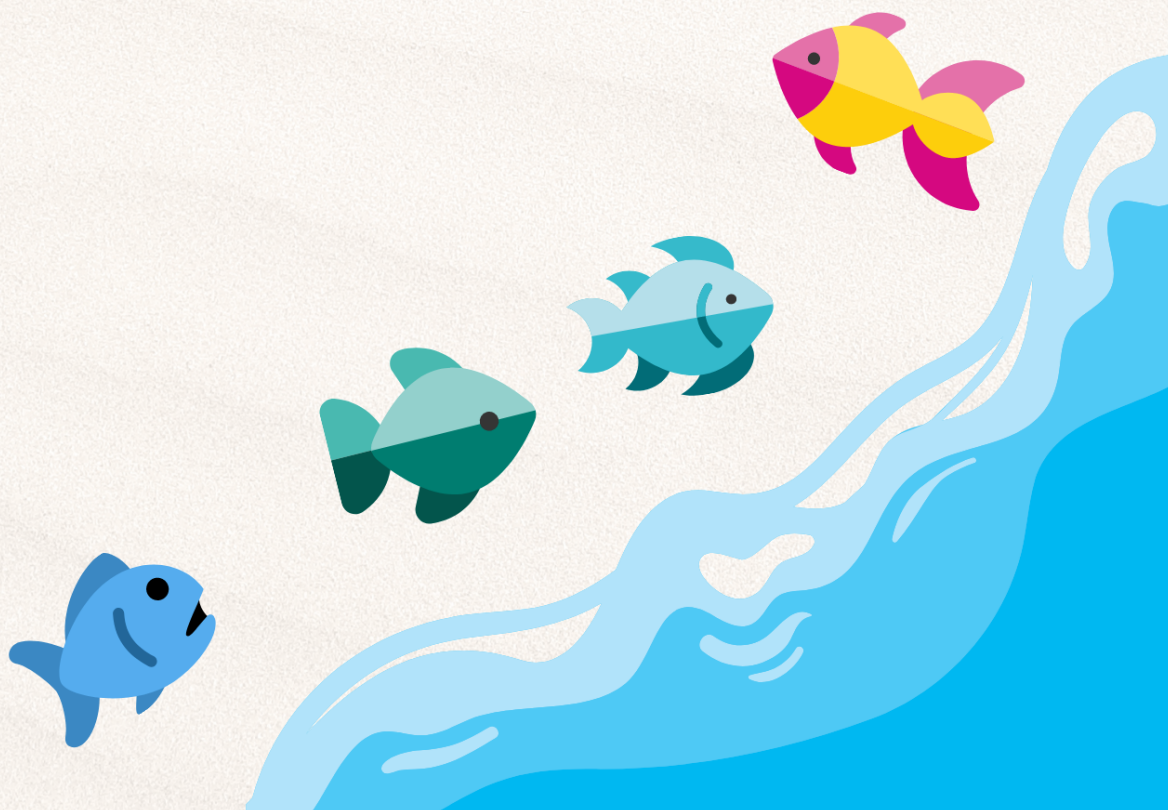


Walking with Jesus



High Bridge
Presbyterian Church
VBS 2021

Family Back at Home Guide



“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

Jesus’ words to his first disciples are words for all his disciples. To be a disciple is to follow Jesus: to move, and run, and play, and work, and serve, and learn, and love with hearts after God. Being a disciple of Jesus isn’t something we are just on Sundays or whenever we think about it. Following Jesus is a 24/7 calling that begins even before we were born and continues our whole lives long.

During our VBS day, we explored four different Bible stories play, song, service, food, and worship. In this guide, you’ll find the four passages and the scripture verses we highlighted from each. Read the passages together. Engage them with the Explore, Share, Act, and Pray prompts for each passage. Sing our VBS theme song – We Will Walk with God – in the car, at home, at play. May this guide help you and your family continue to grow as disciples.

742 We Will Walk with God

Sizohamba naye



We will walk with God, my broth-ers; we will walk with God.

Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



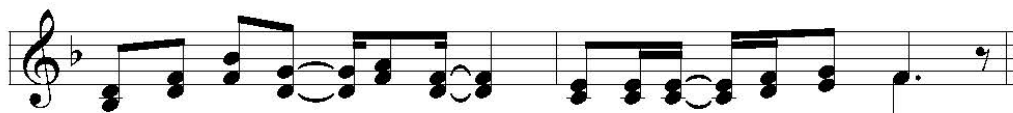
We will walk with God, my sis-ters; we will walk with God.

Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.

Ngom - hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.

Ngom - hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.

Translator: John L. Bell

Source: Swaziland traditional hymn; transcribed The Swedish Exchange Project, Meeting Swaziland

Language: English; Swati

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Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. **And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’** Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Explore

Fishing for People Activity

Need: construction paper, pipe cleaners, popsicle stick/paper towel tub/other household item to serve as a fishing rod, a yard of yarn/string, scissors, hole punch

Cut out enough fish per family member. Write each family member’s name on a fish.

Punch a hole at the end of each fish head.

Cut enough pipe cleaners in half to have one half per fish.

Thread the pipe cleaner half through each fish, twisting the ends to form a circle.

Tie the yarn/string to the middle of your popsicle stick.

Take half a pipe cleaner, form it into a hook, and tie it free end of the yarn.

Now, go fishing! Take turns using your fishing rod to fish for people!

Share

With your family and/or your friends, share your responses to these questions:

What do you think it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

Who has helped you learn about Jesus?

How might you help others learn about Jesus?

Act

Come up with one concrete way you can follow Jesus this week – either as individuals or as a family. Some ideas may include: reading a bible story each night; sharing a kind word with someone each day; going one whole day without saying something mean or untrue.

Pray

Lord God, help us as we try to follow you this week. Amen.



John 13:34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ***By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.***

Explore

Love Mobile Craft

Need: paper, ribbon, rod (dowel, clothes hanger, wrapping paper tub, etc), glue, scissors

Brainstorm as many different ways the Bible talks about love as you can think of (or look up!). For example:

Love is patient and kind (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Everything should be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:14)

God is love (1 John 4:16)

Love is sincere (Romans 12:9)

If you want, brainstorm your own thoughts about God's love – what is God's love like to you?

Cut out as many hearts as you have ideas/ways.

Write an idea/way on each heart.

Attach the hearts to strips of ribbon (hot glue works great!).

Fasten the heart-covered ribbons to your rod and hang your love mobile in a family space where you can be reminded of Jesus' command to love one another.

Share

With your family and/or your friends, share your responses to these questions:

How do we show love to one another? How do you know/feel that you are loved?

How can we show our love in ways that others feel loved *and* know that we are Jesus' followers?

Act

Practice random acts of kindness!

Here are a few ideas from the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation website.

Thank someone who helps you regularly. Perhaps your mail delivery person, or your waste collector, or your pest control person. Thank them with a note of gratitude or in person.

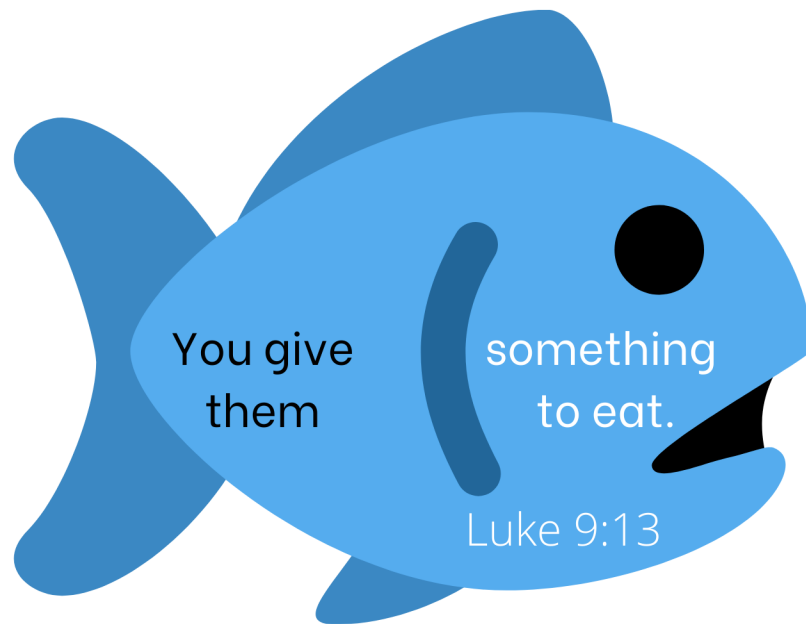
Tell someone something you appreciate about them.

