

# Together @ Home

January 24, 2021

Third Sunday of  
Epiphany

Here are some activities you could do together as a family.  
Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus calling four of his disciples.

You can find it in your Bible in:

**Mark 1:14-20**

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.



## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of those first disciples who left everything they had to immediately answer your call.

May we learn from their example and be people attuned to your voice so that we might not only hear when you call, but also respond by following you with our whole lives.

Amen

## Discussion

### Questions for adults to ask children

*How long did it take Simon and Andrew and James and John to decide to answer Jesus' call to follow him?*

They followed "at once" and "without delay"

*What types of things did these disciples have to "give up" in order to follow Jesus?*

Their jobs (as fishermen), their families. (James and John left their father.)

### Questions for children to ask adults

*What does it mean to follow Jesus?*

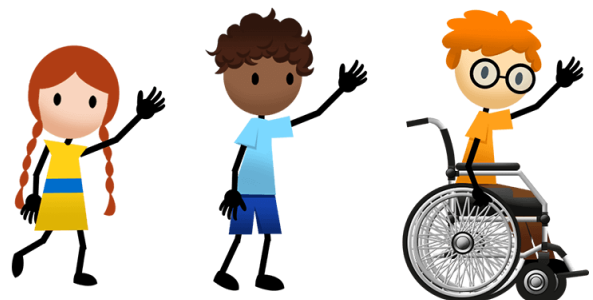
*Can you tell me the story of how and why you decided to follow Jesus?*

*What types of things have you given up in order to follow Jesus?*



## Family Activity 1

Play a game of follow the leader together, take turns being the leader – everybody should try to copy exactly what the leader is doing. You could move around the room, do crazy actions, or make silly faces!





## A verse to remember

**Romans 8:28**

**We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. They are the people he called, because that was his plan.**

Jesus did not promise that following his call would always be easy. But it will always be worth it!

To learn these verses together, come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verses on a piece of paper and put them up somewhere to remember through the week.

## Was Nathanael one of the 12 disciples?

The list of Jesus' twelve disciples appears in Mark 3, Matthew 10, and Luke 6... but there is no sign of Nathanael (who is mentioned in John's account of Jesus calling his disciples). Some people believe that Bartholomew who appears in this list was actually Nathanael, but there is also plenty of evidence in the Gospels that Jesus had many more than 12 followers. In Luke 10 we read about Jesus sending out 72 followers (!) on a mission.

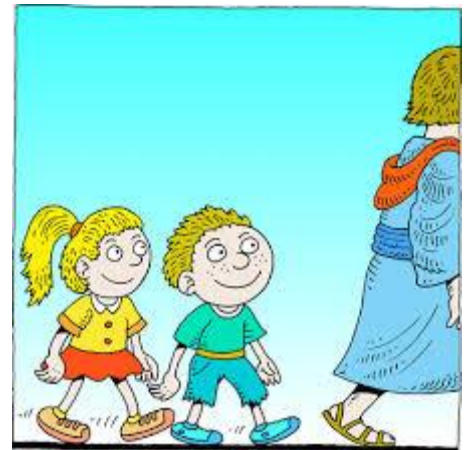


## Active Following

Why not work together as a family to complete these active following tasks each day, each one is based on following the example of Jesus.

You might want to set specific times such as meal times, bath time or bed time for some of the tasks.

	Pray	Read	Live like Jesus
Monday	Pray for one another	Mark 1 v 16-19	Be an example to follow
Tuesday	Pray for your friends	Mark 1 v 40-45	Perform an act of kindness
Wednesday	Pray for family	Mark 2 v 1-17	Spend some quiet time with God
Thursday	Pray for teachers	Mark 3 v 7-12	Help somebody at home
Friday	Pray for others from church	Mark 3 v 13-19	Share a message of encouragement



## Helping Older Children

Why not encourage children to look up and read the Bible passage for each day in their own Bible. You could set aside time to read it separately and then discuss the following questions together.

- What example of Jesus could I follow from this story?
- How could I apply this story to my own life?

# Jesus Calls his Disciples



What were the names of the first four disciples?

1) .....

2) .....

