



Deny Yourself and Follow

To follow Jesus, you must do what he said to do.

Scripture Words

Do your best to do what is right.
—Romans 12:17 YB

Here We Come!

Write a simple letter to each child and be ready to hand them out as the children arrive. Read each letter with the child so they will be able to read it for themselves.

Dear Mikey,
I am so glad you come to class.
You have such a nice smile.
Love,
Your Teacher

TO DO LIST

Do your best to do what is right.
—Romans 12:17 YB

Scripture Words and Worship

Find or make a sheet that could be used for a “To Do” list. Talk about what people do with this paper. Why do we sometimes write down things that need to be done? How does the list help us remember?

Print the scripture words on a copy of the “To Do” list paper. Hide it in the New Testament for the children to find.

Story Talking

Jesus told the disciples, “Deny yourself and follow me.” Ask the children about things they do and don’t like to do. Include jobs around the house, family responsibilities, playtime, and school activities, if any. Why do we sometimes have to do things we don’t want to do? How do we respond when we get to do something we want to do? When might we need to let go of one thing for another? What things might Jesus need us to do?

Moving Music

- “This Is The Way” sung to the tune of Mulberry Bush (page 16). Use verses such as “go to church, help our friends, bow and pray, sing our songs, smile and wave.”
- “The Church is the Body of Jesus” (page 12)
- “I Hear Jesus Calling” (page 43)

Live and Learn

Jesus taught many lessons to the disciples and other people who would listen. After he was gone, the church began to grow and spread in the world. Letters were written to encourage church members and remind them of the things Jesus taught. Romans 12:9–21 contains several pieces of advice children can understand and relate to. Tell the story as if the children are present, talking to Paul. The verses are adapted from The Youth Bible, New Century Version.

- One of Jesus' disciples was named Paul. Paul traveled here and there teaching people about God. Sometimes people would ask him what Jesus said.
- "Love each other like brothers and sisters," he said. What do you think it means to love someone like a brother or sister? How do you treat your brothers and sisters?
- "Give each other the best you can give," he said. What do you do when you have two of something? What do you do when a friend asks to play with your toys?
- "Do not be lazy. Do things for God with all your heart." What does it mean to be lazy? What happens when your mother asks you to do something and you are busy playing or watching a program? What happens when you are asked to clean up your room?
- "Be joyful, because you have hope." What do we have to be happy about? How do we act when we are happy?
- "Be patient when trouble comes." What does it mean to be patient? Is it sometimes hard to wait? What can you do when you want something done and your parents are busy? Does it do any good to whine or cry to get your way?
- "Pray at all times." When do you pray? What do you pray about?
- "Share with God's people who need help." What do you have that someone else could use? How could you share food or clothing? How does the church use your money to help people when you put it in the offering?
- "Be nice to others even if they are not nice to you." When is this hard to do? Why would Jesus want us to be nice to someone who is mean to us?
- "If someone is happy, be happy with them. If someone is sad, help them with their hurting."
- "Live in peace with each other."
- "Make friends with everyone, even those who may not seem important."
- "If someone does wrong to you, don't do wrong back to them."
- "Do your best to do what is right."

Up and at 'Em

In New Testament times, letters were written in one place and carried to the receiver in another, usually by the messenger walking, traveling with a caravan, or traveling by ship. It could take weeks to get there, but the letter was valued and received joyfully. Create a simple card that says, "God loves you," and make copies. Let the children add their own decorations. Take a walk through the church and "deliver the mail" to adults or other classes.

Sense-ations

Give each child a copy of the scripture (page 56). Add stickers or let them draw their own pictures to illustrate the verses.

There We Go

Read the scripture page with the children so they will become familiar with the words. Encourage them to share these messages with family and friends.

Love each other like brothers and sisters.
Give each other the best you can give.

Do not be lazy. Do things for God with all your heart.
Be joyful, because you have hope.
Be patient when trouble comes.
Pray at all times.

Share with God's people who need help.

Be nice to others even if they are not nice to you.
If someone is happy, be happy with them.
If someone is sad, help them with their hurting.

Live in peace with each other.

Make friends with everyone,
even those who may not seem important.
If someone does wrong to you,
don't do wrong back to them.

Do your best to do what is right.
—adapted from
Romans 12:9–21

