

Measure Up

Week 2

BIG IDEA

We can follow Jesus.

BIBLE

The Baptism of Jesus: John 1:29–42; Psalm 40:8–11

FREE TIME

PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with games and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know some kids and work on building relationships.*
 - *Have kids go to the bathroom prior to class beginning*

QUESTION | If you could choose one person to be when you grow up, who would you choose?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This poll will be written on the board as a discussion starter while the kids arrive*
 - **If you could choose one person to be when you grow up, who would you choose? Why?**
 - **What do you admire about that person?**

LARGE GROUP TIME

SAY...

Welcome to another week of Measure Up, where we discover that learning about God is the greatest attraction there is! Last time, we talked about how we can love God with our actions. One of the best ways to start learning an action is by following what someone else does. Today, we'll learn about the one person we can always follow because everything he did pleased God!

WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Follow the Leader

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This game gets everyone involved, up, and moving! Select one person, the "seeker," to leave the room. While that person is gone, select a person to be the "leader." When the seeker returns, their job will be to identify the leader. The group will begin by doing the same movement like waving their arms, marching in place, or patting their heads. The leader's job will be to change the movement of the whole group in a way that is not obvious to the seeker. When the seeker isn't looking, the leader could change the action to clapping their hands or marching in place. Everyone in the room must change to the new action as quickly as they see the change. The seeker will try and pick out the leader with whom the change in the action is originating. The leader can continue changing up the actions until found. You can play multiple rounds with new leaders and seekers. You could even have more than one seeker per round working together or racing to figure out who the leader is.
- **Are you a good follower? Are you able to easily blend in and do what everyone else is doing? Are you a good leader? Are you able to get people to do a new thing?**
- We are going to play a game where we as a group have to be good at following!
- Good work everyone! You all did great at leading and following. Both are very important to do. And it just so happens to be important to our story today...

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | John 1:29–42 (The Baptism of Jesus)

- **Supplies:** Nametags, Spray bottle
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dress up as a ride operator (polo shirt with khaki pants or shorts and a name badge). You will need volunteers to play Jesus, John, Andrew, and Simon. Have them act out what you say in the story. Please make sure you point to each character when you mention them in the story as their cue to act it out. Hand out name tags to differentiate between the characters. As you read the story, spray the audience with water anytime you mention "baptism" just for fun!
- Hey friends! Welcome back to our live show experience at the *Measure Up* theme park. Today's show is called "The Baptism of Jesus." [Here's your first chance to spray the audience with water!]
- Excellent! You are a great audience – we're going to have so much fun, and you might even get a little wet. Wave your hands if you'd like to be a part of the show! [Select volunteers.]
- Let's begin!
- John is standing by the river when he sees Jesus walking toward him.
 - "Hey, look!" John said to the people around him. "It's the guy who takes away the sins of the world! He is greater than me or anyone else."
 - **Can you guess who John is talking about?** That's right – the man he is talking about is Jesus!
- Then John started to tell people about this experience he had
 - "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and stay on Jesus. God told me that I baptize people with water, but Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. [Each time you say baptism, spray the audience with water.]
 - "I have seen and am here to tell you that this man – Jesus – is God's chosen one. **Every one say, "Awesome!"**
- The next day, John was at the river again with two of his disciples. He saw Jesus passing by . . . again.
 - "Look! The lamb of God!" John said to his disciples. **Everyone point at Jesus and say, "Look!"**
- John's disciples, including Andrew, immediately started following Jesus.
 - The first thing Andrew did was find his brother Simon and tell him that he found the Savi

or they had all been waiting for their whole lives.

- When Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, Jesus knew right away who he was and who he was going to be. He changed his name to Peter — Simon, I mean, Peter, why don't you do a quick spin to show off your new name? **Everyone chant with me, "Peter! Peter! Peter!!"**
- And that's how Andrew, Simon Peter, and many others followed Jesus. **We can follow Jesus, too!**
 - And just like how Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, our pastors, Bible teachers, parents, adults in our lives, or friends may help bring us to Jesus!
 - Once you start following Jesus, you can help your friends by bringing them to Jesus, too
- **Please help me give a round of applause to our volunteers!** *[And spray the audience and volunteers again for good measure.]*

BIG IDEA | We can follow Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea on one winning ticket. Hide the winning ticket inside a carnival punch-out game. Use one [like this](#) or make your own with cups and tissue paper, [like this](#). Kids take turns punching holes until the winning ticket is found! Once it is found, read the winning ticket aloud. After the Big Idea is revealed, give kids pins for their lanyards as a reminder. If you have access to a [button maker](#), you can create buttons that say each week's Big Idea (using the graphics provided in their Programming folder) or purchase an assortment of fun pins and encourage pin trading (like at [Disney](#)).
- And the winning ticket says . . . **We can follow Jesus.**
- Whenever you look at this pin on your lanyard, remember **we can follow Jesus!** Let's follow Jesus more closely than we would follow park signs to our favorite roller coaster!

BIG IDEA | We can follow Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Flip over the big idea on the whiteboard and *read aloud!*
- **We can follow Jesus.**
- Whenever you hear or read about Jesus and his disciples, or come to church on the weekend, I want you to always remember **we can follow Jesus!** Let's follow Jesus more closely than we would follow park signs to our favorite roller coaster!
- (OPTIONAL) With that, let's worship God...

MUSIC | Worship (OPTIONAL)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Feel free to use one or both music videos for some worship.

VIDEO | Measure Up, Episode 2

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT?

MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

- **"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."**
- Let's keep spinning the carnival wheel until all the words are removed!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write one or two words of the memory verse on a piece of paper. Do this for the entire verse. Pass the papers out to kids. Have each kid with a piece of paper sit in a circle in the correct order of the verse. Have the kids hold up their papers. Have everyone recite the verse. Then, have a volunteer or a kid act as a "spinner arrow." Have them stand in the middle of the circle, and with their eyes closed or blindfolded, spin with their hand pointing out. Wherever they stop, the person closest to where the "spinner" is pointing, hides their paper for the rest of the activity. Continue (recite and spin) until all papers are hidden or time allows.
- Wow, that was challenging but you did amazing! At the end of our time today you will get a chance to say either this month's or last month's memory verse to get a prize.
- But, before we do that and split into small groups, **let's pray...**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for sending your son to this world to save us from our sins and to show us how to live for you. We want to follow Jesus because we know that following Jesus is the way to you. We hope that our lives will lead others to follow you, too. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Who is the one John said will baptize with the Holy Spirit?**
- **What was the first thing Andrew did after he began following Jesus?**
- **What words did John use to describe Jesus?**
- **Who do you follow?**
- **In what ways do you follow Jesus?**
- **How can you show someone else what it means to follow Jesus?**

Scripture

- Practice the memory verse one more time with your kids in your small group.
- **"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33 NLT**
- Have the kids recite the verse from memory with your help. If they can, give them a token.
- Get prizes! :)