

LESSON 2

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE ACTIVITIES?

LESSON GOAL: The children will learn that God guides His people, and we will follow Him more closely when we are alongside other believers.

MAIN POINT: God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

BIBLE STORY: God guides the Israelites through the wilderness. (*Exodus 13:17 - 22*)

BIBLE VERSE: "For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." *Matthew 18:20 (NLT)*

THE NEXT STEP (OPENING ACTIVITY)

In this opening activity, the children will learn that God is their guide and when they follow Him, they will always be where they need to be to take the next step.

SKIT AND BIBLE STORY (LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY)

This Skit and Bible Story will teach the children that God guides His people, and we will follow Him more closely when we are alongside other believers.

POST CARD (WEEKLY REVIEW CRAFT ACTIVITY)

This activity will allow the children to review the Bible Story and give them a tool to invite a friend to church.

CIRCLE SIT (APPLICATION ACTIVITY)

In this application activity, the children will learn that their lives are better when they attend church regularly, because it is easier to follow God together with other believers.

EASIER TOGETHER (APPLICATION ACTIVITY)

In this application activity, the children will learn that it is easier to follow God with a group of believers at church.

PEN PALS (APPLICATION ACTIVITY)

In this application activity, the children will learn that they can follow God better when they attend church regularly.

CAMP GAMES (REVIEW GAME LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY)

This is a strategic time to review and reinforce the content of the lesson.

LESSON 2

God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

Single Teacher using "Watch It/Train" DVD

Watching the Bible Story and Skit on DVD



PURPOSE:

This Skit and Bible Story will teach the children that God guides His people, and we will follow Him more closely when we are alongside other believers.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

None.

- Lead the children through the Opening Activity.
- Begin Worship Time.

Note: For this lesson use Sound Track CD # 1.



1



1

TEACHER

Welcome, friends! It's so great to see everyone here during our series, Allaso Ranch. Just the words, "Allaso Ranch" make me think of the great outdoors... camping, being outside in nature, and hanging out with friends. And speaking of my friends, that's you, nothing gets me going like singing songs with all of you. Everybody up!



2



3

Pick 1 song to sing

Teacher leads the children in singing the song(s). The song motions can be found in the "Extras" menu on this DVD.



4

TEACHER

That singing was terrific! It's so cool to hear all of your voices singing together. It really is a powerful thing. And if you think it sounds good to me, I imagine it sounds pretty sweet to God when we worship Him together. At Allaso Ranch, it is very important to start the day off by praising God through songs. It sets the tone for the rest of the day. And talk about powerful, just imagine hundreds of kids singing together at the top of their lungs. Speaking of which, today's Main Point talks about something we can do together, too. It says: **God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!** The Main Point is what we'll be focusing on for the day, so let's stand up and do some hand motions to help us remember it.



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The Teacher leads the children by first demonstrating the Main Point with motions. These motions should be similar to cheerleader-type hand motions. The Teacher can make up the motions or have the children help come up with them. Once everyone has gone over the Main Point, have the children repeat it with motions two or three times.

TEACHER

Great job on that Main Point! The louder the Main Point, the prouder the Main Point! **God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!** What do you think that means? *(allows children to respond)* Yes, a guide is someone who leads you and shows you the way to go. Our Main Point is saying that God is there to lead us and show us the way to live, so we should follow Him. And when it says we should follow Him together, that means that we should follow God with others who believe in Him. It's important to spend time with other believers so that we are encouraged to learn more about God and grow in our faith. Right now, we're going to head out to the camp to see if today's Bible Story can give us more insight on following God.



5 Note: Play "Bible Story Video" chapter # 5.

TEACHER

Can you imagine what it would look like to see a million people walking on foot through the desert? I'm sure it would be quite a sight. And it would be pretty awesome for God to lead us these days by clouds and fire. But even though God doesn't guide us with clouds and fire like He did for the Israelites, He still gives us an awesome tool for guidance. We have the Bible, and as the video mentioned, the Bible uses stories, advice, commandments, and encouragement to lead us. In fact, right now we're going to delve into the Bible even more and explore today's Bible Verse.



