Week 1

**Children’s Time**

**Follow Jesus**

**Luke 5:1-11**

Today we are going to talk about how God uses the things that we are good at to follow God.

What are you good at? Maybe coloring, sports or dance? (Give time for children to answer)

While Jesus was out teaching, he ran into some fishermen who were really good at fishing. But that day they didn’t catch any and were by the beach with their boats. Jesus asked them to take him in the boat into deeper water. So they did, and when he was done teaching he told them to try fishing once more. This time they got so many fish they needed help pulling up their nets. All those fish were a miracle!

When they got back to the beach, Jesus said to them, ‘this is great but I have something better, you are now going to fish for people.’ Now that sounds a bit strange – they can’t really fish for people. Jesus was looking for helpers to share the story of God’s love. He knew the men were good at fishing, but he was telling them they could do better than just fish.

Jesus still calls people to follow Him. God know we are good at things. Maybe you can do more than art or sports or dance. When you’re on the baseball field you can be cheering on your team, even when someone misses the ball. When you’re dancing – dance with joy for Jesus – happy for your talent. When you’re at school, show kindness and love. Share, be generous. Live life in a different way!

When the fishermen listened to Jesus, they saw a miracle. Today in church we are going to hear how the people in this church can show kindness and love to people far away in Africa and how we can share some of what we have to help build a health clinic and a school. Then we will see a miracle too.

Come with me and let’s pray together to be followers of Jesus.

Dear Jesus, thank you for all that you give us. Help us to be your follower each and every day. Help our church be followers as we share with the people in Tanzania, Africa. Amen.

Week 2

**Children’s Time**

**Jesus Cries**

**John 11:17-35**

Today we are going to talk about how we can help one another when we are sad.

Jesus had some really good friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Now, Lazarus got really sick and his sisters asked Jesus to come. They hoped that Jesus could do something to make Lazarus better. But when Jesus got to their home he got the sad news that Lazarus had died. When Jesus saw how sad his friends were he was sad with them. He cried.

Are there times when you hoped for things, but they haven’t happened? Birthday wishes, snow day, staying up late, or sleeping over? Have there been times when you ask for something and you get a “maybe” instead of yes. Or maybe it was even like the sisters, someone was sick and didn’t get better? What happens when your wish doesn’t come true? This is really hard to understand. I know there are times I have hoped and prayed for something and I didn’t get the answer I hoped for either.

I believe when sad things happen in my life, Jesus cares.

Today we are going to talk about some people who really are sad. Last year there were some really bad storms, called hurricanes. When the storm came, their homes and the places where they worked and went to school were all damaged. Even though they hoped for things to be better by now, they are not. They can’t live in their houses, they need a miracle. Jesus comes to help us when we are sad, he has come to help these people too.

Jesus came to help his friends, Martha and Mary. Jesus prays to God. Jesus also showed that there is still hope. With God's help, Jesus brings Lazarus back to life. It was a miracle! When we invite God to join us in our sadness then we have hope, too. God can help us see and know how to share God's love and miracles with those around us, just like Jesus did in today's story.

Come with me and let’s pray together for all the people who need Jesus’ hope in sad times.

Dear Jesus, thank you for being with us when we are sad. Help us remember to have hope. Bless everyone who is sad. Show us the way to share you love so they can have hope, too. Amen.

Week 3

**Children’s Time**

**Roof Healing**

**Luke 5: 17-19, 25-26**

Today we are going to talk about how we all need a little help.

Did you ever need help with doing something? At times there are things we can’t do by ourselves; tying shoes, homework, riding a bike and taking off training wheels. Maybe it’s coloring or making sandwiches. How about crossing the street – we need a crossing guard or maybe an older brother or sister. We take their hand across street. It’s good to know we’re never alone. Jesus is with us. But we also have our family, friends, church, and pastor that we can count on, too.

There is a story about a man who needed some help. He was sick and couldn’t walk. He wanted to see Jesus. Jesus was a healer and everyone wanted to be around him. But this man couldn’t get to Jesus on his own; his friends were there to help him. They carried him to the house where Jesus was teaching, but the house was so full they couldn’t get in the door. But these friends wouldn’t give up. They carried the man up to the roof and dug a big hole in the roof. Then they lowered him right into the middle of the room. Can you imagine this? Then Jesus helped the man and he could walk again. It was a miracle!

Have you ever had the chance to help someone? There are times when we can bring our friends to Jesus. Now we will not have to climb up on a roof, but we can pray with our friends or invite them to church.

Today we are going to talk about some people who really need friends to help them. Some people need help with food, others need help with school, and others need help fixing up their houses. They can’t do this alone. But God sends us to help.

Come with me and let’s pray together for all the people who need friends to help.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for all those people who help us. Show us how we can be good friends and help those who are alone.

Week 4

**Children’s Time**

**Feeding of the 5000**

**John 6: 1-15**

Today we are going to talk about sharing.

Did your mom or dad ever ask you to share? Share a room? Share toys? Share clothes? Share a seat? Does anyone ever share lunch in school? Sometimes we forget our lunch and a friend shares and keeps us from being hungry.

There is a story about a bunch of people who come to listen to Jesus teach. They followed him all day, and they were hungry but there is was place to get food, no McDonald’s, no supermarket. But Jesus had a plan. He know there was a little boy who was willing to share his lunch. Now that would be great if there were only a few people but there thousands of people.

Do you know how many that is? Who can count to 100? Can you imagine counting to 100 over 50 times? Wow!

Jesus took the boy’s lunch of some fish and bread and blessed it. Then his disciples handed it out to all the people. Then, guess what happened? Everyone got fed from this lunch of fish and bread. There was more than enough for everyone to eat. When they were done there were even leftovers. This all started because this child was willing to share his lunch. It was a miracle!

Today we are going to talk about how we can share what we have and be a part of a miracle too. We can help by sharing what we have with others. The people of this church will share some of their money to help. The money will help build homes and hospitals and schools. It will help people in Africa, and in Puerto Rico, people in different states and in New Jersey. Even people here where we live.

Now that might mean that we are being asked to share, too. We might need to skip going to a restaurant one night, or buying a toy. There might be other ways we can share, too. You can talk about this as a family. We can start by praying.

Come with me and let’s pray together for all the people who need a miracle.

Dear Jesus, thank you for all those who have shared with us. Help us to see ways that we can share to show love to others. Amen.