

**MODEL UNIT
BAND B
LEVEL 1**

FOLLOWING IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO BE JESUS' DISCIPLES

YEAR:..... **SUGGESTED DURATION:** 5 weeks (approximately 135 minutes per week)

DATE OF USE: **FAITH STATEMENTS:** ① ② ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

1 GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW JESUS

- 1a explore stories of Jesus calling the first disciples to follow him
- 1b explore what it means to learn from Jesus as a disciple
- 1c explore the changes following Jesus brings to people's lives

2 JESUS' DISCIPLES ARE FORGIVEN AND FORGIVING

- 2a investigate the impact of God's forgiveness on the lives of people
- 2b explore the benefits of confession and forgiveness
- 2c explore ways they can show forgiveness in the school and family

3 JESUS' DISCIPLES ARE CALLED TO LIVE BY GOD-GIVEN VALUES AND ETHICS

- 3a investigate the Ten Commandments and their purpose
- 3b explore the meaning of Jesus' 'new commandment' for people's lives
- 3c identify the influences in society which affect decision-making

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Retell Bible stories in which Jesus called his disciples to follow him. (1a)
- Describe what the disciples of Jesus learn as they follow him. (1b,2a,2b,3b)
- List changes that following Jesus brings to the lives of his disciples. (1c,2a,3b)
- Summarise what it means to be a follower of Jesus. (1a,1b,1c,2a,3b)

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

- ⇒ work sample
- ⇒ work sample
- ⇒ work sample
- ⇒ work sample

UNIT SUMMARY

Students explore the stories of Jesus calling his disciples. They identify what the disciples learn from Jesus as they follow him and the changes following Jesus brings to their lives. They identify what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

UNIT NOTES

In each session of the development section of this unit students investigate two of Jesus' twelve disciples. They will discover some personal characteristics of the disciples and some things the disciples learnt while following in Jesus' footsteps.

Information about each disciple is on Teacher Resource Sheets (TRS) B1/2–B1/7. You can read the information to the class or, if your students are independent readers, they can read it themselves.

The resource sheets also contain an *Activities* section. Ways of recording or presenting information for the *Activities* section include:

- Make twelve life-sized disciples by tracing around students, cutting out the figures and painting or using material to make them look like the disciples. Students can attach speech balloons with information about each of the disciples. Display 'disciples' around the room.
- Use the footprint master on TRS B1/8 and record the relevant information onto the footprint.
- Make a book about the disciples, a page for each disciple. Include a summary of what it meant to each disciple to follow Jesus.
- Use different presentation formats for each pair of disciples, eg storyboard, interview, footprint, poster, poem, dramatisation, life-sized disciple.

INTRODUCTION

1. FOLLOW

In order to develop the concept of 'following', choose from these activities:

- Students work in pairs. Take it in turns to *follow* the actions of each other.
- Give students some simple procedural writing where they must *follow* the instructions carefully.
- Students identify the sporting team or music group they *follow*. Students discuss and list the ways they show they *follow* that team or group, eg watch them, listen to them, talk about them.

They could also list other ways in which following the team or group affects their lifestyle, eg how they dress, spend their money.

As a result of these activities identify what it means to follow or to be a follower. Record the responses of the students.

Tell the students that if you follow in the footsteps of someone, you are doing the same sort of thing that the person you are following does.

Ask students to think of someone in whose footsteps they would like to follow.

- Who would it be? Why?
- How would you show that you were following in the footsteps of the person?

See TRS B1/1. Students share their responses to these questions in pairs or in a small group.

DEVELOPMENT

2. DISCIPLES FOLLOW JESUS

Tell students that the Bible describes how Jesus calls people to follow him as disciples. Disciples are 'learners'. Jesus teaches his followers about God and about life as people who belong to God. We can discover what it means for Christians to follow Jesus by looking at Jesus' first disciples.

Peter and Andrew learn about forgiveness

Introduce the first two disciples Peter and Andrew, using TRS B1/2. Bible references:

The first disciples of Jesus	John 1:35–42
Jesus calls Andrew and Peter	Mark 1:16–18
The unforgiving servant	Matthew 18:21–35
Jesus predicts Peter's denial	John 13:36–38
Peter denies Jesus	John 18:15–27
Jesus shows that Peter is forgiven	John 21:15–19.

