Preschool–Grade 6

The Twelve Disciples

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus chose twelve friends to be with Him. I can follow Jesus too.
Bible passage: Luke 6 and Mark 3. Read Luke 6:12–16 and Mark 3:13–19 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "that they should be with him" *Mark 3:14 (KJV)*. It means Jesus chose them to be with Him.
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 6:12.

1. Opening game: Follow Me (5 minutes)

Say, "Follow me!" and walk slowly around the room. Kids line up behind you and copy what you do: tiptoe, march, wave, clap, and climb "up a mountain" with big high steps. Then sit down together. Say: "You followed me! Today we will hear a true story about twelve men who followed Jesus."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus went up on a mountain to pray (Luke 6:12). *(Make a mountain with your hands.)*
Jesus prayed to God all night long (6:12). *(Fold your hands.)*
Then it was morning (6:13). *(Stretch your arms up like the sun.)*
Jesus called His disciples to come (6:13). *(Wave "come here.")*
He chose twelve men (6:13). *(Count to twelve on your fingers.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus chose twelve!"
Jesus chose them to be with Him (Mark 3:14). *(Hug yourself.)*
Jesus gave Simon a new name: Peter (3:16). *(Tap your head: a new name!)*
Some of them were fishers (Matthew 4:18). *(Pull in a fishing net.)*
Matthew collected tax money (Matthew 10:3). *(Count coins in your hand.)*
Jesus would send them out to tell about God (Mark 3:14). *(Cup your hands around your mouth.)*
Say it with me: "I can follow Jesus!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Jesus do all night? *(He prayed to God, Luke 6:12)*
2. How many men did Jesus choose? *(Twelve, 6:13)*
3. Why did Jesus choose them? *(To be with Him, Mark 3:14)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus chose twelve men 'that they should be with him.' That means Jesus wanted them close to Him." Teach the motion: wave "come here" on "that they should be," then hug yourself on "with him." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Mark 3:14" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Twelve on the Mountain (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big mountain. Then count together as they draw twelve dots or little hearts on the mountain, one for each of the twelve. While they color, ask: "What did Jesus do on the mountain? How many did He choose?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for Jesus.
Help me pray like Jesus.
Help me follow Jesus every day. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving. Twelve is a big number for little ones: count it on your fingers together every time it comes up (ten fingers, then two more). If they get wiggly, do the "climb the mountain" and "pull in the net" motions again.

If a child asks why Jesus prayed: say simply, Jesus is God, and He came as a man. As a man, Jesus prayed. He shows us how to pray (1 Timothy 3:16; Luke 6:12).

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