

9. Jesus Sends the Disciples (Mark 6:7-13)

So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives. (Mark 6:12)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Bible Verse Word Pairs
Pairs Game
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Shoes Mobile
Walking Sticks
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Tape | Stickers | Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Paper | Scissors

Gather: Index cards

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Yarn | Empty wrapping paper rolls | Colorful tape, stickers, and other craft items (optional)

Bless: Scented lip balm sticks

Before You Teach

We often have a picture of Jesus' disciples following along with Jesus as he taught and healed people. This certainly happened and there are many stories in the Gospels that show the disciples with Jesus. But today's story illustrates a different aspect of discipleship. Jesus empowered the disciples and sent them out to spread the good news. Jesus instructed them to take nothing with them, no bread, no money, and no change of clothes. They were to depend on the hospitality of others and to trust in God. As disciples of Jesus we must learn from Jesus' teachings, but we must also be willing to go out and spread the gospel, trusting God will be with us as we do so.

Often, we hesitate to share the good news of God's love with others because we are concerned about how our sharing will be received. Jesus warned his disciples that not everyone would welcome their message. What were the disciples to do when they were not welcomed? They were to dust off their feet, and keep moving. They were to go to new places and keep spreading the message. What should we do if our attempts to share God's love are not welcomed? It's easy to become discouraged, but through this story we are reminded that it is our job to share God's love. It is not our job to make sure everyone receives it, especially in a way we can understand. We are called to keep moving and to trust in God to make the connection.

As a teacher of children, you have accepted God's calling to share the good news with others. You can share God's love with the children you teach and also help equip them to spread the good news to others. We may or may not always be able to see and understand the ways that God is making connections within the children's hearts and lives through our teaching and our loving relationships with them, but we keep moving and trust God.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the school and the figures of Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play, “Only You” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings.
- Help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
- Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the school and the Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.

TIP: *Have a quiet space in your room with books and soft toys for children who are not quite ready to join in an activity when they arrive.*

A—Bible Verse Word Pairs (Puzzle)

Before class: Make a copy of “Bible Verse Word Pairs” (p. 60) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “Bible Verse Word Pairs.”
- Encourage the child to cut out the word shapes and glue them in the proper places in the Bible verse.

OPTION: *Have the children write the words inside the correct shapes instead of cutting and gluing.*

OR

B—Pairs (Game)

Before class: Write each of the following words on its own index card: salt, pepper, eggs, bacon, peanut butter, jelly, sun, moon, milk, cookies, left foot, right foot, spaghetti, meatballs, cat, and dog. Add more cards as you like, but make sure each item has a match to create a pair. Hide the cards around the room.

- Have the children work together to find the cards that you have hidden around the room.
 - As they find the cards, help them read the words as necessary.
 - Encourage the children to put the cards into pairs of words that go together.
 - When all of the cards are found and placed into pairs, read the words together.
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Transition to Explore

- Have each child find a partner and move to the Bible story circle together. If there is an odd number of children, be a partner for one of the children.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: This month we have been hearing stories about Jesus when he was an adult. Jesus became a great leader for his community and for ours. We have heard about Jesus' baptism, about when he shared good news in the synagogue, and about how he called a tax collector named Levi to follow him. I wonder what we will learn about Jesus today.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about when Jesus told his disciples to go and share God's love. He told them to go two by two.

- Tell the children the story, "Go Two by Two" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 280).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 9 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: How do you work together?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Jesus Sends the Disciples" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 9).
 - Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 2 (Class Kit—p. 5) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 92 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday). Then watch the Unit 2 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

- Have each child find a new partner and move to the next activity together. If there is an odd number of children, be a partner to a different child.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 2) and the Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

SAY: This month we have been learning about and supporting a mission organization in Tennessee called the Jubilee Project. They help people have access to clean, running water. Water is very important to people and to all of God's creation. Conserving water is when you try to not use *too* much water, or when you try to keep water sources safe and clean. What are some ways that you and your family can conserve water?

- Gather any offerings your group has collected. Send them to the Jubilee Project using the Global Ministries Advance #781350 online at <https://advance.umcmision.org/p-609-jubilee-project-inc.aspx>, or by sending a check to: Advance GCFA P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068.
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A—Shoes Mobile (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Cut yarn into strands (see steps 3 and 5 of Activity Sheets—Session 9).

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 9 and the strands of yarn.
 - Encourage the children to create mobiles according to the instructions.
 - Read the Bible verse together.
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OR

B—Walking Sticks (Art)

Before class: Collect empty wrapping paper rolls. Cut them in half if needed so that each child has one section.

- Give each child an empty wrapping paper roll.
- Invite the children to create walking sticks by coloring their wrapping paper rolls with crayons and markers.

OPTION: Provide colorful tape, stickers, and other craft items for the children to add to their walking sticks.

Transition to Bless

- Have each child find a new partner and move to the Bible story circle together as they walk using their walking sticks. Partner with another child if you have an odd number of children in the class.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the mural pieces from the bottom of the Unit 2—Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 21) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Unit 2—Bible Story Mural on a wall or bulletin board.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of the disciples walking in pairs to the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

Praising

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 31) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, “Camping in God’s Shade” (Class Kit—p. 31).

TIP: *If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.*

Blessing

- One at a time invite each child to choose and bring to you a scented lip balm stick, and then place his or her hand on yours.
 - Using the lip balm stick, draw a cross on the top of the child’s hand.
 - Bless the child by saying, “God loves you, (child’s name). You can share God’s love with others just like the disciples did.”
 - Continue until each child has received a blessing.
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At Home with God

ASK: What’s one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy Bible Story Sheets—Session 9. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 9 with each child.

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Bible Verse Word Pairs



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