

NOT NORMAL

WEEK 4: JAN. 25 & 26

BIG IDEA

Jesus invites us to be like Him.

BIBLE

Jesus Calls the Disciples: Matthew 4:18-23 (Mark 8:34-36; Ephesians 5:1-2)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

COUNTDOWN:

Once it is time for class to start, begin the intro video. Instruct kids to clean up and then sit in their designated group spot. As kids sit down, Small Groups Leaders should sit with the kids in their group.

RULES:

1. Listen to your small group leader.
 - Respect your leader and obey what they tell you.
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
 - Be a good friend.
3. Have fun!

ACTIVITY: Who's the Leader?

- Welcome back! We're having fun with our Not Normal series this month with some wacky, not normal activities. We're learning about how not normal Jesus is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have all the kids stand in a circle, and send one kid out of the room. Then choose a secret leader and tell them to start doing a continuous movement (marching in place, patting their head, clapping, patting their lap, etc.) while all the other kids follow and do that same motion. Every 30 seconds or so, the secret leader should change up the motion and start doing something else, and everyone else should follow along. Tell them to be sneaky and conceal the real leader by not looking directly at the leader. Invite the kid back into the room and let the kids start doing the motions while the kid in the middle tries to guess who the leader is in three guesses.*

- Did anyone have a trick for figuring out who the leader was?
- When you were in the circle, was it easy to follow the leader?

QUESTION: What do you want to be when you grow up? ▲

- **Would you ever want to do a crazy job, like be an elephant trainer, a dog food taste tester, a professional sleeper, or a scuba diving pizza delivery person?** That's a real job, believe it or not!
- In today's story, we'll learn about two guys who were doing their normal, everyday jobs, when Jesus came and gave them a new, not normal job.

SO WHAT?

IMAGE: Fishing Net ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show kids the picture of the fish in the fishing net.*
- **What do you see in this picture?**
- **What are some challenges of using a net versus using a fishing pole to catch fish?**
- **What do you think it would be like for fishing to be your everyday job?**
- In today's story, Jesus encounters some normal men who caught fish for a job, and He called them to live a not normal life!

BIBLE STORY: Matthew 4:18-23 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What were Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew doing when Jesus saw them?** They were fishing, which was a normal job at that time.
- **What did Jesus tell them to do?** Jesus told them two things: He said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."
- **Do you think they were surprised? Do you think they were confused? How did they respond?** They left their nets, their jobs, and their homes immediately and followed Jesus.
- **What do you think Jesus meant when He said they could be fishers of people?** Jesus traveled around teaching and sharing the good news about God and His love. He healed people who were sick, helped people who needed help, and changed lives.
- Jesus gave these men a chance to leave their normal lives and do something extraordinary, but they had to choose to follow Him for that to happen. Jesus invites us to do that, too.
- **What are some ways we can be like Jesus?**
- That leads us to our main point of the day . . .

THE BIG IDEA: Jesus invites us to be like Him. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:

- Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
- Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
- Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
- Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.

- **FOR PRETEENS:** Combine the elements of the envelope reveal at an awards show with getting an invitation to a special event for this week's Big Idea reveal. For details, see your weekly instructions.

- This week's Big Idea: **Jesus invites us to be like Him.**

ACTIVITY: Backwards Fishing ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, tie three foot long pieces of string to two extra-long dowel rods like [these](#) (or yard sticks). Tape a magnet to the other end of the string, like a fishing rod. Print four sets of the Backwards Fishing printables and cut apart the cards. Put a metal paperclip on each card and spread the cards out on one side of the room. Line the kids up on the other side of the room in two lines and give the first two kids in each line a fishing rod. Tell them to run down to the pile of fish cards and fish backwards by lowering the fishing rod behind their back to try and get the magnet to pick up a card. When they get one, they can run back to their team and give the fishing rod to the next team member. Most of the cards have fish on them, but a few cards in each pile will have people on them. The first team to get three people cards, wins.

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** They may not be able to fish backwards, but they might enjoy using the fishing pole to pick up the fish. Let them play the game by trying to get as many fish as they can, or bring in a beta fish in a bowl for a them to look at while you tell the story.

- **What do you think it means to fish for people?** It means they were going to find people who needed to know about Jesus and tell them His story. These men became the first disciples, which means followers, who traveled with Jesus and became like Him.

