

## Lessons for the Leader

Think about games you played as a child. How well did you play the game "Follow the Leader"? What made the game challenging for you? How well do you follow directions today? Why?

- Read Mark 10:17. When did you realize what you must do to become a Christian? What do the children in your ministry think a person must do to become a Christian? How many children think going to church or being baptized makes a person a Christian?
- Read verses 18-20. How do you think the man felt hearing Jesus' words? Do you think the man thought, *I'm safe! I've done all of these things?*
- Read verse 21. Imagine how the man's body language changed as Jesus explained what he lacked. Do you think the man thought, *I own a lot of great things! There is no way I'm going to sell everything I own! Why do you think Jesus instructed him to get rid of the "stuff" in his life? What "stuff" keeps you from completely following Jesus?*
- Read verses 22-27. Do you sympathize with the man? Why or why not? What do you think happened to the man? Do you think he sold everything and followed Jesus? What keeps people today from being completely "sold out" to Jesus?
- Understand God has a plan for each person. God's plan is for people to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. The Bible does not teach that rich people cannot become Christians. The Bible teaches God must be the most important part of a person's life and that it is only through a personal relationship with Jesus a person can receive the gift of eternal life.
- Pray for clarity as you talk with children about asking Jesus to be their Savior and Lord.

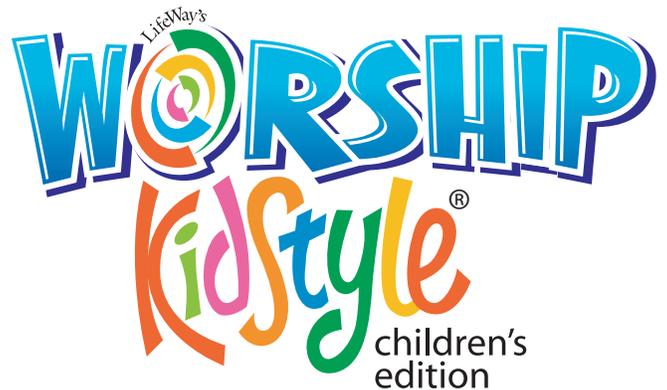
### What do these symbols mean?

#### Application Activities Format:

- 1→** Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.

#### Large Group Format:

- 1** Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



## Follow the Leader

**Focus Passage:** Mark 10:17-27

**Key Bible Verse:** Jeremiah 29:11

#### Life Application

I can follow God's plan for my life.

## Session at a Glance

#### Introduction to Worship (8 minutes)

- Greet the Children
- Play "Lemon-Roll Relay"

#### Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

- Sing "Me Without You"
- Sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness"/  
Receive Offering
- Introduce the Bible Story
- Tell the Bible Story
- Review the Bible Story/Make Life  
Application
- Learn the Key Bible Verse
- Show "Backyard Explorers" Video
- Discuss the ABCs of Becoming a Christian
- Pray
- Sing "All for You"

#### Application Activities (20 minutes)

#### Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

# Introduction to Worship

## 1→ Greet the Children

## 2→ Play "Lemon-Roll Relay"

### Pull It Together

Lemons (1 per team), yardsticks (1 per team), colored masking tape

- Use the masking tape to make several paths on the floor.

### Teacher Tips

- Allow the paths to cross over each another.
- Provide a variety of fruits (oranges, grapefruits, etc.) for the children to compare the effects.
- Form teams of four to five children.
- Give each team a lemon and yardstick.
- Say: "Place your lemon at the beginning of a path. Using only the yardstick, roll the lemon along the tape line. Be careful to keep the lemon on the path. When I shout, 'Change,' give the yardstick to the next person on your team. If you finish one path, begin another."
- Ask: "Was it easy to keep the lemons on the path? Why or why not? What would make it easier?"
- Say: "Today we will learn God has a plan He wants us to follow. Sometimes it is not easy for us to stay on God's plan."

# Worship

## 3 Sing "Me Without You" (DVD, 3 minutes)

## 4→ Sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness" (DVD, 3 minutes)/Receive Offering

## 5→ Introduce the Bible Story (4 minutes)

### Pull It Together

Worship Guides, pencils

- Distribute Worship Guides and pencils.
- Direct kids to complete "What's It Worth?"
- Invite the children to share the items they found most valuable.
- Say: "While you listen to our Bible story, think about how important the things you value are to you. Can you imagine giving them away?"

