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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for January 18, 2026

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Year A

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

**Supplies Needed:** *Optional:* A bucket and a sponge

**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 right 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 if you have it 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 in today's story is that John the Baptist tells the people all sorts of things about Jesus.
- John tells the people that Jesus is the Lamb of God.
- John tells the people that he baptized Jesus and that Jesus was then baptized by God's Holy Spirit.
- John then tells the people that Jesus will baptize others with God's Holy Spirit.
- Then, after all that telling, we hear that John sends two of his own disciples to meet Jesus.
- But once those two disciples start asking Jesus questions, Jesus' response is to, "Come and see."
- So the two disciples stop following John and start following 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 see what he did.
- Jesus was not a teacher who simply said what to do – which is the opposite of what I did with you a few minutes ago.
- Instead, Jesus was a teacher who actually *did* what he said so that we could then see *exactly* what he meant.
- As we saw a little bit ago with our activity, it is much easier and better for us to learn from someone who does what they say, instead of learning from someone who *only* talks.
- And when we're learning about God, the more a person, like Jesus, can show us instead of just tell us, the easier it is for us to learn about God.
- That's the Good News for today. Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God...**

**Dear God...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**Thank you for Jesus...**

**...who tells us AND shows us...**

**...who tells us AND shows us...**

**...how to live your better way.**

**...how to live your better way.**

**Help us to keep learning from him.**

**Help us to keep learning from him.**

**Thank you and Amen.**