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"For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

5



6



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TEACHER

In this verse, Jesus says that He is with His followers when they gather together in a group. Does this mean that Jesus isn't there if you pray or worship by yourself? No, He's definitely there. But, we're instructed to follow Him with other believers. That's why it's so great to come to church each week so we can follow God's guidance in the company of others who will support us in our faith. So when you're at church today or in the future, not only are you having fun and learning a lot, you're also honoring God's plan for you to follow Him with others. Now, let's check back at the camp at Allaso Ranch and pay a visit to Fisher and Perry. Something tells me Perry may have some interesting and unusual ideas for the campers this year.



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Note: Play "Skit Video" chapter # 7 followed by "Race Video" chapter # 8.

TEACHER

Thank goodness Perry's "every man for himself" survival idea got the boot! That wouldn't have been fun at all. It's important to have a guide and a group of people to camp with. Not only is it safer to camp in a group, but so much of why camp is fun is because you get to do it with a bunch of other campers. Everyone supports and encourages one another. And when you're with your cabin mates or your team, you develop a sense of pride in your group. So let's look again at what we've learned today. Our Main Point makes it clear that **God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!** And God gives us the Bible to guide us in our faith. But He also surrounds us with other believers to influence us to strengthen our relationship with God as we follow Him together. ~~And now, we're going to worship together in prayer and with our offering. This is a time that we can come together and give thanks to God for who He is and all He's done for us. We do that by giving back just a small amount of all that He's given to us. Please pray with me as we prepare our hearts to give.~~



9

~~OFFERING~~



2

~~*Note: Lead the children in prayer. If you want to, include elements of the lesson you are teaching today. For instance,*~~

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LESSON 2

~~today we are talking about following God's guidance together. So, you might say, "God, thank You for guiding us with Your Word, the Bible. And thank You for giving us others to walk alongside and grow with. Help us to be more like You every day. Amen." Take up the offering.~~

TEACHER



10 Now, we're going to continue learning more during our Small Group time!

Note: If you are staying in your room, transition to the Small Group activities by reviewing the Main Point. You can have the children say it fast, slow, while hopping on one foot, or even while walking around the room. Challenge them to get back to their seats before you can finish reciting the Main Point. If your Small Group(s) travel to a second room or location, have the children repeat the Main Point while walking in various ways. Ex: Skipping, crawling, walking backwards, pretending to drive, pretending to fly, etc.



11 SMALL GROUPS

Teacher greets the children as they return from Small Groups.

TEACHER



1 Today, we've been talking about how God guides us and how we can follow Him together with other believers. Now,



12 let's play a review game and spend some time reviewing all the important things we've learned today.

Note: For specific instructions on how to lead the children through this Review Game, you will need to print out "Camp Games Lesson 2" from your Lesson Materials CD-ROM. Lead the children through the questions. Press "play" when a child has given you the right answer.

CLOSING

TEACHER



1 It was so fun being with you guys today! Try to remember the Main Point throughout the week: **God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!** And we will see you all next week as we head back to Allaso Ranch.

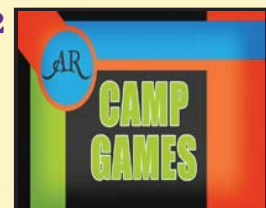
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THE NEXT STEP

OPENING ACTIVITY

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

PURPOSE:

In this opening activity, the children will learn that God is their guide and when they follow Him, they will always be where they need to be to take the next step.

DESCRIPTION:

In this activity, the children will collect pictures of items needed to go on a camping trip. The teacher will then instruct the children that they need to gather the items in the correct order. In the first round however, the teacher will not tell the children the correct order and so the children will not know what the correct next step is. The children will play the game again, except this time they follow behind the teacher and are guided to the correct next steps.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

For this activity, you will need this Help Sheet and the "Camping Gear Pictures Lesson 2" from the Lesson Materials CD-ROM.

Note: There needs to be multiple copies of the pictures, so every child will be able to collect a picture of each item. Make a pile of each item and place the piles around the room.

TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. Welcome back to Allaso Ranch!
2. Today we are going camping. But before we go, we need to gather our supplies.

For detailed instructions on how to lead the activity, see the Small Group Leader DVD.

TO LEAD THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. As you look around the room, you will notice piles of different items needed to go camping.
2. Everyone needs to grab one picture of each item.
3. But you must grab the items in the correct order.
4. Once you have collected all of the items, come to me and I will tell you if they are in the correct order or not.
5. Ready? Set? Go!

