

Children's Worship Lesson – August 30, 2020

Focus Scripture: Matthew 16:21-18

Purpose: To discover what Jesus meant when he said "Come follow me."

An Awesome Adventure: "SEEKERS AFTER JESUS"

Clue #1: Where We Find God

Clue #2: How Does God Work in Our World

Clue #3: Joining God in Creating Shalom

Clue #4: Give and You Will Receive

Clue #5: Take My Yoke Upon You

Clue #6: God's Spirit Grows in Me

Clue #7: Weeds and Wheat Together.

Clue #8: Glimpse of God's Realm

Clue #9: Trust in God's Way

Clue #10 God is Always With Us

Clue #11 Live in Harmony

Clue #12 You Are the Christ

Clue #13 A Lifetime of Seeking

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

Certificate at the end of the lesson for your child

Lighting the Christ Candle: "We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us."

Prayer

Dear God,

We are searchers, looking for clues about you and your love.

Guide us in the adventure of following you and sharing your love.

Amen.

Song: ME (Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

When you are hurt and feeling blue

God is there to help you through

When you fight and you have bad feelings

God is there to help your healing

Follow God, he'll always care

Pray to him and always share.

Summer Sessions: June 7 to August 31



An Awesome Adventure

Introducing the Theme – ME

Ask the children to think of a time when they were fighting about who gets to play with a certain toy next at school. You heard “Me. Me. No me. Me.” The teacher then told the children it was time for a story. The teacher started by asking the children, “Did you know that each and every one of you is the most important person in the world? Did you know that each of you is a unique and special creation treasured by God?”

All of us have a special name - ME (hold up the letters M and E.) There is no one else like ME. God loves ME very much.

But ME can sometimes be a problem. It can cause fighting and bad feelings. When that happens it is because we’ve forgotten something very important about ME - something that’s hidden right inside it. Let’s see what it is. Turn the M and E upside down and what word do you get? WE is a word that is just as important as ME. It helps us remember that none of us are alone. It also reminds us that we are not the only ones with the name ME. So when we get into trouble with the ME part, remember that we are all ME/WEs.

Ask the children things they have done that are hard to do but, worth the time and effort. Why do people do these things if they are hard? Do you think following Jesus is hard? Do you ever have to give up something to come to church - like giving up video games or watching TV? Is that hard to do?

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story



(Show the teaching picture “Jesus Calls the Fishers.”) Who can tell me what is happening in this picture? *(Jesus is talking to some fishers Peter, Andrew, James and John)* What did Jesus ask these fishers to do? *(Leave their nets and “Come follow me.”)* What did the fishers do? Jesus said the same thing to Matthew the tax collector. What did

Matthew do? Do you think that everyone that Jesus said “Come follow me” to, gladly came to be a disciple? One time Jesus asked a young lawyer to give away his things and “Come follow me” but the lawyer couldn’t give up his things. It was too hard. So, he didn’t go with Jesus.

Read Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must challenge themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

I wonder what Jesus meant when he told the disciples to forget themselves? Maybe it was to forget about all the “things” they had, which is what the young lawyer couldn’t do. Maybe it meant don’t just think about yourself all the time. Maybe it was like the story I read in the introduction, not just thinking about ME but thinking about WE.

When Jesus says to each of us ‘Come follow me’ what do you think he wants us to do? That tells me you have been good detectives finding lots of clues as “Seekers After Jesus.”

Now we are going to watch the story “The Giving Tree” on YouTube about a tree that knew what Jesus meant, which may help us understand this a bit more.

Talk with the children about why giving made the tree happy. Why did the boy ask for more and more things? In what way is the tree like God? When does giving make us happy?

Now hand out a certificate to your children for completion of being great “Seekers after Jesus”.

Activity or Craft – “Going with Jesus” Activity Sheet

Materials: Pencil or crayon

Encourage the children to find their way to the cross with Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Thank you God for lips to praise you,
Hands to serve you and hearts to love you!
Amen.

Whole People of God is copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc.