## 6→ Tell the Bible Story (7 minutes)

### Pull It Together

Paper, marker, tape

- Print "Rich Man" Teaching Picture (CD). Display.
- Attach the paper to the wall.
- Ask: "When you hear, 'He is so rich,' what comes to mind? What makes a person rich?"
- Write the children's statements on paper.
- Continue: "During Bible times, what made a person rich?"
- Write responses on the paper and display.
- Say: "In our Bible story, the main person is a rich man. The Bible does not tell us what he owned or what he ruled. Let's see what happened when the man approached Jesus."
- Guide the children to open their Bibles to Mark 10. Dramatize the Bible story as you tell it.

## Jesus Taught About Following God

*Based on Mark 10:17-27*

Jesus was leaving on another journey. While He was walking, a man ran up to Him, knelt down in front of Jesus, and asked, "Good Teacher, how can I have eternal life?"

Jesus asked the man, "Why do you call Me good? No one but God is good."

Then Jesus said, "You know the Commandments. Do not murder. Keep your marriage promises. Do not steal. Do not say things that are not true about people. Do not cheat someone out of something that is due to him. Honor your father and mother."

The man replied, "Teacher, since I was a young man I have obeyed all of these things."

Then, looking at the man, Jesus said, "There is one thing you still have not done. Go and sell everything you own and give to the poor. You will then have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow Me."

The man was shocked at what Jesus said to him. He walked away from Jesus very upset because the man owned a lot of things.

Jesus looked around and spoke to His disciples. He told them it is difficult for a person with great riches to enter the kingdom of God. The disciples asked, "Who can be saved?"

Jesus responded, "It is impossible for a man to save himself, but with God all things are possible."

### **7→ Review the Bible Story/Make Life Application (4 minutes)**

- Ask: "What did the rich man ask Jesus? Do you think Jesus responded the way the man thought He would? Why did the rich man leave unhappy?"
- Continue: "Jesus taught that nothing should be more important than God. Having money or things is not bad, as long as the items do not become more important than God."
- Explain: "Jesus wanted people to understand they could not save themselves. Only God can provide forgiveness of sin."
- Ask: "Did God have a plan for the man's life? Was the man willing to follow God's plan? Does God have plans for us? How can we follow God's plans?"
- Guide children to complete "Following God" on their Worship Guides.
- Suggest the children play "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says" (information on Worship Guides) with their family and friends this week.

### **8→ Learn the Key Bible Verse (6 minutes)**

#### **Pull It Together**

Bibles, paper, scissors, markers, tape

- Direct the children to locate Jeremiah 29:11 in their Bibles.
- Select a volunteer to read aloud the verse.
- Ask: "According to this verse, what is God's plan for us?"
- Form several small groups.
- Challenge each group to develop a plan to help all the kids learn the key Bible verse.
- Call attention to the supplies.
- Assist children as needed.
- Invite the groups to share their learning methods.
- Ask: "How can remembering this verse help us in the future?"

### **9→ Show "Backyard Explorers" Video (DVD, 7 minutes)**

- Say: "Imagine receiving an assignment from a king to carry a special treasure from one place to another. You are told to stay on the path; however, you know a shortcut. Would you stay on the king's path or take the shortcut? Why?"
- Show the video.
- Ask: "Why did the king tell the kids to stay on the path?"
- Say: "We can learn from this video that God knows best. Just as the king knew it was safer for the kids to stay on the path, God knows what is best for us. God wants us to follow the plans He has for our lives."

### **10 Discuss the ABCs of Becoming a Christian (8 minutes)**

- Ask: "Do you think becoming a Christian is a plan God has for your life?"
- Discuss the ABCs of Becoming a Christian.
  - Admit to God you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin. Read Romans 3:23; 6:23; and Acts 3:19.
  - Believe that Jesus is God's Son and accept God's gift of forgiveness from sin. Read John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9; and John 1:11-13.
  - Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Read 1 John 1:9 and Romans 10:9-10,13.
- Share your testimony of how and when you became a Christian.

### **11→ Pray (2 minutes)**

- Ask God to help each person know and follow His plan for her life.

