

# Footprints

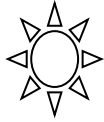
## Lesson 1 – Footprints of a Friend

- In today's lesson the children will learn about the topic of the month: Following on Jesus' Footprints.
- His footprints will lead us to the apostles, the house of God, the cross and then to His resurrection.
- This month's Life Point: *I am saved by GOD's Grace.*

### Scripture Study

John 15:13, Matthews 26:50,  
Luke 6:13

**Story:** *Jesus chooses his Apostles*  
Luke 6:12-16



### Prayer:

*Father GOD, we are saved by  
Your grace alone. Lord give these  
children and myself a spirit of  
repentance, surrender and  
humility before You. In Jesus  
name. amen.*

### Memory Verse

Ephesians 2:8

"God saved you by his grace when  
you believed. And you can't take  
credit for this; it is a gift from God."



### Memory Verse Song:

Seeds Family Worship –  
Ephesians 2:8  
"Grace"

### You Tube Link

[https://youtu.be/1Ku99SX\\_sX8](https://youtu.be/1Ku99SX_sX8)

### The Redemption Story

(10-15 min.)

*The point of this activity is to present the salvation message in brief at each lesson.*

**Instructions:** Follow the pictures on the board or Power Point slide to tell the children about God's plan to restore our relationship with Him. Invite children who are familiar with the pictures to describe the images to the class. Always have someone ready in the classroom to pray with a child who desires to accept Jesus as his Savior or to be available to pray for any needs a child may have.

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### Object Lesson

(15 minutes)

#### Supplies:

##### **33 AD costume -**

A bed sheet or long piece of fabric wrapped around the teacher like a robe and a scarf. (This will be used each week this month)

##### **Heavy books**

(Follow the 'Footprints Stations' and set up a classroom or a hall for this month) (Wear the 33 AD costume)

Good Morning kids! So, do you like my outfit? (be funny and model your outfit) What period of time does this outfit remind you? (The times of Jesus on earth.)

Well I am dressed like this because this month we will be following on Jesus' Footprints. From calling the disciples, to the temple, then we will follow Jesus to the cross and then to His resurrection.

Today we will learn about the Apostles. No one knows the true meaning of a friend better than Jesus. One day Jesus told His disciples *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13)

Jesus did not choose ONE disciple or ONE apostle; he selected a group of disciples and apostles because He understood the value of a friend.

I need a volunteer. (Choose a child) I want you to extend your arms and open your hands in front of you. (Place a book on his hands) Are you okay with it? Is it heavy? How about now? (add a second book, then a third and so on) (Be careful that the child does not get hurt – when you notice the child to struggle ask for a friend to come help him.) Your friend can help you by holding some of the books for you.

Raise your hand if you think friends are really important. (wait for response) Jesus thought so too.

#### *Teaching Tips:*

- Prayer is essential to your Christian walk. Prayer is essential to teaching children. Spend time in prayer when preparing for Sunday School.
- The children become better listeners when they see that you are excited about the lesson.
- Do not be afraid of making mistakes. Do however accept your errors before the class and make the appropriate corrections. (2 Timothy 2:15)

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### *The Message*

#### Supplies:

#### **33 AD costume**

\*After the *Message* play a worship song.

Have children turn toward a wall or face the front of the classroom. Away from facing each other.

Lead them in worship of God.

Seek after God.  
*Where two or three are gathered in His name, He is there!*

#### **Storytelling tip:**

Think about what the apostles must have felt when Jesus called them his friends.

Think about what Judas must have felt when Jesus called him friend at the garden.

I want you to imagine.... It is around 30 AD. You have heard the prophecies that speak of a Messiah. A savior that will come to rescue your people from the oppression. A rescuer who will be no other than the Son of God himself.

He will rescue his people from false religious teachers. He will ignite the people of God with compassion for one another and bring justice to the poor. You believe the prophecies. Then someone tells you about Jesus. What do you do?! (wait for responses)

I would want to see him, hear him and learn what he has to share. That is exactly what many people did. Those who followed Jesus to learn from his teachings and follow his way of life were called **disciples**.

Yet only ***twelve*** were called **Apostles**. **Let's read Luke 6:12-16.**

The word used in the Bible for **disciple** means *someone who learns from a teacher the meaning of scripture and how to follow and apply the scripture* in their lives.

The word used in the Bible for **apostle** means *a messenger, one commissioned by another to represent him in some way, focusing on the authority of the sender.*

To these twelve Jesus says *"No longer do I call you servants, ...but I have called you friends ..."* (John 15:15) Jesus paired his apostles in twos and sent them to the cities to reach the lost. He understood they would need each other.

The word *friend* that Jesus used here means *someone dearly loved, trusted, prized, in a personal intimate way*. Jesus loves everyone in the world. But those who represent him in some way; those who carry Jesus' love, his hope and his authority in them, those are his friends.

