

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 18

For Kids

Follow Jesus in Baptism and Communion

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

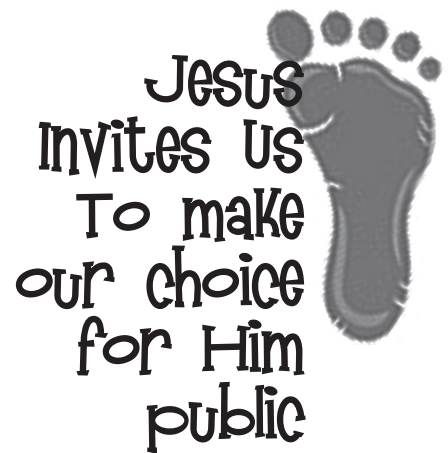
Say: Last week we learned that each member is an important part of Jesus' church family. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to help another church member.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** the meaning of baptism and the communion service
- **Feel** eager to follow the example that Jesus set
- **Respond** by choosing to be baptized when the Holy Spirit impresses him/her



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Instruct participants to sit or stand in a circle. Invite a volunteer to step outside the room while the group chooses a leader. The leader will start the group in a series of motions such as patting their heads, rubbing their tummies, clapping their hands, stomping their feet, slapping their thighs etc., changing the motion often. Once the action has started, bring the volunteer back into the room and have him/her guess who the leader is. If time allows select another person to be “it.”

Debrief

Ask: How was (name) able to identify the leader? (By watching the actions of the group closely.) What are some ways we follow the leader in real life? (Clothes we choose to wear, hairstyles we adopt, sports and hobbies we engage in, etc.) Who are some of the leaders you follow? (Acknowledge answers.) What makes you safe in following Jesus as your leader? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: For the last few months we have been on an adventure in discipleship following Jesus. More than anything else, I hope you have come to feel safe following Jesus wherever He leads you.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board: **Jesus invites us to make our choice for Him public.**

Bible Discovery

Say: Today we are going to look at two examples that Jesus gave us to follow.

Write the following chart on the board:

Baptism	Communion

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

As you go through the texts place the “**Write on the board**” summaries listed on the chart as follows: numbers 1-4 under “**Baptism**” and numbers 5-6 under “**Communion**.”

1 Read Mark 16:16. Who does this verse say will be saved? (Whoever believes and is baptized.)

Say: In this passage Jesus connects being baptized with believing. The first thing that needs to be in place before baptism is believing in Jesus.

Write on the board: Believe in Jesus

2 Read Acts 2:37, 38. What did Peter tell these people to do before they were baptized? (Repent.) What does it mean to “repent?” (To be sorry for the sins you have committed.)

Say: True repentance is being so sorry for what you did that you don’t ever want to do it again. You turn away from your sin.

Write on the board: Repent of your sins

What gift did Peter say they would receive? (The Holy Spirit.)

Say: When we are baptized by water we also receive the Holy Spirit in a special way.

Write on the board: Receive the Holy Spirit in a special way

3 Read Matthew 3:13-17. Did Jesus need to turn away from sin? (No.) Then why was He baptized? (Because He knew that we would need to repent of our sins, and He was setting an example for us to follow.)

How was Jesus baptized? (He went all the way under the water.)

Say: When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist He went all the way under the water; we call this being immersed. Baptism by immersion demonstrates dying to sin, being buried, then being raised to a new life in Jesus.

Activity

Invite a volunteer to help you demonstrate baptism. Have the volunteer stand in front of you with his feet together facing your left arm. Have him place his hands on your forearm like he would grab a baseball bat. Have a washcloth in your left hand. Tell him to bend at the knees as you place the washcloth over his nose and mouth and lower him down then raise him up.

Write on the board: Be baptized like Jesus

4 Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. What does this verse say that we are baptized into? (One body.)
Read verse 27. What is the body of Christ? (The church.)

Say: We are baptized into the body of Christ which is His church. So when you come up out of the water you are a member of your church family.

Write on the board: Be baptized into the body of Christ — His church

5 Say: The night before Jesus died the last meal He had with His disciples was very special. It was the Passover meal. During this meal Jesus gave His disciples another example to follow.
Read John 13:3-15 around the circle with each participant reading one verse.

Ask: Why do you think Peter didn't want Jesus to wash His feet? (Peter didn't like the idea that Jesus was doing this humble act that should have been done by a servant.)

Say: Washing feet in Bible times was the work of a servant. At this Passover meal there was no servant present to wash everyone's dusty feet as they entered the room. Peter considered Jesus too good to be doing a servant's work and, in fact, he considered himself too good to do this task, as did all the other disciples. Jesus gave them all an example by willingly taking upon Himself the humble role of a servant. By following Jesus' example and washing each other's feet we are reminded of two things: 1) we will always need Jesus to wash away our sins and 2) Jesus calls us to serve others just as He did.

Write on the board: Humbly serve each other by washing each other's feet

Activity

Invite a volunteer to help you demonstrate foot washing. For demonstration: have him sit in a chair. He can keep his shoes on. Demonstrate praying with him before washing his feet. Ask God to wash away his/her sins. Take first one foot, place it in the basin (without water), act like you are washing it and then drying it. Repeat with the other foot.

Say: Before we take part in the bread and juice of the Lord's Supper, we follow Jesus' example and wash one another's feet. This shows that we have allowed Jesus to wash away our sins and that we are willing to humbly serve others as He did.

Write on the board: We will always need Jesus to wash away our sins

6 Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What did Jesus say the bread represents? (His body.) What did Jesus say the juice represents? (His blood.)