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION ▲

- Today we learned about Jesus inviting people to follow Him. He asked very different people than what some people would think.
- **Who did He invite to follow Him?**

- **What did Jesus say He would make them?**
- Jesus asks us to find others to follow Him just like He first found people to follow Him. We might seem silly or strange sometimes when we seek to find others to follow Jesus, but **what have we been learning about Jesus while He lived on earth?**
- We have been learning that He never asks us to do anything that He wasn't willing to do Himself. He calls us to obey Him like He obeyed.
- This is a really amazing thing about Jesus and what makes Him not normal.

ACTIVITY: Living for Jesus Charades

- We can follow Jesus just like the disciples did. We don't have to leave our homes to follow Him. We just have to trust He will lead us in the right direction.
- Let's think of ways we can live like Jesus in our everyday life.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose a kid to come to the front, and whisper a way we can live like Jesus. Have them act it out while the rest of the kids guess what they're doing.*
- *You can use the following actions:*
 - *Read the Bible*
 - *Go to church*
 - *Worship God*
 - *Be kind to others*
 - *Help people who are sick*
 - *Pray for people to know Jesus*
 - *Tell others about God*
 - *Give to people in need*
 - *Be brave*
- The more and more we get to know Jesus, the more we become like Him and live like He wants us to live.
- These are all great things to do, but remember: living like Jesus is not about doing a list of exactly the right things, but it's the way we care for Jesus and others.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:34-36

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verses in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same.*
- **What did Jesus say someone had to do to follow Him?**
- **If it is so hard, why would anyone want to try to be like Jesus and follow Him?**
- **What does it mean to deny ourselves? What is a situation when we might need to deny ourselves?**
- Following Jesus isn't easy. It is not normal, which means it might be hard, but living for Jesus is worth it. Jesus knows what's best. Jesus is perfect, so we can trust Him to help and care for us.

MUSIC: Worship ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the worship videos to lead the kids in singing/dancing through 2 songs.*

TALK: RECAP OF THE MONTH ▲

- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Use a popular game format to bring this recap to life for your preteens. For details, see your weekly instructions.*
- We've had four weeks of being not normal! After all these great Bible stories, we hope you're excited to live like Jesus!
 - We learned that **Jesus is not normal** and he began showing everyone that at the age of twelve when He stayed in the temple to talk and listen to Bible teachers instead of going home with His family.
 - In the story of Jesus' baptism, we learned that **Jesus is God**.
 - In the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we learned that **Jesus is perfect**.
 - And today, we learned that **Jesus invites us to be like Him**, just like He invited the disciples.
 - We learned so much this month! I hope you see how awesome it can be to forget blending in and being like everyone else, and instead standing up and standing out to be like Jesus.

MEMORY VERSES: Matthew 16:16; 1 Peter 1:15-16 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice saying the verse together by having each kid say one word of a verse as you go around a circle. Once one verse is finished go onto the next one. If at any time someone messes up then start over.*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION ▲

- **Can you name the four men Jesus called to follow Him?** (*Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John.*)
- **What did the men have in common?** (*They were fishermen.*)
- **What did the men do when Jesus asked them to follow Him?** (*They dropped their nets and followed Jesus.*)
- **Why do you think they dropped everything to follow Jesus?**
- **What are some ways you can follow Jesus and be like Him?**

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-2 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verses in your Bible and read them.*

- What does it mean to imitate God?
- Is that always easy? Why not?
- What does it mean to “walk in love”?

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:16; 1 Peter 1:15-16 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice the verses together.*

PRAYER: ▲

INSTRUCTIONS: *Pray together as a group. Specifically focus on praying that each other would be able to be more like Jesus throughout this next week in their interactions with others.*

Points: Kids get points for things listed below. Add weekly points and insert that number next to their name for the given week. ▲

- Dot Stickers 10 Points
- Bring your Bible to class 50 Points
- Memorize monthly verses 50 points/verse
- Attend Redeemer’s Kids Class 100 Points
- Bring a friend who doesn’t attend Redeemer’s 100 Points
- **Weekly Postcard Points:** *(Put check mark next to each you’ve given them points for)*
 - Memorized Weekly Big Idea 50 Points
 - Read Bible Daily 100 Points