

Beginner Teacher Guide – March 2019



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Dare to Care and Share

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Participate in the “Invitation RSVP.”

Show the class an old birthday party or wedding invitation you received. Share your experience of hospitality and humility at the party. Then ask students the following questions.

- Was there a time when you were not invited to a party? How did that make you feel?
- Have you ever invited an unpopular class mate in school to your party? How do you think it made them feel?

Scripture Summary

Jesus was invited to a banquet and taught two important lessons. First, guests should not think highly of themselves by taking the best seats. They should be humble by allowing the hosts to decide who would have the best seats. Secondly, when giving a banquet, hosts should not just invite those who they consider important but should show hospitality by inviting and welcoming those who have different amounts of money, different abilities and different colors of skin. Jesus was trying to teach them when you show good manners to everyone you will be blessed.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind....you will be blessed. (Luke 14:13-14a)

Give each student a set of Lesson 1 Key Verse stickers in Appendix A. Then tell students to color the picture of the children at the table and place the key verse stickers on the appropriate boxes to complete the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Adventures of the Faithful Five: Episode 1 aloud.

Adventures of the Faithful Five - Episode 1: Saving the Best for Last

Nevaeh was so excited that her sleepover was coming up this weekend. “All done Mom!” she said, handing her mother the stack of **invitations** that she just finished sealing. Nevaeh’s mom ran through the invitations one by one, reading the names on the front. “Mekhai, Zakiyah, Ashanti and Jahari. Sweetheart, are these all the invitations that you are giving out for your sleepover?” her mom asked. “Well, yes Mom. These are all the names of my friends that I want to invite. It’s going to be so much fun. We are going to play all our favorite games, watch our favorite movie, eat popcorn and sip on our favorite fruit juice! I can’t wait!” Nevaeh exclaimed with excitement.

“Nevaeh, do you know of any others you can invite to your party? You have one more blank invitation left,” her Mom said. “No, these are all the friends I would like to invite,” said Nevaeh. “Okay, well, I’m going to put this extra invitation in your bookbag just in case,” her mom said.

The next morning while the Faithful Five were putting their coats on the coat rack, Nevaeh reached down in her book bag and pulled out her sleepover invitations. “Mekhai here is yours. Zakiyah, Ashanti and Jahari, here are yours! I’m so excited! We are going to have such a great time. I have one more invitation, but I don’t have any other person that I really wanted to invite. You guys are my only best friends.”

Megan could hear the **chatter** at the coat rack about Nevaeh’s sleepover as she sat quietly at her desk trying not to be nosy. She quickly lifted her head and looked out the corner of her eye. She had never been to a sleepover. When the school bell rang, everyone began to take their seats. Nevaeh tripped over Megan’s wheelchair and fell to the floor when she was walking to her desk.

The class began to laugh. “I’m so sorry! This is why I don’t have any friends! This wheelchair makes life **miserable** for me,” Megan said as she began to cry. Nevaeh swiftly got up, brushed off her clothes and touched Megan on the shoulder. “Megan, that was not your fault. I wasn’t paying attention to where I was going. Don’t cry. I am okay,” she said.

Nevaeh noticed the last invitation was knocked out her hand when she fell. It landed next to the wheel of Megan’s wheelchair. When Nevaeh kneeled to pick it up, the letter “M” on her shirt began to light up as she heard a still small voice say, “When others go low, we go high.” Nevaeh handed Megan the last invitation to her sleepover. “Megan, you do have a friend. I would love if you would come to my sleepover this weekend!” said Nevaeh. “Really? Are you serious?” Megan joyfully responded. “Yes, I am very serious!” Nevaeh said as she walked back to her seat. Wiping the tears from her eyes Megan began to smile and quietly thanked God for answering her prayer to make a friend.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

When invited as a guest, Jesus taught that you should allow the host to decide who will have the best seats.

