

Jesus Sends Out Twelve Disciples

Matthew 10

4

Lesson



Teacher Background

What Happens: Jesus gives his disciples authority to do the amazing miracles he's been doing. He gives them a pep talk and encourages them to carry his message to anyone who'll hear it, to endure persecution, and to love him more than anything. Jesus equipped them, and he equips us! Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.

Why It Matters: Kids can do a lot to help spread Jesus' love! Empower them with this lesson, and help them see that Jesus trusts them to do big things for him.

Think About: What big things has Jesus used you to do as a Sunday school teacher? In what ways do you want him to empower you more?

Pray that God will work in mighty ways through the kids in your class. And pray that God will equip *you* to best transform kids' lives.



Point

Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.



Key Verse

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

QUICK TIP

As you discuss what kids can do for Jesus, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. God may be stirring kids' hearts with gifts and passions they're just becoming aware of. As you lead the class, watch for kids' surprising talents—even if they're masked by what seem to be annoying traits. A kid who won't stop talking may be an evangelist in the making. A class clown could be displaying misdirected leadership traits. Pour into all kids to help them develop their gifts for God.

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER	SUPPLIES
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.	
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Mirror the leader's actions.	Jesus showed his followers what to do so they could do it, too.	• Bible
PLAY A GAME Quickly follow commands.	We can follow Jesus' lead.	• painter's tape
PRAY TOGETHER Each receive a blessing.	A blessing can prepare us to do what Jesus asks.	



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we're going to learn that ➡ **Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.** And Jesus could do some awesome stuff!

ASK: What's something you wish you could do? Share your own answer first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: We all have things we can't do that we wish we could. In today's Bible story, Jesus gave his close friends the ability to do amazing miracles because ➡ **Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.**



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible

QUICK TIP

Got a hammy teenager in your church? Ask them to come in to create the poses with over-the-top fun and drama.

COPY THE LEADER



Open the Bible to Matthew 10, and show kids the words.

SAY: In today's Bible story, we'll see how Jesus taught his friends some important skills. As we learn what Jesus' friends learned to do, we'll act it out. Your challenge is to copy what I do—exactly. Here's the first thing Jesus wanted his friends to do.



Read Matthew 10:1.

Stretch one hand out in front of you and point up with the other hand to represent healing. Kids should mirror your motion.

SAY: Jesus gave his friends power to heal people. You know who else healed people? Jesus! His friends had spent a lot of time watching him do miracles, and now he gave them the power to copy what he did. ➡ **Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.** So he sent out his friends to do miracles. Listen to his next instructions.



Read Matthew 10:7.

SAY: Jesus said to announce that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. That means Jesus, the King, had come to earth! I'll give you 30 seconds to walk around and make that announcement all around our room—as if you're telling lots of people.

Wave your arms just like this (demonstrate waving your arms excitedly) **and say, “The Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Ready? Go!** Pause for around 30 seconds.



Read Matthew 10:8. Explain that leprosy is a skin disease.

SAY: Jesus said to heal the sick.

Pose like you're sick, and have kids mirror you.

SAY: Jesus said to raise the dead.

Lie down, then stand up.

SAY: Jesus said to give as freely as they received.

Put out one hand and then the other, back and forth, as if you're rapidly giving things away.

SAY: Jesus also warned that doing these things wouldn't be easy. He warned his friends that people would call them names.

Pose with your hand over your mouth as if shocked.

SAY: He warned that they would be arrested and threatened.

Put your hands behind your back and look scared.

SAY: And he warned that some people would hate them.

Pose with arms folded and look grumpy.

ASK: How would you feel if Jesus warned *you* all those things would happen to you?

SAY: We might feel scared about Jesus' warnings, but he also said *not* to be afraid. He told his friends that he would give them the words to say when they were arrested, and he said no one could ever hurt their souls.

Stand confidently. Then take a seat.

ASK: Was it easy or hard to copy my poses? Show me a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

ASK: Explain whether you think it's easy or hard to copy what Jesus does.

SAY: ➡ **Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.** He trusts us to share his love with everyone. That might not always be easy, but Jesus gives us the power to do it with courage.

TALK ABOUT IT

SAY: Jesus did a lot of miracles. He healed people, raised people from the dead, multiplied food, walked on water, and calmed storms. And ➡ **Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.** He even said his followers would go on to do greater works than he did! (See John 14:12.)

ASK: Which of Jesus' miracles would you most want to do yourself?