Students complete the **Activities** section. See suggestions for presentation in *Unit Notes*.

Matthew and Simon the Zealot learn that following Jesus brings changes to their lives

Introduce Matthew and Simon, using TRS B1/3. Bible references:

Jesus calls Matthew	Matthew 9:9–13
Love your enemies	Matthew 5:43–48.

Students complete the **Activities** section. See suggestions for presentation in *Unit Notes*.

James and his brother John learn that following Jesus means serving other people

Introduce James and John, using TRS B1/4.

Bible references:

Jesus calls James and John

Matthew 4:21,22; Mark 3:16–19

The request of James and John Mark 10:35–45

A Samaritan village refuses to receive Jesus
Luke 9:51–56

Jesus washes his disciples' feet John 13:1–17

Jesus' new commandment John 13:34,35.

Students complete the **Activities** section. See suggestions for presentation in *Unit Notes*.

Philip and Nathanael learn that following Jesus means knowing that with God all things are possible

Introduce Philip and Nathanael, using TRS B1/5. Bible references:

Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael John 1:43–51

Jesus feeds five thousand John 6:1–14

Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus Mark 10:46–52

A healing at a pool John 5:1–15

Jesus raises a widow's son Luke 7:11–17

Jesus heals a deaf man Mark 7:31–37.

Students complete the **Activities** section. See suggestions for presentation in *Unit Notes*.

Judas Iscariot and James, the son of Alphaeus, learn that following Jesus means loving God and other people

Introduce Judas Iscariot and James, son of Alphaeus, using TRS B1/6. Bible references:

Jesus is anointed at Bethany John 12:1–8

Judas in charge of money John 12:6; 13:29

A rich young man Matthew 19:16–30

The parable of the good Samaritan
Luke 10:25–37.

Students complete the **Activities** section. See suggestions for presentation in *Unit Notes*.

Thomas and Judas, son of James, learn that following Jesus means trusting Jesus

Introduce Thomas and Judas, son of James, using TRS B1/7. Bible references:

Jesus heals a paralysed man Mark 2:1–12

Jesus calms a storm Matthew 8:23–27

Jesus speaks about his death
Matthew 16:21–25; 17:22,23; Mark 9:30–32

The resurrection Matthew 28:1–10

Jesus and Thomas John 20:24–29.

Students complete the **Activities** section. See suggestions for presentation in *Unit Notes*.

3. DISCIPLES OF JESUS TODAY

Tell students that as a result of the work of the twelve special disciples of Jesus, there are now millions of disciples or followers of Jesus all over the world.

Ask students to suggest names of people they know who 'follow in the footsteps of Jesus'. This could include names of people in the school community (eg staff members, school parents), the local community (eg pastor), or the wider community. Record names on a chart.

Students choose one of the people and explore the way this person is 'following in the footsteps of Jesus'. Students interview the person so that they are able to:

1. Describe the way your chosen person became a follower of Jesus.
2. Describe the way this person follows in the footsteps of Jesus today.
3. Describe what they have learnt as they follow Jesus.
4. Describe how they show other people what they have learnt.

Students record the information using their chosen method of presentation.

RESPONSE

4. FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

Students use the information they have gathered about each of the disciples to identify what it means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Students use the following questions to guide their responses:

1. Describe the kinds of people Jesus wants to have as his followers.
2. What are some of the things that people learn when they follow Jesus?
3. What are some of the changes following Jesus brings to a person's life?
4. Why do you think people would want to be followers of Jesus?

Students can present this information by

- tracing their own feet or using the 'footprint' on TRS B1/8 to record or illustrate what following Jesus involves. Display these around the room; or
- imagining they are a follower of Jesus. Write a letter to a friend, telling them about their experiences as a follower of Jesus.

YOU WILL NEED

- photocopies of TRS B1/1–B1/8 for students
- materials needed for presentation of **Activities**

- Bibles and Bible story books

INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH: *Literature:* Through discussion, relate what is read and viewed to own knowledge and experience. Introduce aspects of plot, atmosphere, suspense, setting and characters. Record and write opinions about what is read. Summarise for peers, key events and ideas. *Everyday Texts:* Plan written texts to achieve their purpose.