Note: As the children are running around collecting the items, go around collecting them for yourself in the correct order, but do not encourage the children to follow you. If any of the children ask for the correct order, do not tell them. When a child has the wrong order, instruct them to put the items back and try again. Allow a few minutes for the children to try and find the right order before you stop everyone and play again. The second time you play the game, have the children follow behind you as you guide them to the items in the correct order.

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THE NEXT STEP

OPENING ACTIVITY

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Correct order: Backpack, food, cooking equipment, clothes, toothbrush, flashlight, fire supplies, hiking shoes, sleeping bags, water, and tent.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. When we played the game the first time, did you have the pictures in the correct order? *(No.)*
2. Why is that? *(Because we didn't know what the correct order was.)*
3. However when we played the game the second time, everyone was able to collect the items in the correct order. Why? *(Because we followed you and you knew the correct order.)*
4. Yes. In this game, you needed to follow me in order to make the correct next step to have the items in the correct order. I was your guide and as long as you were following me, you were making the correct next step.
5. It's the same with God. He is the guide for our lives and when we follow Him, we will always be where we need to be to make the next step.

CLOSING STATEMENT:

Today we are going to learn that God is our guide and we need to follow Him in our lives. When we do, we will always be where we need to be to make the next step. Let's go into Large Group and learn more about it.



TOOTHBRUSH



FOOD



BACKPACK



FLASHLIGHT



COOKING EQUIPMENT



HIKING SHOES



CLOTHES



WATER



TENT



SLEEPING BAGS



FIRE SUPPLIES

CIRCLE SIT

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

PURPOSE:

In this application activity, the children will learn that their lives are better when they attend church regularly, because it is easier to follow God together with other believers.

DESCRIPTION:

In this activity, the children will stand in a circle and then sit in each other's laps, trying to support each other's weight.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

For this activity, you will need this Help Sheet.

TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. In our lives, there are many things that are easier to do with other people like playing soccer, cleaning up a big mess, or playing catch.
2. Following God is like that, too. It is easier to follow God when we do it with other believers. Then we can lean on them for support.

For detailed instructions on how to lead the activity, see the Small Group Leader DVD.

Note: Ask the following question to a particular child in your group.

TO LEAD THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. Let's try it. Go ahead and see if you can pick another person up.
2. Now let's see if you can support the weight of two people.
3. How about all of them, do you think you could support the weight of all of the kids? (No.)
4. Not by yourself you couldn't, but if everyone in the group helped you, then it would make this task a lot easier.
5. Lets try it!
6. I need everyone to stand in a circle with their shoulders touching. Go ahead and squeeze together and make the circle as tight as you can.
7. Now everyone turn to your right. You should be looking at the back of the person's head in front of you. Make sure you stay in your circle!
8. Everyone needs to sit down as if you are sitting in a chair into the person's lap behind you.
9. Look! Everyone is supporting each other's weight!

Note: Have the children then stand up carefully to get out of the circle.

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CIRCLE SIT

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AFTER THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. In this activity, could only one person support the weight of everyone else? (No.)
2. No, you needed the help of everyone in order for their weight to be supported.
3. The same goes for when we follow God.
4. When we come to church regularly, we support each other as we follow God with other believers, and when we do, our lives are better!

CLOSING STATEMENT:

We are better able to follow God when we attend church regularly. Church makes following God better because we have others around us to help us do it. Just like in this activity, where it was better when everyone helped and worked together as a group, we are better when we follow God together!

EASIER TOGETHER

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

PURPOSE:

In this application activity, the children will learn that it is easier to follow God with a group of believers at church.

DESCRIPTION:

In this activity, the children will try to pick up a ball by only using their heads. At first only one child will try, and then others will join and the task will become easier.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

For this activity, you will need this Help Sheet and a large ball.

Note: The ball should be about the size of a basketball or bigger.

TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. What is our Main Point today? (*God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!*)
2. That's right! Today we are learning that we should follow God along with other believers.
3. We are going to play a game to show us what it is like when we follow God with other believers.

For detailed instructions on how to lead the activity, see the Small Group Leader DVD.

Note: Have the children sit in a circle and place the ball in the center.