True False

Does Jesus want us to only invite those who are our friends, family and people that are like us to our parties? No.
Jesus also wants us to show hospitality to others who are not like us.

How did Nevaeh do what Jesus taught? She invited a class mate who uses a wheelchair to her sleepover.

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students the Faithful Five want to encourage their peers to show good manners to everyone. You can help them by making a song with musical bottles. (NOTE: You will need 5 to 8 glass bottles and a spoon for this activity. Put the bottles in a line. Fill each bottle with a little more water than the preceding bottle. Strike each bottle with the spoon. The more water a bottle has, the lower the pitch will be. This is because the water adds weight to the bottle and makes heavier sound vibrations.)

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a birthday invitation.

Materials needed: Blank index cards, stickers, crayons or markers

Instructions: Design an invitation for your next birthday. Consider giving the invitation to someone you have never invited.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord God, today Jesus taught us how to be humble as a guest and hospitable as a host. Help us live out what Jesus taught the next time we attend a party and when we host one. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Paying the Cost

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play “Track the Verse.”

Before class, write each of the following words (Follow, me, and, I, will, make, you, fish, for, people) on separate pieces of paper and attach them to various objects in the classroom. Ask students to look at the key verse and find the words that Jesus said throughout the classroom.

Scripture Summary

Jesus first disciples, Simon, Andrew, James and John, were four fisherman who left their jobs and family to follow Jesus. Jesus teaches a crowd that following him takes sacrifices and hardships. All those who follow Jesus are reminded of what it cost to be his disciples.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”...And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:17-18)

Give each student a set of Lesson 2 Key Verse Stickers in Appendix B. Then tell students to color the fish and place the key verse stickers on the appropriate boxes to complete the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Adventures of the Faithful Five: Episode 2 aloud.

Adventures of the Faithful Five - Episode 2: Choose to Follow

The championship tournament for soccer was vastly approaching. Mekhai and his teammates had been practicing for weeks. They were really looking forward to playing this last and final game of the season in which they could be crowned champions. Mekhai had a very important decision to make. Last Sunday, the Children’s Director at church passed out Easter play parts to all the children and Mekhai had been chosen to play Jesus. The soccer **championship** and the church Easter play were on the same day, at the same time.

Mekhai did not want to let down his teammates down or let down the rest of the Faithful Five in the Christmas play. What was he going to do? He knew he played important roles in in the soccer championship and the church Easter play, but he couldn’t make both.

Mekhai asked his father for advice. “Son,” said Mekhai’s dad, “you have to **count the costs** in making a decision. Sometimes that means giving up time with your friends or to stop doing something you really love. Following Jesus means that you have to make sacrifices.”

Mekhai prayed and asked God to show him what he should do in his bedtime prayer. That night Mekhai had a dream that he went to the soccer championship and scored the winning goal. He also dreamed that he participated in the church Easter play and five people made the choice to follow Jesus. The next morning when Mekhai woke up, he noticed the cross on his shirt lighting up. He was reminded of God’s glory and Jesus’ work on the cross. He didn’t want others to miss out on the chance to follow Jesus. He immediately called his coach and explained to him that he would not be able to make the championship due to participating in the church Easter play. True **disciples** are willing to make their relationship with Jesus first in their lives.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Who were Jesus' first disciples? Simon, Andrew, James and John

What were their jobs when Jesus asked them to follow him? Fishermen

You don't have to make sacrifices to follow Jesus. True False

What costs did Mekhai have to count? He had to miss the championship game to be in the Easter play.

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students the Faithful Five want to get a better understanding of the difficulties in following Jesus. Demonstrate this to them by creating a maze with roads and tracks. See if you can trace a path from one side of the maze to the other side without hitting a roadblock. (NOTE: You will need ink pads, toy cars, and blank sheets of paper for this activity. Rub a toy car on an ink pad to coat the wheels. Then drive the car over a blank sheet of paper to make roads and tracks. Do this two more times with two different colors. Put a circle around the areas where the colors cross each other. This is a roadblock. Now see if you can trace a path from one side of the paper to the next without hitting a roadblock.)