Say: Jesus told us to remember Him when we eat the bread and drink the juice. He wanted us to remember that on the Cross His body was broken for us; His blood was shed for us. Jesus wants us to understand that He gave His life for us because He loves us. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper we are following the example that Jesus gave us at His last Passover meal.

Write on the board: Jesus gave His body and blood for us because He loves us

Activity

Invite a volunteer to help you demonstrate the Lord's Supper. For demonstration: give him a piece of unleavened bread. **Say:** When you eat the bread during Communion it is your way of saying to Jesus, "I accept You as my Savior." Give the grape juice and **Say:** When you drink the grape juice during Communion, it is your way of saying to Jesus, "Thank you for dying for me"

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "Tell me about baptism... Tell me about the Lord's Supper..."
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly share your experience of being baptized. How was it a special day for you?

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to make our choice for Him public.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: If the Holy Spirit is impressing you to plan for your baptism, talk to me after class. (Or make some other arrangement for the students to let you or let the pastor know their decision.)

Ask: Did you think of a way to humbly serve another person in your family?

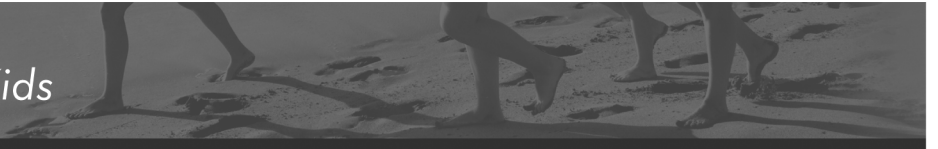
Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share what you did to serve another person in your family.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for being our example
- asking Him to help those who need to make their choice for Jesus public in baptism

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to make our choice for Him public.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Baptism — Jesus left us an example in His baptism:

1. Believe in JesusMark 16:16
2. Repent of your sins Acts 2:37, 38
3. Receive the Holy Spirit in a special way..... Acts 2:37, 38
4. Be baptized like Jesus by immersionMatthew 3:13-17
5. Be baptized into God’s church..... 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27

The Lord’s Supper — Jesus left us an example in Communion:

1. Humbly serve each other by washing each other’s feet.....John 13:3-15
2. The Foot Washing ceremony reminds us that
we need Jesus to wash away our sins.....John 13:3-15
3. Jesus gave His body and blood for us because He loves us.... 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

3. Parents/mentors: If applicable, **share** your baptism experience. When did you make the decision to be baptized? How did you feel before, during and after your baptism? What made this experience special for you?
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you want to be baptized when the Holy Spirit tells you it is time? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together and thank Jesus for giving us His example to follow. Ask Him to help you always be ready to follow Him.

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** If your child has already been baptized: What was special about your baptism?
If your child has not yet been baptized: What do you look forward to about being baptized?
2. **Ask:** Is there anything about being baptized that worries or scares you?
3. **Ask:** How would you feel to have me kneel on the floor in front of you and wash your feet?
Why?
4. **Discuss:** What can we do in our family to follow Jesus' example and humbly serve each other?

How we can humbly serve each other in our family

For example: Do another person's chores, help with a homework assignment, etc.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share what you did to serve another person in your family.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share how you have used one of your spiritual gifts to serve another. If you don't know what your spiritual gifts are, you can share a talent you have used to benefit others. You will be asked to help your child take a spiritual gifts inventory at home.

Follow Jesus in Baptism and Communion

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 18

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Matthew 3:1, 2, 5, 6; Matthew 28:19, 20

Activity: Make a list of things the Bible says you should do before you are baptized. Check off the ones you have done. If you have not been baptized and would like to be, tell your parent, your pastor, or another adult about your decision.

For Discussion: Anthony, a seventh-grader, said, “I have decided I want to be baptized because I love and trust Jesus and am thankful that He died for me. I am studying and getting ready right now. Some of my friends have already been baptized and I am really looking forward to being baptized, too.” Compare what Anthony said about baptism to today’s Scripture. What, if anything, does Anthony still need to do before he is baptized?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for the example He has given us. Ask Him to help you become more like Him each day.

Choice Two

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34

Activity: Make an acrostic with the word “baptism,” using each letter to start another word that tells something you should do before you are baptized.

For Discussion: How long had this man and his family known about Jesus before they were baptized? What were the requirements for baptism for this man and his family? Is it hard or easy to be saved?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for accepting you right now, just as you are.

Choice Three

Scripture: Acts 8:26-39

Activity: Use a world atlas to find Jerusalem, Gaza and Ethiopia.

For Discussion: What was the man doing in Jerusalem? Who do you think prompted him to read the book of Isaiah? How does the Bible say Philip found this man? Who suggested that this man be baptized? Was he eager or reluctant? Why?

Prayer Point: Thank God for His Holy Spirit, who is always at work in our lives. Ask Him to send someone to you whom you can tell about the good news of Jesus.

Choice Four

Scripture: John 13:3-15

Activity: Take a walk on a hot dusty road with bare feet or sandals (weather permitting). Then wash each other's feet in cool water before entering the house.

For Discussion: How did it feel to have your hot, dusty feet washed? What did the water look like? What are the spiritual comparisons?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for continually being willing to wash you clean.

Choice Five

Scripture: Matthew 26:26-28; John 1:29

Activity: Bake unleavened bread with your family.

For Discussion: Review the story of the last meal eaten by the Hebrew slaves in Egypt before they were freed from slavery. You'll find it in Exodus 12. Find similarities with Jesus' last meal before He freed us from sin.

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for being the Passover Lamb who died for our sins.