



Posted on December 22, 2016
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, January 15, 2017

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [John 1:29-42](#) [Summary: *Jesus Is A Leader We Can Follow*]

Supplies Needed: A bucket and sponges (not essential, but helpful)

ASK (a.k.a *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning
- Have you ever played "Follow the Leader?"
- Yeah? Good! We're going to play something like it.
- We're going to play "Follow what the Leader says."
- The way this game works is that the leader (that'll be me) will say something and then everyone else has to do what the leader just said.
- If you aren't able to do what the leader says, I'll still let you try the next thing.
- Any questions? Ok, here we go.
- "Scratch your head" (*point at the kids who use their left hand and say, "Oh no you're scratching with the wrong hand! Sorry, you did it wrong".*)
- "Now, touch your toes" (*point at the kids who don't stand up to touch their toes and say, "Oh no, you're supposed to stand up when you do it, Sorry, you did it wrong!"*)
- [*Pull out a bucket and say*] "Go wash my car."
- [*Tell them "Just kidding" before the earnest ones actually run off to do it!*]
- And that concludes our game of "Follow what the leader says"
- Thank you for playing that game. You were all very good sports. But let me ask you this: Did the game seem very fair to you? [NOOOOO!]

- What made this game not work as well as the regular game of "Follow the Leader?" [*Couldn't tell exactly what the leader meant. And leader tried to get the followers to do things for him/her, like wash their car*]

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- Remember how our activity went because we're going to bring it up in just a moment.
- But first, let's look at what happens in today's scripture story: Mostly what happens is that John the Baptist tells us all sorts of things about Jesus.
- John tells us that Jesus is the Lamb of God
- John tells us that he baptized Jesus and that Jesus was then baptized by God's Holy Spirit.
- John then tells us that Jesus will baptize with God's Holy Spirit.
- But then, after all that telling, we hear that John sends two of his own disciples to follow Jesus.
- And when those two disciples start asking Jesus questions, Jesus' response is to, "Come and see."
- So the two disciples leave John and go follow Jesus.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Today's story reminds us that other people can *tell* us about Jesus, but the best way to learn about Jesus is to follow him and do what he does.
- Following Jesus is the best way to learn from Jesus because Jesus is not a leader who simply tells us what to do.
- Instead, Jesus is a leader who actually does what he says, so that we can see exactly what he meant.
- And as we saw a little bit ago with "Follow the Leader's Instructions," it is much easier and better for us to follow the leader instead of only following the leader's words.
- And that's the Good News for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God...

Dear God...

Help us to follow Jesus...

Help us to follow Jesus...

...who shows us...

...who shows us...

...how to live your better way.

...how to live your better way.

Thank you and Amen.