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a “Count the Cost” decal.

Materials needed: Copies of decal template in Appendix F (one per student), sticker paper, crayons or markers

Instructions: Before class print copies of the decal template on sticker paper. Cut out the decal patterns. You will need one decal per student. During class help students fill in the blank space on the decal with words or pictures. Then encourage them to color the decal with creative designs. Students should place the sticker in a place that will remind them of the cost to follow Jesus.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice to die on the cross for our sins. Help us to count the cost in following you as a disciple, even if it means making a hard decision. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Lesson 3 – March 17, 2019 | Luke 15: 11-24

He's Looking for You

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play “Lost or Found.”

Hide items that pertain to today's scripture lesson. Items can include (a robe, a ring, sandals, a picture of a young man, a pig, etc.) Call one item and let the class search for it. When the item is found, the students will shout – “Lost but Found!” Play the game until each hidden item is found.

Scripture Summary

Jesus tells a parable about a man who had two sons and the youngest son wanted his inheritance early. He takes his inheritance and leaves home only to spend it all by making unwise choices. Later, feeling desperate, the son returns to his father choosing to work as a servant. His father chose to treat him as a son, not a servant. He told his servants to put the best robe, a ring and sandals on his son and to throw a celebration feast. His son who was lost was now found.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

“Quickly, bring out a robe – the best – one and put it on him...for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” (Luke 15: 22, 24)

Give each student a set of Lesson 3 Key Verse Stickers in Appendix C. Then tell students to color the robes and place the key verse stickers on the appropriate boxes to complete the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Adventures of the Faithful Five: Episode 3 aloud.

Adventures of the Faithful Five - Episode 3: A Father’s Love

Jahari’s Uncle Jim was having a hard time adjusting to life after being **incarcerated** for three years. He stayed in a homeless shelter for months until Jahari’s parents decided to let Uncle Jim move in with them. Jahari knew Uncle Jim made some very unwise choices in life, but that didn’t stop Jahari from loving him very much.

Jahari saw Uncle Jim sitting at the kitchen table reading a newspaper when he got home from school. Uncle Jim was looking for a job but had trouble finding one. Many companies did not want to hire someone that had been in prison. Jahari could tell that Uncle Jim was frustrated so he put down his bookbag and walked over to the kitchen table. “Unc, why do you look so sad?” Jahari asked. Uncle Jim answered, “It hasn’t been easy looking for a job. Jahari, I’ve made so many mistakes in my life and no one wants to give someone like me a second chance.” Jahari left the kitchen and went to his bedroom to get his bible. He remembered a scripture lesson from the bible that his parents shared with him during family bible study. He ran back to the kitchen to share the lesson with Uncle Jim. “Unc, have you ever heard Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son?” Jahari asked. “No, nephew, I have not,” said Uncle Jim, “why do you ask?” Jahari told Uncle Jim the story.

“This man had two sons. The younger son wanted his **inheritance** early so that he could go and live life on his own. He really wasn’t ready to do that. He takes his inheritance and spends it foolishly, wasting it and ending up with nothing. It was so bad that he gets ready to eat pig slop from the farmer he was working for because he was so hungry. Yuck! By that time, he remembered that his father’s servants had better food than slop, so he returns home hoping to work for his father. When his father sees him coming, he runs toward him and hugs him. Then he tells his servants to find the best robe, a ring and sandals to put on his son. He also told them to throw a celebration for his son because even though he was once lost, now he was found and back home.”

“Wow! What a story nephew!” exclaimed Uncle Jim.

