



LESSON 2

I WILL FOLLOW GOD AND MAKE GOOD CHOICES!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Our Bible Verse this week is Matthew 16:24. Jesus tells his disciples how to follow Him.

In our Bible Story, the Israelites choose to follow God instead of looking for an easier way. Read Exodus 13:17-14:31 with your child.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Play follow the leader with your family. Have the followers mimic every motion of the leader as he or she leads the group around the house, yard, or room. Set a timer and switch leaders each time the timer goes off. Have one member of your family serve as a judge to determine who is the best follower. You could give a small prize to the person who wins. After the game, discuss how following God is different than following a person. Discuss ways that we can “see” God in order to follow Him: read the Bible, go to church, talk to God in prayer, follow the example of godly people.

TAKE UP THE CROSS

Give each family member a blank piece of paper and have them draw a cross on it. Make sure the cross is drawn thick enough for them to write inside of it. Read Matthew 16:24. Explain that Jesus took up the cross to save us from sin. It wasn't easy and He even asked God if there was another way. In the end, Jesus went to the cross and died. But that's not all, Jesus was brought back to life! In our lives we may be tempted to do things our way instead of God's way. Ask each person to tell a time when they had a chance to do something God's way, or to do something another way. Give an example from your own life first. Write down “God's way” on the paper inside of the cross. Write good choices there. Then write “other ways” on the paper outside of the cross. Help each family member to fill up the paper and the cross with “other ways” and “God's ways.” When you have finished writing, give each family member a pair of scissors and have them cut out the cross from the paper. Tell them that to follow God we have to take up our cross and do things God's way, not our way, or our friend's way, or the popular way. Put the crosses where your family will see them regularly, and have each of them throw away their paper with the other ways on it.