

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 8**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: Luke 9:51-62**

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

Rejection. To the disciples' horror, the people of the village did not receive Jesus. Retribution, they insisted! "No," said Jesus, moving on. Follow, they decided. But what would follow mean? Maybe to follow is to hold focus. Staying on focus involves choosing the important and not getting bogged down in the urgent. What is the important that we follow?

**Theme: Where do we go when we follow?**

**Before Class:** Since there are several voices in this passage, make sure you have enough copies of the script below or enough copies of the Bible. You will need paper and pencils.

**Beginning:** Tell the children Jesus is still teaching his disciples. Today they are learning about following and what it means to follow Jesus.

**Opening Prayer:** You teach us to follow you, Jesus. Help us to understand how to follow you and be your disciples. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 9: 51- 62.** Depending on how many children you have, ask for volunteers to read the parts found in the script. Double up on readers, if needed.

**Questions:**

- Why didn't the people of Samaria want to hear Jesus? (Samaritans were considered "outcasts" by the Jewish people. We will have another story about Samaritans in two weeks.)
- What was the disciple's reaction to not being invited in? (They were furious! Verse 54b)
- What did Jesus do? (He "rebuked" them. What does that mean? Scolded.)
- What happens as Jesus and the disciples walk on to the next town? (People show up and start walking along with them.)
- I wonder what Jesus is trying to help people decide about following him? (Are they sure they can put Jesus first?)
- What does Jesus say to the first person who says they will follow? (Verse 58)
- What happens when Jesus says "follow me" to the second one? (Verse 59b-60)
- And what happens to the third person who says he/she will follow? (Verse 62)

Invite the children to discuss the responses.

- Do we think Jesus really did not think it was important for a man to bury his father or was he trying to help the man set priorities?
- How do we set priorities with the important things we have to do?

**Option:** Give the children sheets of paper and pencils. Suggest they fold the paper in half, and then in half again. Open the sheet of paper back up and create titles for the bottom two quadrants. It could be something like **Very Important** for one and **Important** for the other. Then, give an example from your own life of a choice you have had to make: Taking the dog for a walk (Important) or sitting with your child as she worked on a really hard piece of homework (Very Important). Invite the children to note some decisions they have to make at the top of the page and, either now or later, draw an arrow showing into which column each decision could go.

**Getting Closure:** Brainstorm with the children about what our world would be like if EVERYONE truly followed Jesus, that is, did what Jesus told us to do: loved the way Jesus invited us to love. Tell them that if we can dream something it could happen. Encourage them also to notice things that already are happening. (Football players tutoring children in the inner cities, doctors seeing patients in clinics and not charging, other caring things happening in your own community.)

**Closing Prayer:** *A Prayer For Guidance (adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, page 832)*  
O God, give us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all bad choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Luke 9:51-62**

**Narrator:** When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup>but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When his disciples James and John saw it, they said,

**James and John:** ‘Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?’

**Narrator:** <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>Then they went on to another village. <sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him,

**Follower 1:** ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’

**Narrator:** <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him,

**Jesus:** ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’

**Narrator:** <sup>59</sup>To another he said,

**Jesus:** ‘Follow me.’

**Narrator:** But he said,

**Follower 2:** ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’

**Narrator:** <sup>60</sup>But Jesus said to him,

**Narrator:** ‘Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’

**Narrator:** <sup>61</sup>Another said,

**Follower 3:** ‘I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’

**Narrator:** <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him,

**Jesus:** ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’

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