“Mom and dad told me sometimes it takes the consequences of our bad choices to bring us back to our senses. Jesus looks for everyone who is lost. All he wants is for us to trust him and to live our lives following him,” said Jahari. “Unc, Jesus loves you and we love you too. That’s why we welcomed you into our home the same way the young son’s father welcomed him back home. I am going to pray that Jesus will touch the hearts of the people who can give you a job. You’ll get one soon.” Uncle Jim gave Jahari a big hug and thanked him for the **encouragement**.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Was the younger son ready to handle his inheritance on his own? No, but he thought he was ready.

How did the father react when his son returned home? He was very happy and threw him a big celebration.

We should not forgive those who make unwise choices. True **False**

How did Jahari encourage Uncle Jim? He told him the Jesus loves him and his family loves him too. He also prayed that his uncle would find a job.

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students the Faithful Five want to make a banner for Jahari's Uncle Jim. You can help them by designing a door hanger to welcome a family member home. (NOTE: You will need to print the door hanger template in Appendix G on cardstock and cut out the patterns before class. Students can use markers and glitter glue to create their designs.)

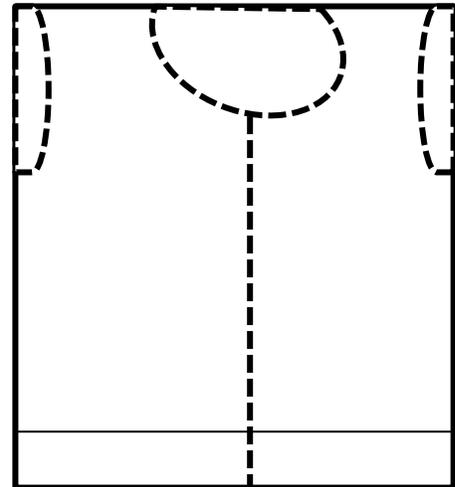
Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a “Jesus Loves You” robe.

Materials needed: Plain pillow case, self-adhesive jewels or craft foam pieces, markers, scissors

Instructions: Cut an opening for the head and arms as shown by the dotted lines in the illustration. Decorate with craft foam pieces and jewels. Use markers to write “Jesus Loves You”.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for loving us, forgiving us and welcoming us back to you when we make unwise choices. Teach us to have wisdom when we make choices and teach us how to love others like you do when they make unwise choices. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Jesus Saves Me

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play “Can I See?”

You will need a fancy wrapped box with something special in it and two student volunteers to participate in this skit. Hold the fancy wrapped box in your hand. The first student wants to see what’s in the box, but the second student does not want to show the contents. The first student pleads his or her case to convince the second student to open the box. Not happy to just see what is in the box, the first student wants to hold what is inside the box and take it home. Share with the students that in today’s lesson, Zacchaeus wanted to see and hear Jesus so badly he climbed up a tree!

Scripture Summary

Zacchaeus was a rich chief tax collector for the Roman government that cheated people out of their money. The people didn’t like tax collectors and considered them sinners. One day, Jesus was entering the town Jericho. Zacchaeus wanted to see and hear Jesus, but he was too short. He climbs a sycamore tree beside the road and Jesus sees him and calls his name. The Jews were upset when Jesus invited himself into Zacchaeus’ home. Zacchaeus felt bad about what he had been doing and was willing to correct his actions. He gave the people back four times more than what he had stolen from them. Zacchaeus’ heart was changed by encountering Jesus.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost (Luke 19:10)

Give each student a set of Lesson 4 Key Verse Stickers in Appendix D. Then tell students to color the picture of Zacchaeus in the tree and place the key verse stickers on the appropriate boxes to complete the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Adventures of the Faithful Five: Episode 4 aloud.

Adventures of the Faithful Five - Episode 4: Changed

This Sunday was **Testimony** Sunday in children’s church. The children were asked last week to invite a friend to church who didn’t follow Jesus. The Faithful Five all had accepted Jesus into their hearts to direct their lives and always wanted others to know about Jesus and follow him too. The Children’s Director assigned Zakiyah to give her testimony of how she **encountered** Jesus and of what in her life had changed.

