



# Growing as followers of Jesus

## Leaders Guide

### Introduction:

**Welcome to the Discipleship Project where we are exploring what it means to grow as followers of Jesus. It is designed for Primary aged children but the ideas for families and congregations can be used for all ages. Our hope is through engaging with this resource we may be able to grow our children as followers of Jesus and give them practical ways they can have that conversation with other adults, giving them a chance to also share their faith.**

### Ideas for families:

**In the ideas for family's section, you will find suggestions of conversation starters or activities you can do together. Why not start this journey talking about when you first became a Christian and what helped you to make that decision? You might like to talk about why being a follower of Jesus is important to you.**

### Ideas for Congregations:

#### Gathering Idea –

**In the congregation section there will always be an idea of how you can gather and think about the theme, Even if you are following the lectionary you might like to still do some of the ideas to help connect the children and the congregation together. Research has shown us that growing children as disciples is not just about the information you give them or the stories you tell them but also about the community they belong to. Being able to hear and explore with other people particularly adults help them to connect into a lifelong faith.**

**As a congregation this week why not have a few people talk about when they decided to follow Jesus, Was there a person or a specific moment it happened or was it a slow process? Has their relationship changed over time? These could also be conversations in groups, or you could get everyone to make an avatar of themselves talking about who they are and what is important to them about faith.**

**BIBLE READINGS: Matthew 4:18**





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### Heart of the Story (Everyone Chat):

**Many congregations have a children's chat, we have called it the heart of the story or an everyone chat because we want it to be a whole of community engagement. It is important to listen to the children about whether they like engaging with other adults in the congregations with the questions or just one person. Sometimes we assume what we think they like, without checking in with them. Why not ask your kids how they might like to make this time work with the whole congregation? You could also have a conversation with the adults about what they would find helpful in supporting the children on this journey, is this a time where the adults pray for the children?**

**Activity: Every week we will suggest an activity that you could do either at home or as part of a Sunday School programme or kids programme or something to do in church.**

**This week why not give the children an unlined book to be their journal. Start it off by asking them about what they know about Jesus, what is important to them about Jesus and any questions they might have about following Jesus. You might want to provide ways for them to be able to decorate it to make it their own. They could stick their Avatar on the front or in the inside cover.**

### Outcomes:

**The outcomes are about helping to remember what we are hoping they learn from this session.**

**Learning they are loved by God as unique amazing, beautiful people.**

**They do not do this journey alone but with others who can help.**





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## Introducing who we are...

Name of the Book	Chapter	Verse
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<b>Matthew</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18 - 22</b>
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18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James’s son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### Getting ready!

Who is someone you know who follows Jesus? How do they show you what Jesus is like?

**This week we start our journey together exploring how we can grow as followers of Jesus. This might be your first time to think about what it means to be a Christian, or you might have had many conversations with people in your church and family. It does not matter where you are on that journey, God is always happy to have you as a friend and Jesus stories are there to guide your way and the Spirit is there whenever you need it! But we do not do this journey alone we do it with others, maybe your family or maybe the people at Church. Like the disciples in the reading today we hope you choose to leave what you are doing, meet some new friends and follow Jesus too!**

**Meet the new Pulse team members - We are here to help you learn more about Jesus. We are from all over the state and have different stories and families. Why not check out who we are on the Pulse website! <https://www.ucapulse.org.au/>**

### PRAYER OF THANKS;

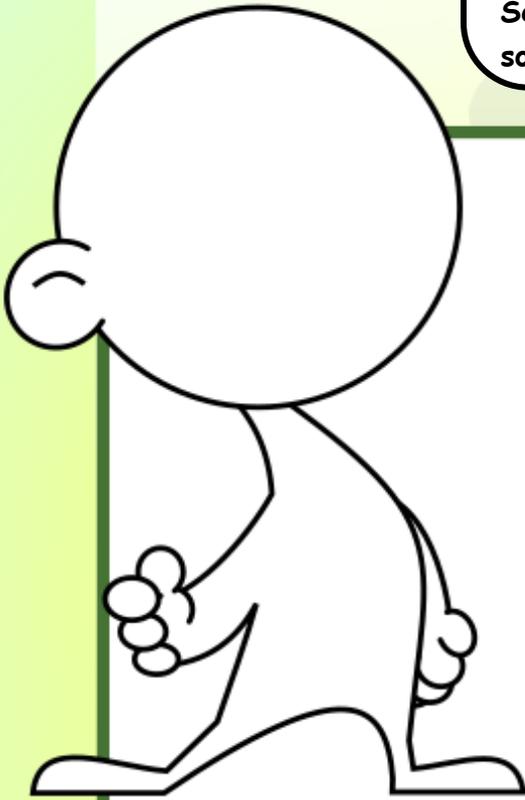
Thankyou God that you call every one of us to follow you, that you have given us Jesus’ life to guide us and the Spirit to help us. Thank you that you are always listening and are happy to help. Amen.



Now that you have met us, it is time to get to know you! That is right, you are a part of God's kingdom!

Draw yourself and write some of the great stuff you do!

Send us a photo of your mascot so we can add you to your team!



#### TELLING OTHERS

Share with someone else about your avatar, remind them that God wants to be friends with everyone, and they could join in too!

#### CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Ask other people about when they first became friends with God.

#### SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Why not make time every day to talk with God, you could do it first thing in the morning or last thing at night, walking to school or travelling in the car or really any time of the day!

#### BLESSING

Remember that God loves you so much!! Stick this note somewhere to remind you every day!