This is to certify that

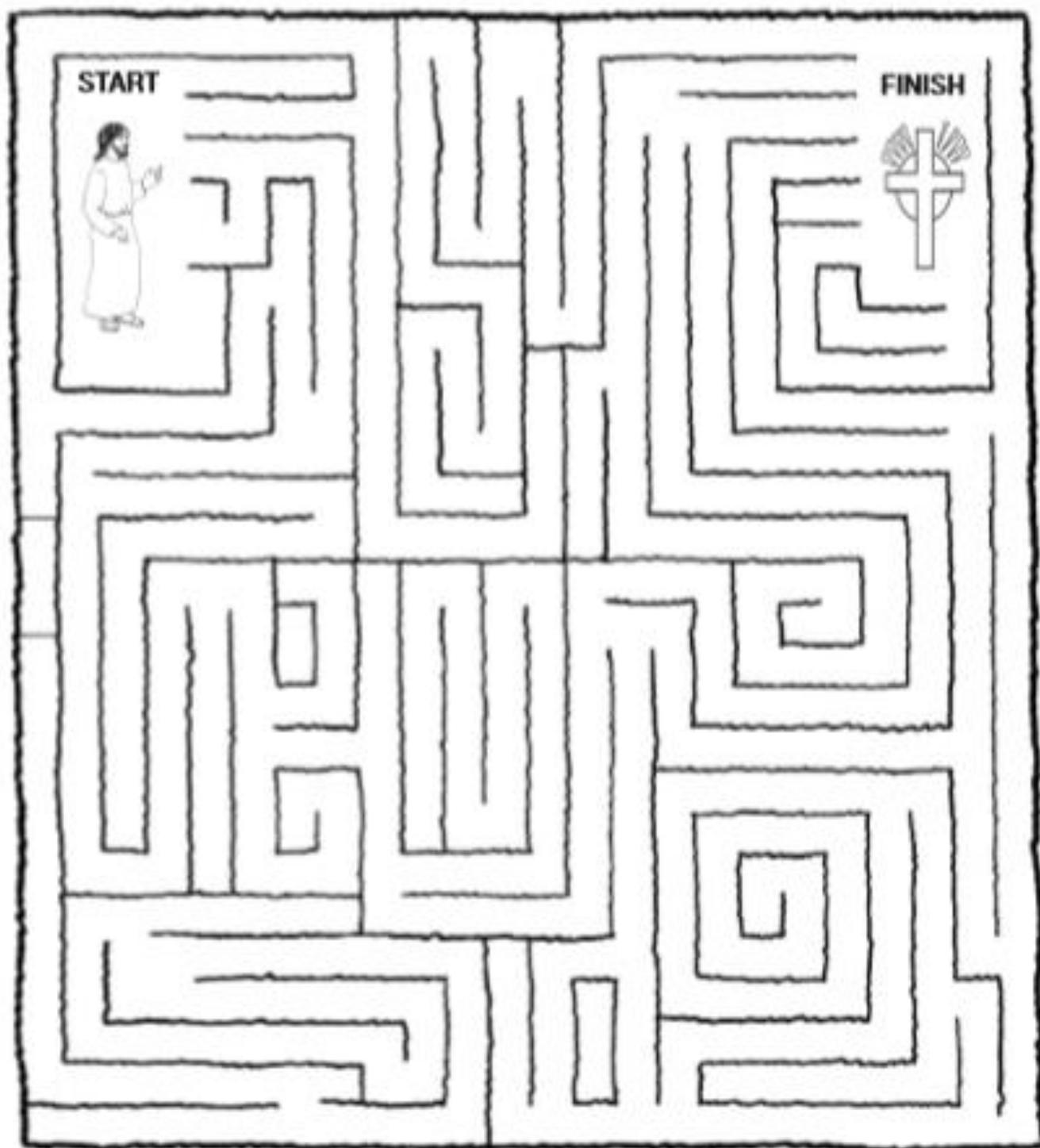
is a seeker after Jesus,
searching for clues about
how to live in God's way.