“Good Morning! My name is Zakiyah. I was born into a Christian family and my parents always took me to church. I never really paid attention during the worship service. I would think about what happened at school, play on my mom’s smart phone or even sometimes fall asleep. One day, our church was having a prayer service for a family who lived next door to me. The daughter, Kelly, was a friend in my class and we would play together outside all the time. When I heard the news that Kelly and her family died in a car accident, I began to cry. I never thought that someone my age would die so young, especially someone I knew. As I laid my head in my mothers’ lap, I heard Mother Jones’ singing ‘Jesus Love Me.’ After the song our pastor read a scripture. I would never forget these words, “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have everlasting life.” I thought of how Kelly knew and followed Jesus. Whenever I went to church with her, I would watch Kelly pray, sing worship songs, pay attention to the sermon and treat people with love. I just knew that Kelly was in heaven. After prayer service, I went home and closed my bedroom door. I felt so bad for all the times I sat in church only thinking about myself and not paying attention or listening.

Sometimes I use to feel my heart telling me to pay attention, but I wouldn't. My heart was turned away from Jesus. The next Sunday when we arrived at Children's Church, we started off by singing, "Jesus Loves Me." It was the same song Mother Jones sang at the prayer service! Towards the end, our Children's Director asked if anyone wanted Jesus to change their hearts. I did! I stood up in front of all the other kids. That day when I prayed the sinner's prayer new joy came into my heart. That was the moment I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and began to follow him. Jesus changed my **attitude** towards church and my family, my attitude towards how I treat others and my attitude towards how I should live my life."

Immediately after Zakiyah's testimony of her Christian discipleship, her unsaved friend stood up and raised her hand. "Yes?" asked the Children's Director. "Can I know Jesus too?" She asked. The Faithful Five jumped up with excitement! "Yes, you can!" they exclaimed.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Why did the people not like Zacchaeus? He was a tax collector who cheated them out of their money.

What did Zacchaeus do to see and hear Jesus? He climbed a tree.

How did Jesus change Zacchaeus' life? Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart about what he was doing to the people.

How did Jesus change Zakiyah's life? Jesus changed Zakiyah's attitude.

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students the Faithful Five are always happy when children accept Jesus into their hearts. Help them make a drawing that shows the joy of knowing Jesus.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make Zacchaeus in a tree.

Materials needed: Large piece of aluminum foil, tissue paper (green and brown), picture of Zacchaeus (Appendix H), crayons or markers, glue, scissors.

Instructions: Before class cut small squares out of the tissue paper. Also cut out individual pictures of Zacchaeus (one per student). During class spread glue onto the piece of aluminum foil in the shape of a tree. Be sure to include tree limbs. Instruct students on where to gently press the brown squares and the green squares of tissue paper onto the glue. Color the picture of Zacchaeus. Glue Zacchaeus to a limb in the tree.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for giving your love and salvation freely to us. Help us to continue to allow you to change our hearts so that we can act more like you. May those who are lost and don't know you encounter you and have their lives changed forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Follow the Leader

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Play “Out of the Boat.”

Arrange chairs in the formation of a row boat with the seats of the chairs facing the inside of the boat. Ask students to sit in the chairs as if they were on a boat. Then teach them the Fishers of Men song. The lyrics are below.

I will make you fishers of men
Fishers of men,
Fishers of men,
I will make you fishers of men,
If you follow me.

After students learn the song, call one student by name to come out of the boat and stand next to you. Repeat the song with the remaining students until all the students have been called out the boat. Share that today’s lesson is about men who responded to Jesus’ call to come and follow him.

