

## WEEK 1

### PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

## OPPOSITE DAY

### THE BIG IDEA

Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Calls Disciples:**

Luke 5:1-11

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Opposite Day Songs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Follow Me" (Kidspring)
  - "I Have Decided" (Group)
  - "I Will Follow" (Summit Kids)
  - "This Little Light of Mine" (CJ and Friends)

### ACTIVITY | Fishing For Worms

- Welcome to our first Opposite Day this month!
- **Do you know what opposites are? What is the opposite of cold? What is the opposite of happy?**
- Show me a sad face if you're happy to be here!
- Today's Bible story is going to be about fishing. Usually, when you go fishing, you use worms to catch fish, right? Well, since today is Opposite Day, we're going to fish for worms instead of fish!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare two containers with gummy worms and other edible items. You'll also need preschool-friendly tweezers.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have toddlers use their hands instead of tweezers. You could cover the entire thing in whipped cream to make it more sensory fun! You can also provide one pudding cup per child so everyone has the opportunity to fish out their own gummy worms with their fingers.

### ACTIVITY | Green Light, Red Light

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pick a leader for a game of "Red Light, Green Light." Similar to how the traditional game is played, but with a twist. When the person calls out red, everyone can go. When the person says green, everyone has to stop. If they don't follow the new directions for the game, they're out!
- We are going to play a game of "Red Light, Green Light!" But today's game will have an opposite twist! When I say, "Green," I want you to stop. When I say, "Red," I want you to go! Got it? Let's try it!
- This was a fun game to play but can you imagine what would happen if cars did this on the road? If cars went on red and stopped on green, it would be confusing and dangerous!
- Today we are going to talk about why it's important to follow Jesus instead of doing whatever we want!

## TEACHING TIME

### BIBLE STORY | Jesus Calls the Disciples

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** To tell the story of Luke 5:1-11, invite the kids to act and participate along the way, prompting them to make certain movements or say different things to keep them engaged.
- One day while Jesus was standing beside a lake, a lot of people came over to hear Jesus speak. *[Ask everyone to gather around closely.]*
- Then, Jesus saw Simon, a fisherman, and asked Simon to bring Jesus out to the water. Jesus told Simon to drop his fishing net into the water to catch fish.
- But Simon had already been trying to catch fish all day! Simon was also tired and did not think this was a good idea. *[Tell everyone to pretend to go fishing.]*
- But do you know what Simon said to Jesus? Simon said, "If you say so, I will do it."
  - **Can you repeat with me what Simon said? "If you say so, I will do it!"**
- Guess what happened next? They caught so many fish, it was more than anyone could have imagined and their net almost broke from the weight of them all! *[Tell everyone to pretend to haul a heavy net out of the water.]*
- When Simon saw this, he was amazed! Then, Jesus gave Simon the best invitation ever! Jesus said to him, "Get up and follow me. From now on, I will make you fishers of people."
- And that is just what Simon and his friends did! *[Tell everyone to get up and follow you around the room.]*
- Simon probably wanted to go home after a long day of catching no fish, but Jesus wanted him to do the opposite. It was a good thing Simon listened because Jesus' way was WAY better than his own!

### BIG IDEA | Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.

- Let's play a game of opposites to reveal this week's Big Idea!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find and print images of six opposite pairs ([like these](#)). On the back of each pair, write a word or phrase of the Big Idea: "Following," "Jesus," "is the," "opposite," "of following," "ourselves." Then cut each opposite pair in half then mix them all around. Invite kids to come up and find the matching opposite pair. Once all the pairs are found, turn the cards over then tape them up in order to reveal the words of the Big Idea.
- Today's Big Idea is: **Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.**

### VIDEO | Opposite Day, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

### ACTIVITY | Balloon Fishing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Blow up balloons. Divide the kids into two teams and give each team a net. Give the kids one minute to work together to gather balloons using only the net. For an opposite twist, the team with the fewest balloons wins!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of playing this game in teams, everyone can be on the same team and you can use a parachute with handles if you do not have a net to play with. Instead of catching balloons, you can also try keeping all the balloons on the parachute or net.
- In today's story, we heard how the boat's nets almost burst because there were so many fish in them.
- **What did Jesus tell the men they would be fishers of?** Yes! Jesus told them they would become fishers of people!
- Now, let's go fishing! But instead of catching fish — or people — we're going to catch balloons!

### PRAYER

- Dear God, Help me to love you and to follow your ways. Your ways are better than anything I can do on my own. Please guide me when I want to follow myself. Amen.

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Fish Food

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids a paper cup filled with Goldfish crackers and Swedish Fish candy. While snacking, discuss the following questions:
- **What job did Simon have?**
- **What did Jesus tell Simon to do?**
- **What happened when Simon obeyed Jesus?**
- **Jesus invited Simon and Simon's friends to follow Jesus. What did Jesus say they would do when they followed him?**

### ACTIVITY | Go Fish Scramble

- Think about how Simon must have felt when he wasn't catching any fish even though he tried all day.
- But when Jesus showed up, he told Simon to "go fish" again. Jesus wanted Simon to trust him when he said that this time would be different.
- Let's try our own game of "Go Fish!"
- Everyone, hold up your Go Fish card so that your number is showing. When I tell you to go, everyone hurry and find your match. If you can't find your match, you must "go fish" and look in the deck in the middle of the room to see if one of those cards is your match.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a game of Go Fish with “life-size” cards. Using construction paper, draw numbers one through nine on eighteen pieces of paper shaped like fish. Give each kid one card depending on how many kids are playing the game. Make sure there are a few cards left over for the “deck” in the middle of the room.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Give each pair of toddlers the same color of paper. Have them find the person who has the same color of paper as them. For smaller groups, post the paper up around your space and have them go find the color you call out.

### ACTIVITY | Fish are Friends and Family

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut fish out of construction paper and give each kid one. Help them write down names of family and friends that take care of them.
- **Is there something you’ve tried hard to do on your own but it didn’t work? What happened?**
- Sometimes doing things on our own can be hard. That’s why we get help from grownups to brush our hair, tie our shoes, and prepare our food.
- Jesus doesn’t want us to do everything by ourselves either. He wants us to follow him first!
- **Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.**
- Take this fish with you to remember that we don’t have to do things by ourselves. We can trust God and the people in our lives who love us and take care of us.

### MEMORY VERSE | II Corinthians 12:9a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to stand up.
- Repeat the memory verse after me: **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”**
- Now, let’s say the memory verse again in a really quiet, whisper voice.
- **What is the opposite of a quiet, whisper voice?** That’s right! Let’s say the memory verse in a loud voice!

## PLAY TIME

*While you’re waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .*

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute this week’s coloring page along with crayons or markers. Talk about how the image shows an opposite. As the kids color, discuss today’s Bible story and Big Idea!

### ACTIVITY | Fishing Sensory Tub

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using the provided list of materials in your Shop & Prep List (e.g., gems, kinetic sand, plastic fish, etc.) create a sensory bin for the kids to play with creatively.

**ACTIVITY | Magnetic Maze**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw a [simple spiral](#) maze on a few paper plates and write “Jesus” in the middle. Cut little fish shapes out of construction paper or cardboard and attach a paper clip to them. Have kids place a fish on the outside edge on top of the plate. They can use a magnetic wand underneath the plate, to guide each fish to the center of the maze. Check out [this page](#) for more details and instructions on how to make your own magnetic wand.

*Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.*