the same way today, through His disciples.

ii. “Nothing puzzled the religionists of the Lord’s time more than His eating and drinking on terms of familiarity with publicans and sinners. Here He revealed the reason for doing so. He was among men as the great Physician.” (Morgan)

c. **Those who are well have no need of a physician:** Jesus’ answer was both simple and profound. Jesus is the **physician** of the soul, and it makes sense for Him to be with those who are sick with sin.

i. Of course His critics were sick with sin also, but they refused to see themselves that way. They thought *other* people were sick with sin, not themselves.

ii. There are many possible reasons why a sick person might refuse the services of a doctor.

- Perhaps you don’t know that you are sick.
- Perhaps you know you are sick, but you think you will get better on your own — you don’t know that you *need* to go the doctor.
- Perhaps you know you are sick, and know you need a doctor, but *do not know* there is a doctor to help you.
- Perhaps you know you are sick, and know you need a doctor, and know there is a doctor, but do not know the doctor *can* help you.
- Perhaps you know you are sick, and know you need a doctor, and know there is a doctor, and know the doctor can help you, but do not know the doctor *wants* to help you.
- Perhaps you know you are sick, and know you need a doctor, and know there is a doctor, and know the doctor can help you, and know the doctor wants to help you, but you know what the doctor will tell you to do and you *just don’t want to do it*.

iii. Jesus is the perfect doctor to heal us of our sin.

- He is always available.
- He always makes a perfect diagnosis.
- He provides a complete cure.

He even pays the doctor’s fee!