SAY: ➡ **Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.** The more time we spend with Jesus, the more he can help us do what he did.





FOLLOW FAST-PACED INSTRUCTIONS

SAY: Today we read words straight from Jesus' mouth! Isn't that a great thing about the Bible? Even though Jesus spoke those words thousands of years ago, they're here for us today in the Bible.

Jesus' words showed the disciples he trusted them to do what he was doing. Jesus knows best what to do, and he trusts us to follow his lead, too.

Following Jesus' lead is kind of like being on a ship with Jesus as our captain. I have an awesome game for us to play where you'll pretend to be my crew for a fun peek into what it's like to follow a captain.

Have kids gather in the center of the ship area you've taped on the floor. Then say the following commands and demonstrate what it looks like to follow the command quickly. Identify the parts of the ship, such as the bow and stern, as you go. Allow kids to practice each command once with you before you go to the head of the ship (the bow) and call out the commands to be followed.

When you call out the commands, the goal for your crew is to follow each command as quickly and accurately as they can. Gradually increase how quickly you go from command to command in random order to make the game more challenging and more fun. The ship commands are

- Bow! (Run to the bow of the ship.)
- Stern! (Run to the stern of the ship.)
- Port! (Run to the left side of the ship, when facing the bow.)
- Starboard! (Run to the right side of the ship, when facing the bow.)
- Set sail! (Run to a place along the center line of the ship, from bow to stern, and pretend to pull ropes to raise sails.)
- Scrub the deck! (Drop to your knees wherever you are on the ship and pretend to scrub the floor.)

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: What was it like to learn new commands and then follow them right away?

ASK: In life, what are things you've had to learn to do that weren't easy at first—or still aren't easy? Share an example from your life first to help kids think of their own.

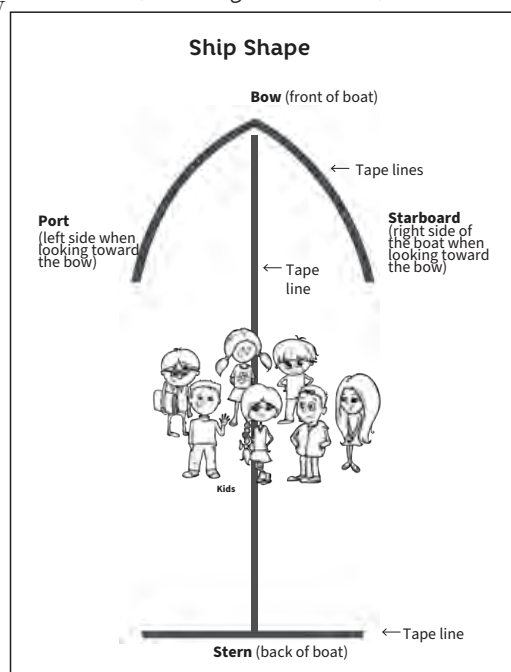
SAY: Like a good captain, ➡ Jesus trusts us to do what he can do because he shows us how—through what we can read about him in the Bible and what we see he's doing all around us every day. And Jesus gives us power to live and love like him!

SUPPLIES

- painter's tape

EASY PREP

- At one end of the room, tape 2 lines that come together at a point—this is the bow of your ship. At the opposite end of the room, tape a line parallel to the point of the other lines—this is the stern of your ship. Connect the point and the parallel line with a long tape line. (See diagram below.)



QUICK TIP

If your class skews younger, choose three instructions and repeat those again and again.

QUICK TIP

Use the diagram above for keeping the commands straight as you play the game.



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



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SAY: One thing Jesus did when he lived on earth was bless children—like you!

A blessing is a prayer that asks God to prepare something or someone for special work. You might bless food before you eat it and ask God to use the food to help you stay healthy and strong. You could ask God to bless our church leaders and help them do God's special work.

Today I'd like to pray a blessing over each of you. I'll ask Jesus to help you experience his love today.

I'll call each of you by name. When I do, please stand up. Stay standing while I pray a blessing for you. Then you may have a seat, and I'll call the next person.

Walk to each child, calling the child by name. As you bless each child, place your hand on the child's shoulder. Then move to the next person.

PRAY: Dear Jesus, please bless [child's name]. Help [child's name] experience your love today.

SAY: ➡ Jesus trusts us to do what he can do. May Jesus bless you and keep you as you live for him today.