TO LEAD THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. First, I need a volunteer.
2. Now, I want you to try and pick up this ball using only your head.
3. I need another volunteer.
4. I want the two of you to try and pick up the ball using your heads. Keep the ball on the ground, and then put your heads on either side of the ball and try to pick it up.
5. I need another volunteer.
6. I want the three of you to link arms and put the ball in between your heads and try and pick up the ball.

Note: Continue to add more and more children until all of the children have linked arms and are picking up the ball with their heads.

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EASIER TOGETHER

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AFTER THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. Good job, everyone! When there was only one person, was it hard to pick up the ball? *(Yes.)*
2. When did it get easier to pick up the ball? *(When there were more people helping.)*
3. Yes, when more than one person tried to pick up the ball, the task became much easier.

CLOSING STATEMENT:

In this game, when you worked together to pick up the ball, the task became easier. The same goes for following God. It is easier to follow God when we follow Him together as believers. And a place where you can come and follow God with other believers is the church.

CAMP GAMES: LINE 'EM UP

REVIEW GAME INSTRUCTIONS

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

PURPOSE:

This is a strategic time to review and reinforce the content of the lesson.

DESCRIPTION:

The children will compete to answer review questions and play a camp-themed game. This week's game involves passing numbered tennis balls from the back of the room to the front and lining them up in the correct order.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

For this activity, you will need this Help Sheet. For each team you will need 10 tennis balls numbered 1-10 and 10 cups.

Note: Divide the children into two teams before you begin the activity.

TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. I've divided you into two teams. There are two ways to earn points for your team.
2. First, I will ask questions about today's lesson. And if your team answers the question correctly, you will score points for your team.
3. At the front of the room there are ten cups for each team. At the back of the room, for each team, there are ten tennis balls numbered 1-10.
4. Each team will have to pass, not throw, the tennis balls to the front of the room. One member from each team will receive all of the tennis balls and line them up in the cups in the right order.
5. The first team with all of the tennis balls lined up in the cups in the right order wins points for that round!

TO LEAD THE ACTIVITY SAY:

1. Choose a member of your team to be at the front of the room to receive the tennis balls.
2. Get ready for the first question!

Note: Ask the review questions by reading from the screen or from page 2 of this Help Sheet. After each question, have the children pass the tennis balls from the back of the room to the front. If the children are in chairs, have the children roll the tennis balls underneath the chairs. Have a different child be the one to receive the tennis balls each round. After all the questions, add up the points and declare a winner.

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CAMP GAMES: LINE 'EM UP

REVIEW GAME QUESTIONS

Lesson 2 - God Is Our Guide, So We Should Follow Him Together!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1. How does God help guide us in our lives today?
 - A. He sends a pillar of cloud to guide us where we should go.
 - B. He wants us to decide on our own where to go and what to do.
 - C. He gave us the Bible to guide us.**
 - D. God doesn't guide us today.
2. True or false? You should choose to follow God by yourself and not with anyone else.
 - A. True. Following God works best when people are alone.
 - B. False. God wants us to follow Him together at church.**
3. Imagine you and your friend stayed up really late the night before church. In the morning, your friend tells you he doesn't want to go to church because he is too tired. You are also really tired, what should you do?
 - A. Go to church and don't stay up so late in the future.**
 - B. Stay home and sleep the rest of that day to catch up on the sleep you lost.
 - C. Go to church and sit in the back so you can sleep throughout the entire service.
 - D. Stay home and then promise your mom that you will go to church next weekend.
4. In today's Bible Story, how did God guide the Israelites during the day and during the night?
 - A. By giving them a map to show them the way to go for both the day and the night.
 - B. By a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night.**
 - C. By a pillar of fire during the day and during the night.
 - D. By a dove during the day and a raven during the night.
5. In the skit, Perry wanted the campers to survive on their own. Why was this a bad idea?
 - A. Because Perry's idea was dangerous.
 - B. Because God wants us following Him together, not on our own.
 - C. Because camp is better when you experience it in a group.
 - D. All of the above.**
6. Fill in the blanks. "For where two or three gather _____ as my _____, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20 (NLT)
 - A. together, followers.**
 - B. patiently, children.
 - C. together, friends.
 - D. quietly, disciples.

Return to script to close the service.