### **12 Sing "All for You" (DVD, 3 minutes)**

### **13→ Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up**

# Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

## 14 Play "What Followed?" (6 minutes)

### Pull It Together

Scissors, masking tape

- Print, copy, and cut apart "What Followed?" (CD) (1 per team).
- Make a starting line on the floor.
- Place the "What Followed?" strips in piles at the opposite end of the playing area (1 pile per team).
- Guide the children to form teams of four or five players.
- Direct the teams to stand behind the starting line.
- Call attention to the "What Followed?" strips.
- Say: "The first person on your team will run to your team's strips and select one to bring back to the group. The next person will race to the strips and bring another one back. Continue until you retrieve all the strips. Working as a group, place the statements in order. I will verify if the order is correct."
- Run the relay. Verify the statements are in the correct order.
- Ask: "What was God's plan for the rich man's life? Does God have plans for us?"
- Say: "We can follow God's plans for our lives."

## 15 Sing "Let My Actions Match My Passion" (DVD, 3 minutes)

## 16 Pray (1 minute)

## 17 Dismiss the Children to Their Parents

- Play "Whoa!" (DVD) as the parents receive their children.

# Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

## 14→ Share Application Activities (5 minutes)

- Invite the children to share their Application Activity experiences.
  - Arts and Crafts—Crazy Sticks
  - Dramatic Play—Who Am I?
  - Games—Who's the Leader?
  - Exploration and Discovery—Learning About Myself as a Leader

## 15→ Play "What Followed?" (4 minutes)

### Pull It Together

Scissors

- Print, copy, and cut apart "What Followed?" (CD).
- Read aloud the statements in an incorrect order.
- Guide the children to place the statements in order.
- Review the Bible story.
- Ask: "What was God's plan for the rich man's life? Does God have plans for us?"
- Say: "We can follow God's plans for our lives."

## 16→ Pray (1 minute)

## 17→ Dismiss the Children to Their Parents

- Play "Whoa!" (DVD) as the parents receive their children.

# Application Activities

Select from the following choices. Each choice is designed for 20 minutes of small group time.

## Pull It Together

Bright, colorful wrapping paper; glue sticks (1 per child); ¼-inch dowel sticks (1 per child); markers; scissors; yardstick or measuring tape

- Cut wrapping paper into 7-foot-by-4-inch strips (1 per child).
- Cut dowel sticks 15-inches long (1 per child).

## Teacher Tip

Practice flipping the stick to determine the amount of force needed to extend the paper.

## Pull It Together

Scissors

- Print and cut apart "Who Am I?" (CD).

## Worship Through Arts and Crafts

### Crazy Sticks

- Guide the children to open their Bibles to Mark 10:17-27.
- Read aloud the verses and review the Bible story.
- Ask: "What question did the rich man ask Jesus? How did Jesus respond? Do you think this is how the man thought Jesus would respond? Why? What do you think happened to the man?"
- Say: "God has a plan for each person. We may not know the plan yet, but we can trust God to guide us. Who remembers what Jeremiah 29:11 says?"
- Select a volunteer to read aloud the verse.
- Distribute paper strips and markers.
- Guide the children to write the words of Jeremiah 29:11 on their strips, substituting their own names in place of *you* in the verse. Invite the children to share what the verse means in their own words and how it can help them as they make decisions in their lives.
- Give each child a dowel stick and glue stick.
- Say: "Attach your verse strip to the end of your dowel by placing glue on the end of the paper and tightly rolling it around the end of the dowel."
- Direct the children to roll their paper strips tightly around their dowels.
- Demonstrate how to flick the dowel so the paper will fly out and back. (Retighten the paper as needed.)
- Pray, thanking God for the plans He has for everyone's lives.

## Worship Through Dramatic Play

### Who Am I?

- Guide the children to open their Bibles to Mark 10:17-27.
- Read aloud the verses and review the Bible story.
- Ask: "What question did the rich man ask Jesus? How did Jesus respond? Do you think this is how the man thought Jesus would respond? Why? What do you think happened to the man?"
- Say: "God has a plan for each person. We may not know the plan yet, but we can trust God to guide us. Who remembers what Jeremiah 29:11 says?"
- Select a volunteer to read aloud the verse.
- Say: "Let's learn about some other people and God's plans for their lives."
- Distribute "Who Am I?" stories.
- Invite the children to read aloud the information in very dramatic voices.
- Allow the other children to guess who is being described.
- Say: "We think about God having a plan for each person in the Bible, but God also has a plan for each person today. Listen as I tell you about God's plan for my life."
- Share your testimony of following God's plan.
- Say: "Some of the ways we can learn about God's plan include reading the Bible, praying, and talking with people who can help us. Once we know about God's plan for our lives, we must be willing to follow Him."
- Pray, thanking God for the plans He has for everyone's lives.