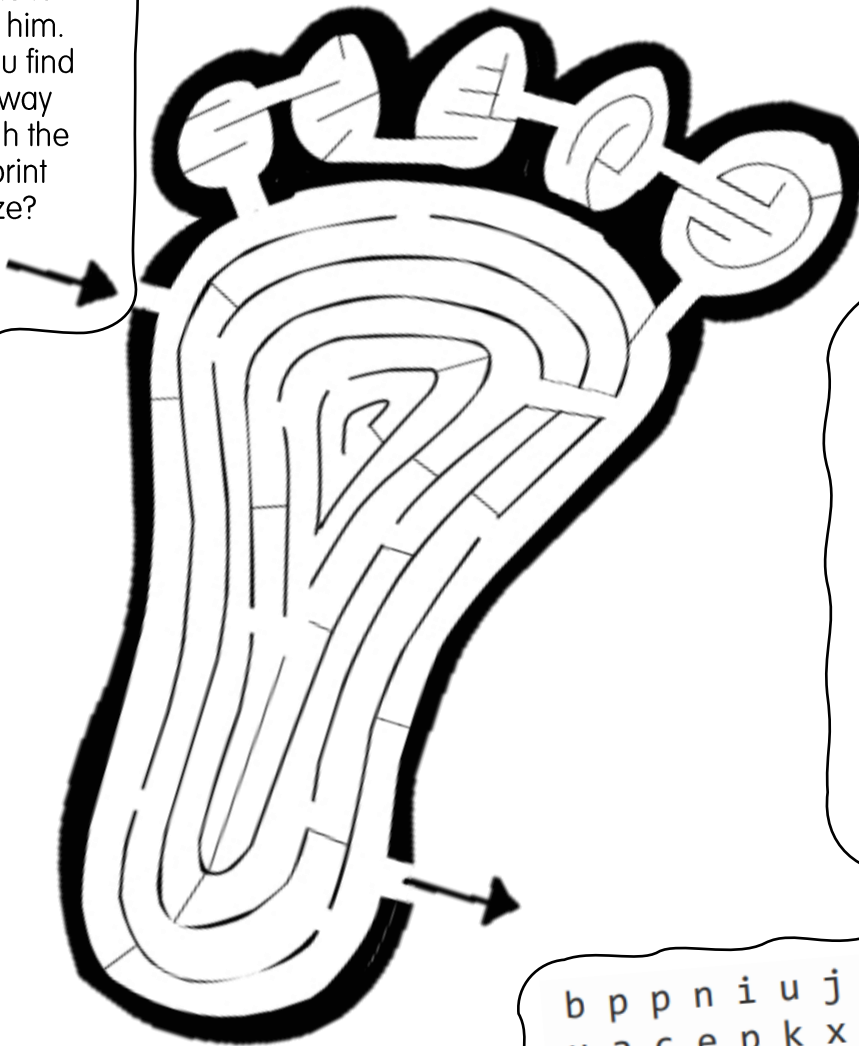
3) .....

4) .....



# PUZZLE SHEET

Jesus called people to follow him. Can you find your way through the footprint maze?



Jesus had 12 disciples; can you find all their names in the wordsearch below? Careful! Some names appear twice!

<b>Simon</b>	<b>Simon</b>
<b>Peter</b>	<b>James</b>
<b>Andrew</b>	<b>Thomas</b>
<b>James</b>	<b>Matthew</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>Thaddaeus</b>
<b>Philip</b>	<b>Judas</b>
<b>Bartholomew</b>	

BONUS: Can you find **Nathanael**?



b p p n i u j e o t a p s j v  
 u a c e p k x a h b i j i y t  
 y f r f o w q a m l u q m j h  
 w z v t t w d a i e x c o f o  
 d d a z h d e h o b s q n w m  
 b w u c a o p h x q v b p e a  
 c t z e n z l m t y k n e r s  
 v f u u v p g o a t k f t d l  
 k s i m o n a q m s a s e n t  
 l e a n a h t a n e j m r a o  
 g b u g j s a d u j w m p q s  
 l x m a n f e j l j o x d o h  
 x s m m f h m e v v t h s x w  
 g e o s o u o a e t u s k r s  
 s e k s q j e j l h d a s m c