

Lord, I'm Listening



Children's Messages

for the Six Weeks of Lent
and Easter Sunday

"Come, Follow Me"
"My Sheep Hear My Voice"
"Love One Another"
"Take Up Your Cross"
"Take and Eat"
"Father, Forgive Them"
"Peace Be With You!"



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Lord, I'm Listening

"Come, Follow Me"

A Children's Message for the First Week of Lent

Hello, children. Welcome to the season of Lent. Lent is a time when we listen closely to what Jesus has to say to us. Today we listen to Jesus say to us, "Come, follow me."

Have you ever played Follow the Leader? (Allow the children to respond.) That's great. What do you do when you play Follow the Leader? (Allow the children to respond.) That's right! One person is the leader, and the rest of the people in the group follow that person wherever he or she goes. If the leader stops, you stop. If the leader runs, you run. If the leader crawls under a bush, you crawl under a bush. You get the idea.

Well, in many ways Jesus is calling us to participate in a much bigger and more serious experience of Follow the Leader when he says, "Come, follow me." He first said these words to some fishermen named Simon and Andrew. "Immediately they left their nets and followed him," the Bible says. Then he went to two other fishermen who were brothers named James and John. "Come, follow me," he said. And those brothers immediately left their boat and followed him. These men became the first disciples of Jesus. They listened to everything he said, and they followed him wherever he went. Their whole lives became a giant example of Follow the Leader.

When Jesus says, "Come, follow me," to you and me, we should listen like those disciples did. They did not wait around to follow or ask Jesus a bunch of questions. They just did it. We listen to Jesus and follow him when we pray to him, when we follow the 10 Commandments, when we read or listen to the words of the Bible. We shouldn't put those things off for another time. We should do them now and be blessed by those experiences.

When you think about what the disciples saw when they listened and followed him throughout his entire ministry, it reminds us that there are so many things that Jesus did that he is calling us to do too. Jesus said to love one another, just as he loved us. So we listen to Jesus by loving our friends and family and those in our classroom and neighborhood. Jesus said to care for people in need. So we listen by visiting people who are sick or sending cards to people who are sad. Jesus told his disciples to feed people who were hungry. We listen by donating canned goods to a food pantry or offering some of our lunch to a classmate who forgot his.

This Lent, Jesus asks us to follow him to Calvary, where he died on the cross to forgive us our sins and give us eternal life in heaven. We follow him by forgiving one another and looking forward to the time when we will be with him in paradise. Our task as Christ's disciples in this world today is to tell others to come and follow Jesus, too, so that they know the forgiveness and love of Jesus too. It's fun to Follow the Leader, isn't it? Let us pray:

Jesus, you call us to come and follow you. Help us each day to listen and learn from you and to do the things you ask us to do. May our lives bring others to follow you too. Amen.

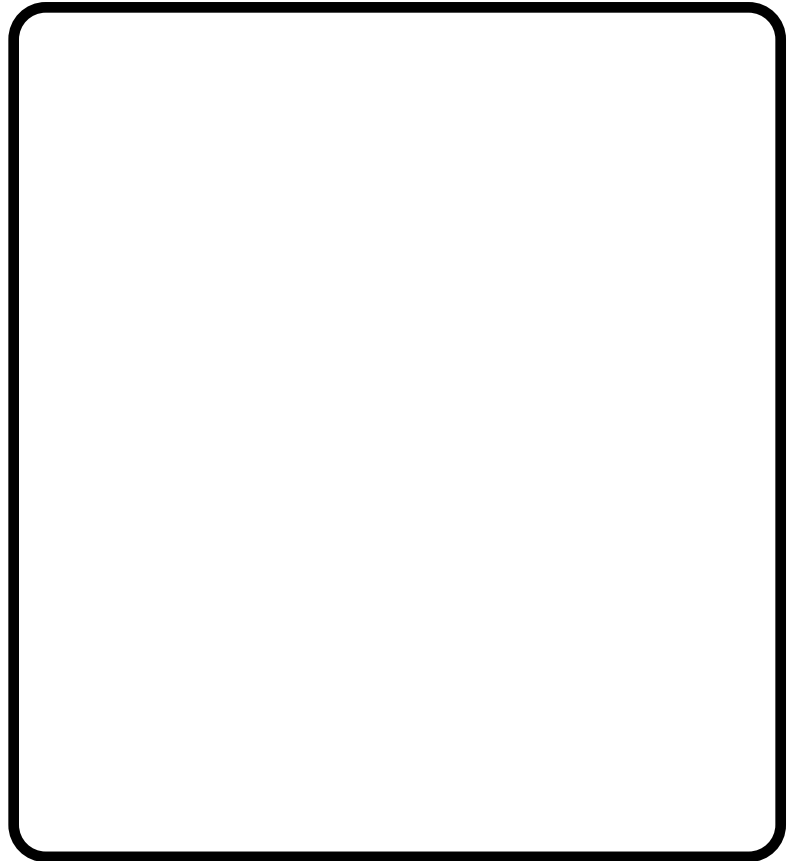
Activities for the First Week of Lent

"Come, Follow Me"

Lenten Word Search

JESUS • BREAD • WINE
FORTY • FOLLOW • CROSS
SHEPHERD

F	C	J	E	S	U	S	D	E
O	U	S	O	P	O	H	R	F
L	W	G	S	B	C	E	D	O
L	I	T	E	N	N	P	C	R
O	N	O	S	O	P	H	R	T
W	E	A	T	R	K	E	O	Y
N	E	S	T	H	B	R	S	I
B	R	E	A	D	O	D	S	D



Draw a picture of yourself listening to
Jesus share the Good News.