Summer 2020

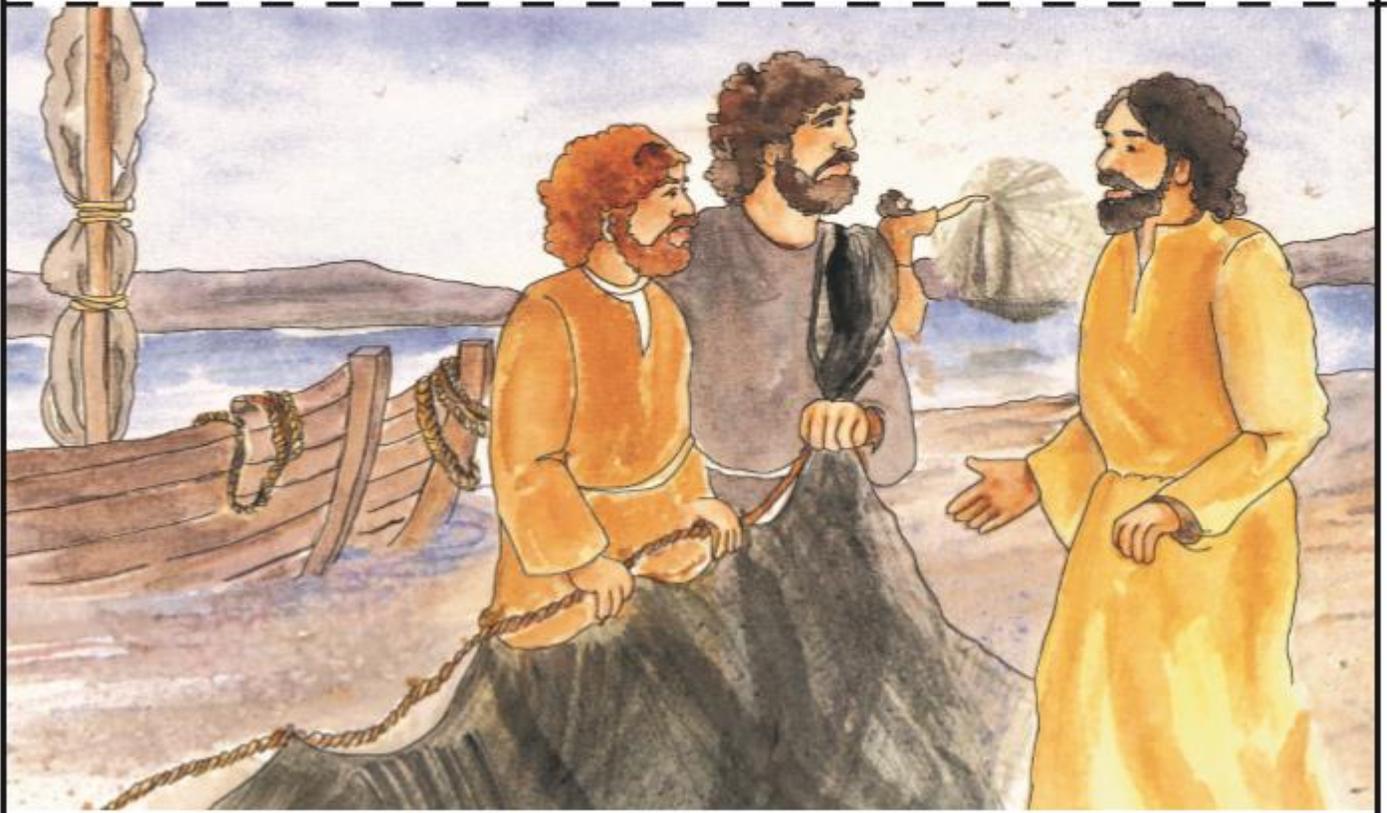
Always keep searching and loving

NAME (Your fellow seeker after Jesus)

Going with Jesus



And Jesus said to his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them forget themselves, and carry their cross, and follow me."
Matthew 16:24



Jesus Calls the Fishers (Mark 1:14–20)