Scripture Summary

Jesus was walking along the shore of Galilee and saw two fishermen, Peter and Andrew, who were throwing their fishing nets out into the sea. Jesus called out to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." They laid down their nets, left their boat and followed Jesus. Jesus walked farther and saw two more men, James and John, sitting in their boats fixing their nets. Jesus called out to them to follow him too. They left their father and followed Jesus.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

Immediately they left the boat...and followed him. (Matthew 4:22)

Give each student a set of Lesson 5 Key Verse Stickers in Appendix E. Then tell students to place the key verse stickers on the appropriate boxes and color the words to complete the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Adventures of the Faithful Five: Episode 5 aloud. Review key words.

Adventures of the Faithful Five - Episode 5: How to Follow Jesus

The Faithful Five assembled in their seats for bible study. Today’s scripture lesson was about following Jesus. Ms. Quincy, the bible study teacher for this week, read the scriptures about Jesus walking on the sea shore of Galilee and calling four fishermen to follow him. They immediately stopped what they were doing, got off their boats and began to follow Jesus.

“Excuse me?” said Mekhai with his hand raised high, “Why would the men just drop everything and follow Jesus? What was so special about him?”

Ms. Quincy began to explain, “Back in Jesus’ day, there were many teachers called rabbis that people wanted to follow. Only the best men could be a disciple of a **rabbi**. They had to study everything the rabbi taught them. Their goal was to one day become a rabbi. Fisherman weren’t likely to be chosen to become rabbis. The fisherman were regular people just like me and you, but Jesus wanted them!”

“Wow!” Mekhai exclaimed, “Jesus doesn’t have favorites. He wants everyone to follow him. And he chose ordinary fishermen as his first disciples!”

“Ms. Quincy, I have a question. What does it mean to follow Jesus?” said Nevaeh.

“To follow Jesus means that you have allowed him to be your teacher. He is a good leader, but you must give up everything. When you follow Jesus, your lives will change for the better. There will be days that are tough, and you will have some problems, but you must be willing to let go of things that don’t help you grow and become who God wants you to be. Following Jesus also means that you make him first in your life. You must be concerned about how Jesus feels about the things you watch, things you listen to, the way you act and the way you treat others. All our decisions should be made with how Jesus would feel and what he would think,” said Ms. Quincy.

“I remember following someone once. I followed an old friend to the playground as he bullied another student. Following Jesus helped me realize who I don’t need to hang around,” said Jahari.

“That’s why I love following Jesus!” said Zakiyah, “He shows us who are good and bad **influences**. It’s not easy giving up our friends, but if we are going to be like Jesus, we must be an example and lead them to live the life Jesus wants us to live!”

“That’s right,” said Ms. Quincy. “Great class! Before we dismiss, let’s pray that we always follow Jesus, our leader.”

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

What were Peter and Andrew doing when Jesus found them? Throwing their fish nets

What were James and John doing when Jesus found them? Fixing their fish nets

What did Jesus ask the men to do and how did they respond? Jesus asked the men to leave their boats to follow him and they did.

Jesus only selects special and great people to follow him? True False

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Explain that a calling is a strong urge toward a particular action. Jesus calls all of us to follow him. Then tell students the Faithful Five are proud to be followers of Christ. Help them make a graffiti wall by drawing pictures of the places you are called to go and the actions you are called to do. (NOTE: Tape three large black foam boards together and give each student a piece of chalk to make the graffiti wall.)

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make the Big Foot Prayer.

Materials needed: Construction paper, copies of Big Foot pattern in Appendix I (one per student), crayons or markers, glue, stickers, craft foam pieces

Instructions: Give each student a Big Foot pattern and a piece of construction paper. Allow students to color and decorate the Big Foot. Cut out the Big Foot pattern and glue it to the construction paper.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for calling our names so that we can follow you. Help us to hear your voice more clearly as you lead us daily in making the right decisions and choices. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