THE ARTS: *Drama:* Use known and given stories as the basis for their drama. Use other art forms in their drama. *Visual Arts:* Draw, paint, manipulate and construct to record observations, express feelings and thoughts. Invent structures, images or forms for a purpose. Work with others on projects.

from the National Statements and Profiles

UNIT EVALUATION

Which activities worked well in this unit?

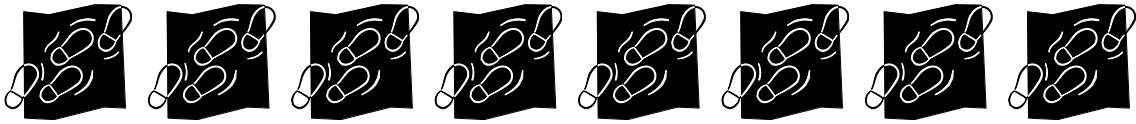
Which resources were useful in the implementation of this unit?

How did I respond to the range of students' attitudes towards following Jesus?

How did I respond to the range of students' understandings about the changes following Jesus brings to people's lives?

What would I do differently if I was teaching this unit again?

How will I use and build on knowledge, understandings, skills, attitudes, and values students have developed in this unit?



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF . . .

Think of someone you really admire, someone you want to be like.

I would like to follow in the footsteps of

because

.....

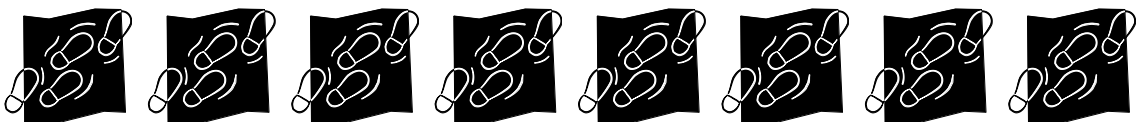
To follow in the footsteps of

I would have to

.....

.....

This is a picture of me following in the footsteps of



ANDREW'S STORY

Have you ever been fishing? My brother Peter and I used to be fishermen. That was until we met Jesus. My friend John and I had heard Jesus teach and we knew that he was someone very special, in fact someone sent from God! I had told my brother Peter all about Jesus and what a wonderful teacher he was.

One day Peter and I were out in our boat fishing as usual. We cast our fishing net into the lake, hoping for a decent catch of fish. Suddenly we heard Jesus calling to us: *Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish.*

It was amazing, to think that Jesus wanted ordinary fishermen like us to help him. We just dropped our nets and followed Jesus. We weren't sure what Jesus wanted us to do, but we knew we had to follow him and to learn what it meant to *bring in people instead of fish.*

PETER'S STORY

Andrew's right; we felt we just had to follow Jesus.

Let me tell you there were plenty of times when it wasn't easy to follow Jesus. I didn't always understand what he was trying to do, and there were times people weren't very interested in hearing about God's love.

But Jesus certainly taught me some very important lessons about forgiving. I remember asking Jesus one day how many times I had to forgive someone. I thought I was being very generous by asking if seven times were enough. Jesus had other ideas. He told me 70x7! Which really meant ALL the time.

Jesus told lots of stories about forgiving and God's wonderful forgiveness. One day he showed me what that *really* meant. I'm ashamed to admit that the time when Jesus needed me the most, I said that I didn't even know him. You can read about it in John 18:15-27.

But when Jesus saw me again he wasn't angry with me. He wanted me to continue to follow him and to find more people to follow him. Jesus showed that he still loved me and had forgiven me. That is a lesson I will never forget.



ACTIVITIES

1. Describe the way Peter and Andrew became followers of Jesus.
2. Describe what Peter and Andrew learnt as they followed Jesus.
3. Describe how Peter and Andrew might have shown what they had learnt to other people.

MATTHEW'S STORY

I'm Matthew, an ex-tax collector. I used to have a very well paid job. I collected money from the Jewish people for the Roman government. When I collected taxes from people, I could also charge them extra money, which I would keep for myself. As you can imagine, I was not a very popular person; actually I was hated by the Jewish people. They saw me as a traitor and a cheat — no better than a criminal. I was not even allowed into the temple to worship God.

My office was very close to Lake Galilee, and I could often hear the amazing words of Jesus. He seemed to have so much love for everyone, even unlovable people.

I guess I shouldn't have been shocked when Jesus walked into my office one day and said 'Come with me!' This was an offer too good to refuse. I just left everything and followed Jesus.