Let someone merge in traffic and/or let someone ahead of you in a line.

Share a favorite joke with a friend.

Pray

God of love, in what we do and say, may other people know you. Amen.



Luke 9:12-17

The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, 'Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.'

But he said to them, '**You give them something to eat.**' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, 'Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.' They did so and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Explore

With A Little We Can Make A Lot Activity

Need: popcorn kernels, (oil & pot with lid or popcorn popper - however you wish to make your popcorn), popcorn fixings (salt, butter, cheddar, hot sauce, whatever!)

Pour out the amount of popcorn kernels you wish to make into a bowl big enough to hold your popped corn.

Share what you notice: the size of the kernels compared to the bowl; the color and texture; etc.

Pick up a kernel and imagine how this might feed lots of people.

Pop your corn!

Put the popped corn back in the bowl.

Share what you notice again. How has the popcorn changed? How is the popcorn like the story of the loaves and fishes?

Now, eat your popcorn!

Share

With your family and/or your friends, share your responses to these questions:

What ways do and your family care for others?

Are there other ways you want/wish to care for others?

Act

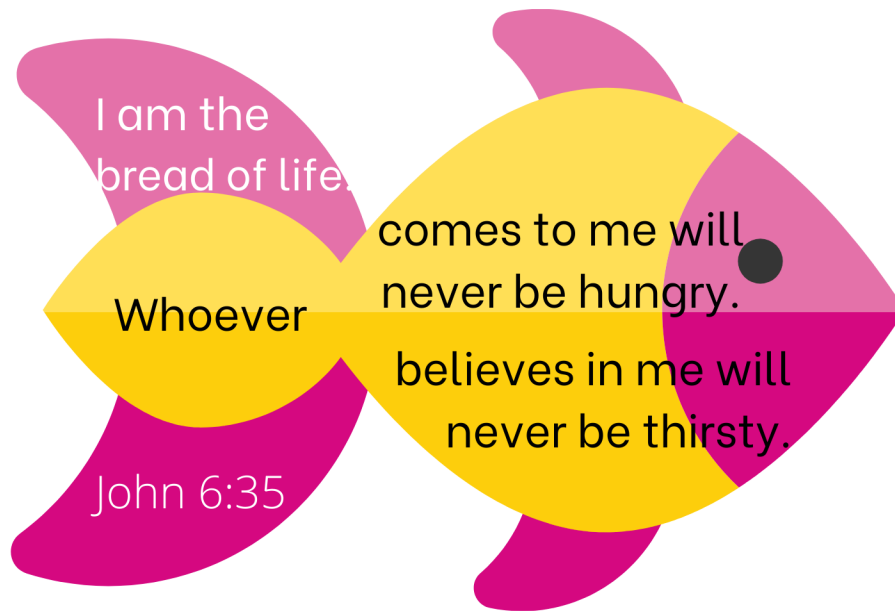
Next time you go to the grocery store, add cake mix, frosting, candles, birthday plates, and even a Happy Birthday banner to your cart.

Place these items in a birthday gift bag when you get home.

Give this birthday in a bag to your local food pantry.

Pray

Miracle-maker, help us to see and join in your wonderful works. Amen.



John 6:25-35

When they found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ ***Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’***

Explore

Bread Prayer Activity

Need: whole loaf bread (a larger roll or piece of flat bread will also work)

Wash hands!

Hold the loaf of bread. Tear a piece of bread off the loaf, and as you do ask God to feed those hunger and thirst. Pass the loaf to another person but do not eat your piece yet.

Once everyone has a piece of bread, give thanks to God for the food in your hand and the spiritual food God gives us.

Eat your piece of bread.

You may continue to pass the bread around, taking a piece, and offering a prayer for specific people or places, asking that the bread of life, Jesus, bring life and healing.

Share

What makes you excited about your day? Your week? What makes you excited about life?

Has Jesus helped you when you have felt hungry or thirsty, physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually? If so, what was that like?

Act

At family meals this week, set one extra place setting.

Imagine with whom God might be asking you to share bread and water, both physical and spiritual.

At the end of the week, talk about with whom you think God might want you to share. Make a plan for how you could share the Bread of Life with that person or people. Can you bring a meal to someone in need? Can you share encouragement through a card?

Pray

Bread of Life, thank you for all your good gifts. Help us to share these gifts with others. Amen.