INVITE

BLESSED

INVITE

BLESSED

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BLESSED

INVITE

BLESSED

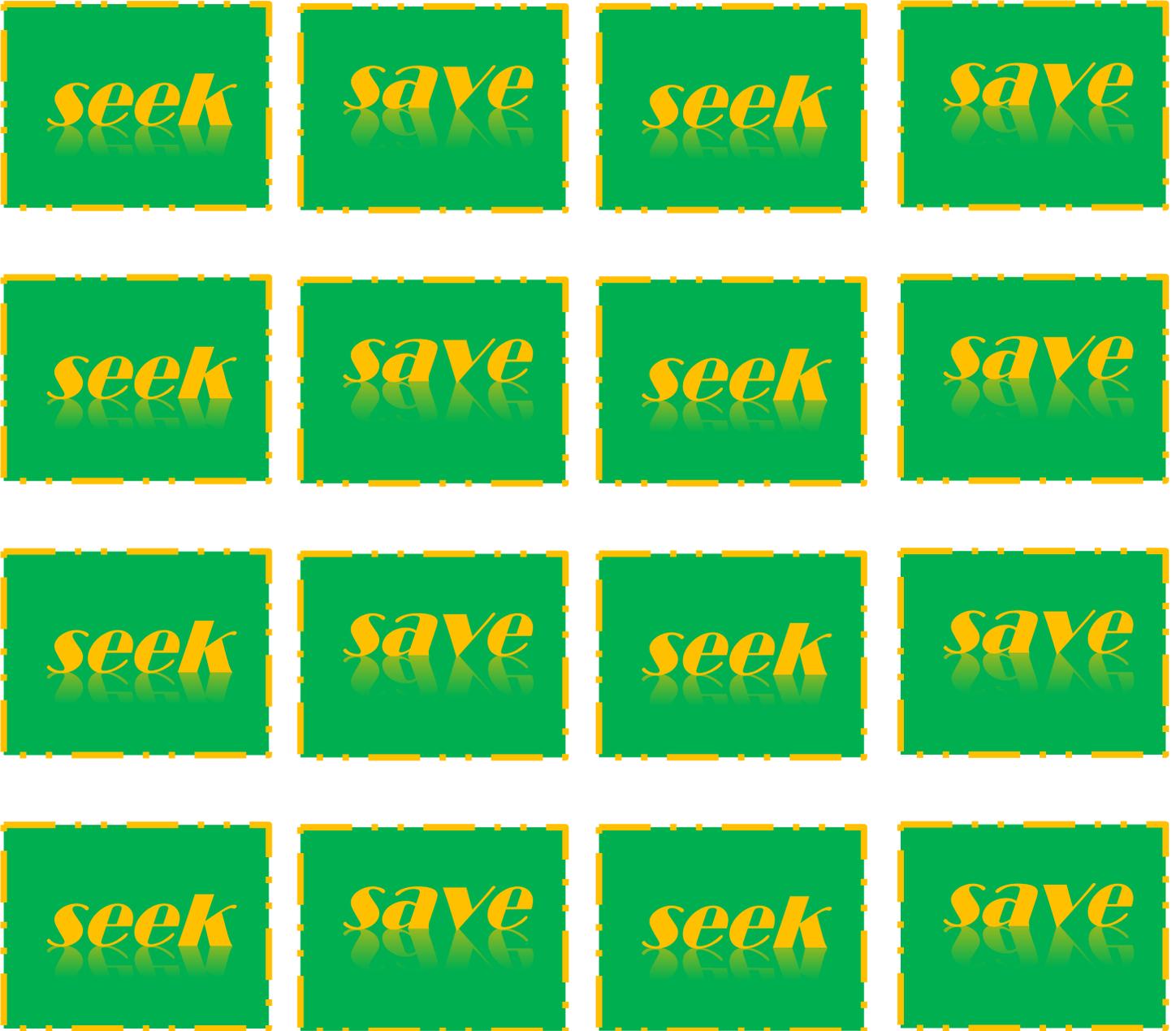
JESUS

FOLLOW ME

LOST

FOUND

Appendix D | Lesson 4 Key Verse Stickers



Appendix E | Lesson 5 Key Verse Stickers

they left the boat