Of course, the Pharisees couldn't believe that Jesus would choose someone as bad as me to be one of his followers. Jesus told them that he wanted all kinds of people to be his followers. Following Jesus brought so many changes to my life: I was loved and accepted, money was no longer important to me, and I could share love with people rather than stealing from them.

SIMON'S STORY

Jesus certainly brought changes to my life. Before I became a follower of Jesus, I belonged to a group called the 'Zealots'. We fiercely loved our country and the Jewish law and would gladly go to war to defend it. We hated anything to do with Rome and refused to pay taxes. We certainly hated the people who collected taxes for the Romans.

So you can imagine the changes that came into my life as a result of following Jesus. I learnt to love my enemies, and that included the Romans. A tax collector, whom I would have happily killed when I was a Zealot, became one of my closest friends.

I used to be filled with hate, revenge and aggression. Following Jesus brought love, forgiveness and peace to my life.



ACTIVITIES

1. Describe the way Matthew became a follower of Jesus.
2. Describe what Matthew and Simon did
 - before they became followers of Jesus
 - after they became followers of Jesus.
3. Describe how Matthew and Simon would have got along with each other before and after they became followers of Jesus.
4. Describe what Matthew and Simon learnt as they followed Jesus.

JAMES'S STORY

SON OF ZEBEDEE

I'm James, older brother of John. John and I have always done things together. We used to be fishermen — that was until we met Jesus. We even had the same friends, such as Peter and Andrew, who were also fishermen.

One day we were with our father Zebedee in our boat, mending our nets. We saw Jesus walking towards us. Peter and Andrew were with him as well. Jesus simply asked us to come with him. Immediately we left our boat and followed Jesus.

It's amazing to think that Jesus chose us to be with him. Not only were we ordinary fishermen, but we had a reputation for having very quick tempers at times. Jesus actually gave us a nickname. He called us 'men of thunder'.

I guess we got pretty thundery at times. Like the time when the people in a village in Samaria refused to welcome Jesus. John and I said that God should destroy the village, but Jesus gently reminded us that our task was to save people not to destroy them.

JOHN'S STORY

James and I became very close friends with Jesus. Jesus would often take Peter, James and me to special places away from the other disciples.

I guess James and I began to think that we were better than the other disciples. One day our mother and we asked Jesus to let us sit next to him in the best places. Jesus taught us a very important lesson about what it meant to follow him. He told all of us that if we wanted to be great or important we must be a servant to others, rather than expecting other people to serve us.

Jesus didn't just tell us to do this: he showed us. We will never forget the last passover meal we shared with him. Jesus served us by washing our feet, a job a servant usually does. Can you imagine God's Son Jesus washing your feet? Jesus said: 'Love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.' I learnt that following Jesus means serving and caring for others.



ACTIVITIES

1. Describe the way James and John became followers of Jesus.
2. Describe what kind of men James and John were.
3. Describe what James and John learnt as they followed Jesus.
4. Describe how James and John might have shown what they learnt to other people.

PHILIP'S STORY

My name is Philip and I grew up in the town of Bethsaida, the same town as the disciples Peter and Andrew. I still remember the day Jesus said those simple words: *Follow me!* I was so excited by this invitation that I had to tell my friend Nathanael about Jesus.

As we followed Jesus, we saw him do so many amazing acts of love. We saw him heal many sick people, we saw him change water into wine. One occasion, though, I will always remember. Jesus took us up a hill to talk to us. Thousands of people who had seen him heal sick people wanted to be with him also.

Jesus was very concerned about the people and asked me where we would find enough food to feed them. I told Jesus that it would be impossible to feed the thousands of people. Jesus, however, had other ideas. With only five small bread rolls and two fish, Jesus fed the whole crowd of over 5000 people. We even collected twelve large baskets of left-overs. I learnt something very important that day: with Jesus, all things are possible.

NATHANAEL'S STORY

My story as a follower of Jesus began the day my good friend Philip came bolting up to me saying he had met the one who had been promised in the Scriptures. He told me that the name of the promised one was Jesus and that he came from Nazareth. '*Nazareth!*' I said. '*Nothing decent could possibly come from Nazareth!*'

Nazareth was a town not much different from the little place of Cana I had grown up in. Well, Philip simply told me to *come and see*, and that turned out to be quite a meeting.