**Pull It Together**  
Large, clear playing area

## Worship Through Games

### *Who's the Leader?*

- Ask: "Have you ever played the game Follow the Leader? What happened if you did not follow the leader? Let's play another version of the game. I will select two people to close their eyes. Then I'll select another person to be the leader. Everyone must follow the leader without letting the other two people know who the leader is. The two players who closed their eyes must try to determine who the leader is. The leader might tap his foot, snap his fingers, or do other actions the rest of us will follow. Do the actions as quickly as possible to make it more challenging to guess who the leader is."
- Select two players to close their eyes as you select a leader.
- Play the game, changing leaders as time permits.
- Guide the children to open their Bibles to Mark 10:17-27.
- Read aloud the verses and review the Bible story.
- Ask: "What question did the rich man ask Jesus? How did Jesus respond? Do you think this is how the man thought Jesus would respond? Why? What do you think happened to the man?"
- Say: "God has a plan for each person. We may not know the plan yet, but we can trust God to guide us. Who remembers what Jeremiah 29:11 says?"
- Select a volunteer to read aloud the verse.
- Share your testimony of following God's plan.
- Say: "Some of the ways we can learn about God's plan include reading the Bible, praying, and talking with people who can help us. Once we know about God's plan for our lives, we must be willing to follow Him."
- Pray, thanking God for the plans He has for everyone's lives.

### **Pull It Together**

Pencils

- Print and copy "What Am I?" (CD) (1 per child).

### **Teacher Tip**

Ensure each child has a successful experience with this activity.

## Worship Through Exploration and Discovery

### *Learning About Myself as a Leader*

- Ask: "What do you think makes a good leader?"
- Say: "God has a plan for each person, and we can lead others to Him. Knowing what we are good at helps us know how to be good leaders."
- Distribute "What Am I?" and pencils.
- Read aloud the questions as kids select their answers.
- Explain the answers to the quiz. The letter with the most answers best describes the gifts for each child. Letter *A* is teaching, *B* is encouraging, *C* is leading, and *D* is planning.
- Encourage the children to share ways they can use their gifts to follow God's plans for them.
- Talk about ways teaching, encouraging, leading, and planning can be helpful for leaders.
- Read aloud Jeremiah 29:11.
- Invite children to spend time in prayer, asking God to show them how to use their gifts for Him.
- Conclude: "The gifts we discovered today are not the only gifts we have. As we follow God's plans for us, He will show us more."



**Jesus left on a journey.**

**A man ran up to Jesus and knelt down in front of Him.**

**The man asked, "Good Teacher, how can I have eternal life?"**

**Jesus asked, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God."**

**Jesus told the man, "You know the Commandments."**

**The man replied, "I have kept the Commandments since I was a young man."**

**Jesus said, "You lack one thing. Go and sell everything you own and give to the poor. You will then have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow Me."**

**The man was shocked. He left very upset because he owned a lot of things.**

**Jesus spoke to the disciples.  
He told them it is difficult for a person with great riches to enter heaven.**

**The disciples asked, "Who can be saved?"**

**Jesus said, "It is impossible for a person to save himself,  
but with God everything is possible."**

**Answer Key:**

1. Jesus left on a journey.
2. A man ran up to Jesus and knelt down in front of Him.
3. The man asked, "Good Teacher, how can I have eternal life?"
4. Jesus asked, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God."
5. Jesus told the man, "You know the Commandments."
6. The man replied, "I have kept the Commandments since I was a young man."
7. Jesus said, "You lack one thing. Go and sell everything you own and give to the poor. You will then have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow Me."
8. The man was shocked. He left very upset because he owned a lot of things.
9. Jesus spoke to the disciples. He told them it is difficult for a person with great riches to enter heaven.
10. The disciples asked, "Who can be saved?"
11. Jesus said, "It is impossible for a person to save himself, but with God everything is possible."