Put the words in the correct
spaces to learn something you
can do every day!

soul • Love • mind
God • heart

_____ the Lord your _____ with all your

_____ and with all your _____ and

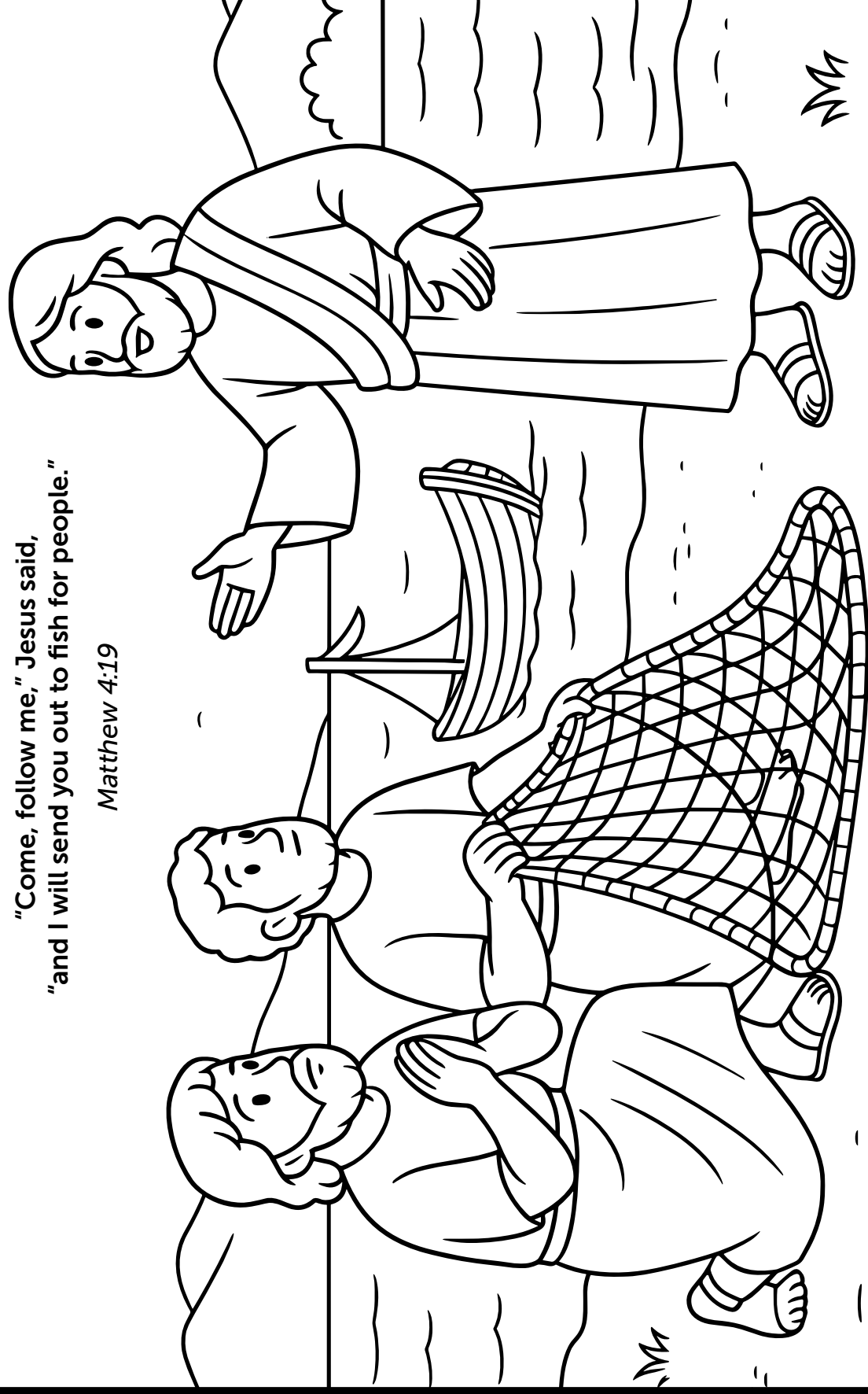
with all your _____. – *Matthew 22:37*

Coloring Page for the First Week of Lent

"Come, Follow Me"

"Come, follow me," Jesus said,
"and I will send you out to fish for people."

Matthew 4:19



Coloring Page for Easter Sunday

"Peace Be With You!"

Then go quickly
and tell his disciples:
"He has risen from
the dead."

Matthew 28:7

