

26. Let's go!

Jesus the desert and the choosing the 12.

Memory Verse

"Follow God's example, as dearly loved children" Ephesians 5:1

Story Time

Read 'Let's go!' (pages 208-213 in the Jesus Storybook Bible) or watch the video on our website.

Understanding the Story

Talk this through with your kids:

At the start of the story we see Jesus in the desert. Why does that matter? Because in all the stories we've read so far, we see how people get it wrong. How they make mistakes and say no to God is their heart. But Jesus is different – he's in the desert, he's tired and hungry and He still says yes to God even though it isn't easy. He doesn't make any mistakes. It matters because it helps us see Jesus is different. He's the Rescuer! He's the one we've been waiting for!

So what's next? He picks His group of followers – His disciples! If you were going to start a team, who would you pick? The best?

Instead of the most popular and the cleverest, Jesus picks the people everyone else would put in last place. He invites poor people, and the people with no friends. His message isn't for a special few – it's for everyone! The people we see as the least, to the people we see as the most important.

The disciples followed Jesus, learned from Him, obeyed Him, and told others about Him. Jesus wants us to do that too!

Digging a little deeper:

When Jesus invited His followers, He invited people who were opposites. Matthew, a tax collector worked for the Romans. Simon was trying to get rid of the Romans! He brought them together and made a new family. We're invited to be followers of Jesus too – part of a new family – the Church. We'll meet lots of people who are different. Jesus' message is for everyone.

Questions to get you talking:

- Have you ever been a leader? Or a follower?
- Have you ever been part of a team?

Activities in your box:

- **Cactus Craft!** Decorate the plant pot and assemble the cardboard cactus as a reminder of Jesus' time in the desert!

Activities using things around the house:

- **Blindfold maze.** Use a scarf or a sweater as a blindfold. Place objects on the floor (soft toys would work great!) The blindfolded person must cross the room. An adult or sibling needs to give them instructions to follow so they can cross the room safely without bumping into anything! Take it in turns.
- **Follow the leader.** This could be a fun game to play at dinner! Someone is the leader, and you have to try to do as they do. See if you can copy their every move!