You may know a lot about me. I was born in Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs. For three months, my mother hid me from Pharaoh's army. When I was too big to hide, she placed me in a basket and put the basket in the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter found me and allowed me to live with my family until I was older. My mother took me to Pharaoh's daughter and she raised me. When I was older, I fled Egypt. Later, while tending my father-in-law's sheep, I saw a bush that was on fire. I needed to see what was happening. God spoke to me. He told me to take off my shoes because the land was holy ground. I obeyed God. Then God told me I was going to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. I tried to tell God no, but God knew better. God used me to free the Israelites. Later, God gave me the Ten Commandments to give to the people. I led the Israelites from Egypt and for 40 years we wandered in the wilderness because the people did not follow God's plan for their lives. At the beginning, I did not understand everything God wanted me to do, but God used me to do a great thing for Him. Who am I? (*Moses*)

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Not a lot is known about my life before God called me to preach to the people in Ninevah. I was a prophet near the village of Nazareth. I did not want to go to Ninevah and decided to go to Tarsus instead. I paid my fare for a boat ride to Tarsus, boarded the boat, and went below deck and fell asleep. A great storm came while I was sleeping. The men on the ship tried to save the ship, but nothing they did helped. They cast lots to see who was causing the storm. The lot fell on me. When I admitted I was running from God, the men were scared. I told them to throw me into the water, but they did not want to do this. When nothing else helped, the men finally tossed me into the water. The storm stopped. God sent a fish to swallow me. For three days I was in the belly of the fish. I prayed to God and asked Him to forgive me. God caused the fish to vomit me on the shore. Again, God told me to go to Ninevah. This time I did. The people repented of the things they had done wrong. I did not understand everything God wanted me to do at the beginning, but God used me to do a great thing for Him. Who am I? (*Jonah*)

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As a young girl, I learned to trust God. I was engaged to be married to Joseph, a carpenter from Nazareth. Before we got married, the angel Gabriel appeared to me. Gabriel told me God had a special plan for my life. Gabriel said I was going to have a baby. I did not understand how this could take place. Gabriel said the baby would be God's Son. I said, "God knows best, I will do what God wants." Later, when Joseph learned what was happening, he decided not to marry me. However, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him what was taking place. Joseph obeyed the angel, and we got married. Joseph and I traveled to Bethlehem to register for the tax. While we were there, Jesus was born. I did not understand everything God wanted me to do at the beginning, but God used me to do a great thing for Him. Who am I? (*Mary*)

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At first, I did not like the people who were following Jesus. In fact, I sought permission to travel to different cities to arrest them. On one of the trips, I was traveling to Damascus. While on the way, a bright light shone from heaven. The light was so bright, I was blinded. I heard a voice asking me, "Why are you persecuting Me?" I knew it was the Lord's voice. I had a life-changing event. I knew then that I needed to change what I believed about Jesus. Later, God used me to travel to many different cities telling people about Jesus. I wrote many letters to people and to churches helping them continue to follow God's plan for their lives. I did not understand everything God wanted me to do at the beginning, but God used me to do a great thing for Him. Who am I? (*Paul*)

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As a young boy, I was favored by my father. My brothers did not like this and decided to get rid of me. One day, my father sent me to check on my brothers. They threw me into a pit and then sold me to some men traveling to Egypt. I spent the rest of my life in Egypt. I worked hard for Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. As a result, he rewarded and trusted me. I did spend time in jail because a woman accused me of doing some bad things I did not do. However, God was always with me. God gave me the ability to interpret dreams and do things for Him. During a famine, my father sent my brothers to Egypt to buy food. They had to come to me to ask for food. I recognized them, but they did not recognize me. I was able to help my family. All of my family moved from Israel to Egypt. I did not understand everything God wanted me to do at the beginning, but God used me to do a great thing for Him. Who am I? (*Joseph*)

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# WHAT AM I?

Answer the following questions as honestly as possible.

If you were asked to do something at church, what would you choose?

- A. Teach a children's Sunday School class
- B. Greet people coming to church
- C. Clean up (so no one sees you)
- D. Help get things in order

Which of the following would be the activity you enjoy most?

- A. Having a party for your friends
- B. Encouraging someone who was sad
- C. Cleaning up the yard of an elderly couple
- D. Planning a fun party for people

At school, which of the following would the teacher ask you to do?

- A. Lead a group
- B. Greet visitors
- C. Prepare the music and arrange chairs
- D. Plan the day (invite a special speaker)

Which of the following would you say describes the thought you would most likely have?

- A. Sad for people who do not have much
- B. Help make people happy
- C. Do a good deed without thinking of complaining
- D. Know God can accomplish things people cannot

What could you see yourself doing?

- A. Teaching
- B. Helping others
- C. Leading others
- D. Letting God lead the way

What have others said to you (or about you) the most out of the following list?

- A. You love to explain things to others.
- B. You are compassionate.
- C. You are a leader.
- D. You trust God to lead you.

Add up the number of answers you have for each letter:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.