I soon discovered that Jesus knew all about me. He told me things that not even my best friend knew.

Following Jesus taught me that those things which seem impossible become possible with Jesus. Jesus made it possible for blind people to see, deaf people to hear, crippled people to walk and even dead people to have life.

Something decent coming from Nazareth? There certainly was! *God's own Son!*



ACTIVITIES

1. Describe the way Philip and Nathanael became followers of Jesus.
2. Describe Nathanael's reaction to Jesus
 - before he became a follower of Jesus
 - after he became a follower of Jesus.
3. Describe what Philip and Nathanael learnt as they followed Jesus.

JUDAS'S STORY

I'm Judas Iscariot. Jesus gave me an important role as one of his followers. I was responsible for taking care of the money which was to be given to the poor. I took my role very seriously, but I soon discovered that Jesus had a very different attitude to money and possessions than I did.

It wasn't always easy to follow Jesus and to understand him. I remember one time Jesus asked a rich young man to follow him and to become one of his disciples. Sadly, the man couldn't do it. Jesus told him that God and other people had to be the most important things in his life. But the rich young man found it too difficult to give up his money and possessions because he loved them more than God. I learnt that being a follower of Jesus means that God is more important than anything else in your life.

JAMES'S STORY

SON OF ALPHEUS

Jesus taught me something very important as I followed him. He told us that loving God was most important and that loving your neighbour as you love yourself was also important.

We weren't really sure what he meant by 'our neighbour', so Jesus told us a story to help us understand. You can read about it in Luke 10:30-37. Jesus wanted us to see that all people are our neighbours.

Jesus didn't just talk about loving people; he showed love time and time again. Everywhere we went Jesus showed love to those people who were not accepted and loved by others. He loved and cared for people sick with leprosy, people who had done bad things, people who came from towns and countries different from his own. And Jesus loved us, his disciples, even though we were ordinary unimportant people. Jesus' love for us changed us so that we can now love God and love others.

But the most amazing thing was that Jesus kept loving us, even when we weren't able to love God and our neighbours the way Jesus wanted us to. Following Jesus meant learning all about love!



ACTIVITIES

1. Describe what Judas Iscariot learnt as he followed Jesus.
2. Describe times when having God as the most important thing in a person's life would be difficult.
3. Describe what James learnt as he followed Jesus.
4. Describe what helped the disciples to love God and other people.

JUDAS'S STORY

SON OF JAMES

I often think of how patient and loving Jesus was with us. He spent so much time teaching us about God's love and his role in God's plans. The power Jesus had to heal people and forgive sins showed us that he was God's Son.

But so often we found it difficult to trust that Jesus had everything under control. Like the time we were all in the boat and a storm blew up. We were terrified that we would die. We couldn't understand how Jesus kept on sleeping. Of course, Jesus kept us safe. He had control even of the storm.

Jesus also told us that he had to suffer and die and three days later come back to life. We didn't understand that God would let this happen. It was only after Jesus died and rose again that we understood.

Even though we often found it hard to trust in Jesus, he kept loving us and wanting us to be his followers.

THOMAS'S STORY

My story is very much like Judas's story. I loved Jesus and loved being his follower. I was absolutely devastated when he died. I know that Jesus warned us about his death, but I never believed that it would actually happen. How could God let this happen? But Jesus did die.

I wanted to be on my own after his death. Being with the others would just make me think of how things used to be when we were all together with Jesus.

One day some of the disciples came to visit me. I couldn't believe how happy and excited they were. They told me a ridiculous story of how they had seen Jesus. I told them that, unless I could put my fingers in the scars on Jesus body, I would never believe that he was alive.

Well, I only had to wait a week. This time I was with the other disciples when Jesus appeared. He came straight up to me and asked me to touch his scars. I didn't need to do this. All I could say was: 'You are my Lord and my God'.

As a follower of Jesus I learnt that he never lets you down. Jesus always knows the best thing to do and, most importantly, he always keeps loving you even when you find it hard to understand and believe in him.



ACTIVITIES

1. Describe what Judas and Thomas learnt as they followed Jesus.
2. Describe what Thomas and Judas found difficult about following Jesus.
3. Describe how Jesus reacted to his disciples when they found following him was difficult.