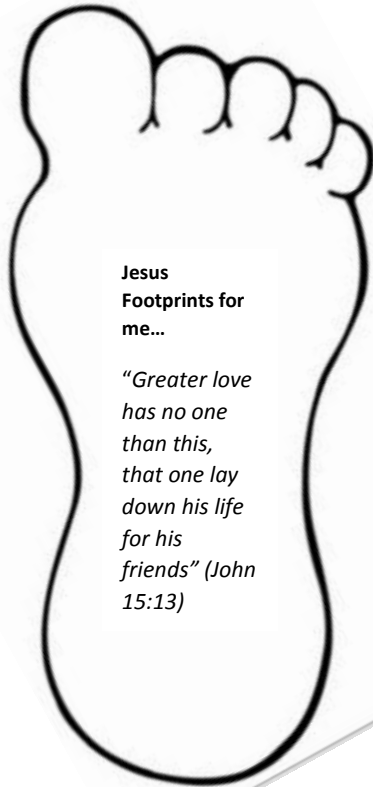
When Judas betrays Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus again calls him 'friend'. (Matthews 26:50) But this time the meaning has changed. Here the word *friend* means *imposter. Someone with his own interests in mind*. Jesus strips him from His trust, from being His prized possession. Jesus strips Judas from His love.

Jesus understands this life is difficult. He gets it. But his footprints lead us to surround ourselves with friends that not only learn about His teachings but with friends that **actually** walk in his authority and love.

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## Lesson 1 – Footprints of a Friend

Use construction paper. One per child. Have each child draw their footprint on the paper. Cut the footprint outline. Have the children color or decorate the footprint with stickers. Print and glue the verse below. Add a magnet to the back of the footprint. Have each child write their name and age on the back on the footprint.



Jesus Footprints  
for me...

*“Greater love  
has no one  
than this, that  
one lay down  
his life for his  
friends” (John  
15:13)*

Jesus  
Footprints for  
me...

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### ADDITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THIS MONTH

(These activities are to be used when you have spare time after a lesson)

#### Good Friends Stick Together (week 1)

**Items:** 2 Balls

**Presentation:** Good friends will stick with you through good and difficult situations. Jesus is this kind of friend. **Jesus also wants you to surround yourself with good friends that will support you in your Christian walk.** “...*There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.*” – Prov. 18:24

**Instructions:** Clear a path in the classroom. Chose three children to stand next to each other. Place a ball in between each child. The kids have to stick really close to each other so that the balls will not fall from in between. Have the kids take a walk around the classroom. Have the other kids encourage them as they walk. If a ball falls put it back and encourage them to finish the walk. Have other children take turns.

#### Prayer House (week 2)

**Items:** Worship music. Display a Board with “The Lord’s Prayer”. Display a Prayer List.

**Presentation:** Is your house a house of prayer? Jesus clearly wants for us to pray in the church, in our homes and wherever we go. You and me are Jesus temple. We are His house because His Spirit lives inside of us. **“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”** Matthew 18:20

**Instructions:** Today we are going to pray until your parents arrive to pick you up. We are going to seek His face. You can sit down and pray. You can walk around and pray. You can stand and pray. If you don’t know how to pray read the Prayer Board. If you don’t know what to pray for look at the Prayer List. But please whatever you do, DO NOT GIVE UP, pray and press to see His face.

#### The Bridge (week 3)

**Items:** Heavy weights or rocks. A book bag.

**Presentation:** The Bible says that **“He (Jesus) personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right...”** 1 Peter 2:24 These rocks here represent your sin. I am going to put them in the book bag. Now this line represents GOD and this line represents you. The distance in between is the distance between GOD and You because of your sin. Do you think that you can get to GOD, by jumping across while carrying your own sins on your back? Who wants to try?

**Instructions:** Mark two lines with duct tape. There should be a distance of six feet between the lines. With a marker write GOD on one and ME on the other. Have a child put on the book bag with her ‘sins’ in it and try to jump to get to GOD. (Use wisdom and be careful that no child gets hurt) After allowing a few children to try – tape construction paper on the form of a cross to cover the gap between GOD and the child. Have a child then lay down the book bag and cross the bridge to GOD.

#### GOD’s Not Dead!! (week 4)

**Items:** Worship and Praise music. Worship flags.

**Presentation:** The Bible says that when some women came to bring spices to anoint the body of Jesus they saw two angels in the tomb. The angels said “He is not here, but is risen!” The women were surprised, afraid, but also happy! They were excited! They ran to tell the others! Let’s worship GOD!

**Instructions:** Invite the children to celebrate Jesus by dancing until their parents arrive! Move the chairs and put songs that are lively for the kids to dance and glorify the LORD!