

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

GOAL

The goal of this lesson is twofold:

1. *To help students lead like Jesus* by digging into leadership principles found in the Bible and modern-day life, asking hard questions, experiential activities, and specific life application.
2. *To make it easy for you* to facilitate and teach students. That is why the Facilitator's Guide is packed with easy to use instructions, timeframes, and questions that promote thinking and draw out real responses.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- A copy of the Facilitator's Guide for you and any other facilitators
- A copy of the Student Guide for each participant
- Be sure to check out the Live It Out section ahead of time to prepare. You'll need:
 - *No supplies needed*

BACKGROUND

This lesson is recommended to go third in the *Lead Like Jesus* series

1. Follow the Voice
2. Have Faith
3. Don't Ask, Invite
4. Bring the Good News

HOW TO USE: Small Group or Large Group

The Facilitator's Guide contains everything in the Student Guide, plus some additional material. This table outlines the elements of each lesson and provides an approximate timeframe, which you can adapt to meet the needs of your group.

- ☐ For a **SMALL GROUP** setting, use the white boxes below.
- ☐ For a **LARGE GROUP** talk, refer to the grey boxes on the right

		FOR A SMALL GROUP SETTING		FOR A LARGE GROUP TALK
		FACILITATOR'S GUIDE	IN STUDENT GUIDE	<i>*include personal illustrations to make this a powerful talk</i>
LESSON ELEMENTS	OVERVIEW	Read before facilitating	X	Read before facilitating
	OPENING QUESTIONS	Get students thinking and begin conversation (2–3 minutes)	✓	Use these questions as an ice breaker
	WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT	A Bible Study with discussion questions (15–20 minutes)	✓	Main Scripture and teaching
	A SECOND LOOK	Another take on this study with discussion questions (10–15 minutes)	✓	Use as an illustration to bring the topic to life
	LIVE IT OUT	An experiential activity to help students reinforce and internalize the lesson (10–15 minutes)	X	Consider using this as an object lesson
	APPLY IT	A practical application for students to do this week (2–3 minutes)	✓	Use this as a springboard to present students with practical next steps
	THINK ABOUT IT	Challenging quote to consider	✓	Challenging quote to consider
	PRAY	A short focus for a prayer time	X	A short focus for a prayer time
	MEMORY VERSE	Verse to meditate on <i>*text or post the graphic included in your download</i>	✓	Verse to meditate on <i>*text or post the graphic included in your download</i>

OVERVIEW

When Jesus invited his disciples to follow him, he showed us two things: 1) that he has invited us to join him in ministry, and 2) how to invite others. In this lesson, students will examine the two principles of a great invitation by looking at Jesus' calling of the four fishermen. By looking at their own experiences, they'll imagine what it feels like to receive a truly great invitation as a follower. Lastly, a fun activity will give students space to practice inviting other people to join them, no matter what the task may be.

OPENING QUESTIONS

2–3 minutes

- What's the greatest party or event you've ever been invited to?
- What information should be included in an invitation?

FACILITATOR'S NOTE: If your group of students is small enough, you can have each person share their answer. Otherwise, for a larger group, have them pair and share to answer these questions.

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

15–20 minutes



Read the following together:

Leaders need followers. Without them, leaders are just crazy people striking out on their own, spinning their wheels to make something happen all by themselves. The thing is, getting people to follow you is difficult and intimidating. It's easy to think of all the things that could go wrong. *What if my idea is bad? What if they don't finish what they promise? What if they think I'm bossy and I lose our friendship? I'd rather just do it myself...*

Thankfully, we have an example in Jesus. When he calls his disciples—his followers—he doesn't just ask them, he invites them. Here are the two critical elements of his great invitation that we can emulate:

1. **He invites them to join him.** When in leadership, does your communication give the vibe that you enjoy telling people what to do or that you enjoy inviting people to join you in doing something meaningful? When Jesus says, "Follow me," he's saying that he will be there every step of the journey; he will show them the way (Matt. 4:19). Every great invitation must have the element of relationship. Are your followers going to achieve something with you, or do you just want them to complete a task for you?
2. **He casts vision for impact.** "I will make you fishers of men," (Matt. 4:19). Jesus doesn't stop at giving a clear command, he gives the disciples a glimpse into their future. He is going to take them from who they are (fishermen on the Sea of Galilee) to something greater (fishers of men, followers of the Son of God). When you extend an invitation, you must cast a clear vision for the future. Invite people in such a way that shows them what impact they could have, how their life could change, and how they can contribute to God's kingdom. When people hear that their participation is that important, they're much more likely to be all-in.

Read Matthew 4:18–22 and answer the following questions.

Discuss:

- What scares you the most about inviting others to follow your leadership?
- When have you been most inspired to follow someone?
- At this moment in your leadership, would your followers say that they feel like they're working with you or for you?
- Would your followers say that they have a vision for what kind of impact they're having?

FACILITATOR'S NOTE: This is an incredible opportunity to remind students that they have been invited by Jesus. As his disciples, they can also "leave their nets and follow him," (Matt. 4:20). With that in mind, when we invite others to follow us, we should be inviting them to follow us as we follow Jesus. The chain of command should never end with us. Do we really think that our ideas and decisions are that good? No, we must always be following Jesus, the one who gave us the greatest invitation of all time.

A SECOND LOOK

10–15 minutes

**Read the following together:**

What does it feel like to receive a great invitation? Well, typically, it feels like these three things:

1. **Thrill of being wanted.** Whether you enjoy a fiery game of dodgeball or not, everyone likes to be picked first. When you're picked first, you know you're wanted. You know you're important. When a leader extends a great invitation, followers should feel like they're getting picked first, like they're a big deal.
2. **Desire to meet potential.** In theatre, call-backs are a huge deal. After an audition, certain people will be asked to return so that the drama directors can get a better look at what they can do. When they finally get the part, the director is saying, "I see in you the potential to play this character excellently." When you extend an invitation, do your followers know that you see potential in them to grow in exciting ways?
3. **Feeling valued for uniqueness.** In every great heist movie, each specific character has a specific job to do. There's the mad-scientist engineer, the sneaky martial arts expert, the get-away-car driver, and the cool, calm, and collected ring-leader. A great invitation should make the follower feel like they have a unique contribution to make. What skill or ability do they bring to the table that no one else does?

In essence, people will follow when you show them value and appreciation. Invitations don't feel like a chore to be done; they feel like playing an important role in an important opportunity.

Discuss:

- What unique abilities do you have that you would like for other people to see and appreciate?
- What kind of value—either in special abilities or potential—do you currently see in the people on your team?

- On a scale of 1 to 4 (1=I could go out and do this today, 4=this sounds really difficult) how difficult will it be for you to invite other people in this way?
- What can you do to grow in this area?

LIVE IT OUT: NOW HIRING

10–15 minutes

What you will need: no supplies needed.

OBJECTIVE:

The goal of this activity is to give students an opportunity to practice extending an invitation. Even in this activity's goofiness—you'll be recruited to join a company with an undesirable and gross job description—remind your students of the two ingredients of a great invitation, as detailed above.

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS:

- **ASK YOUR STUDENTS:** *Let's brainstorm for a second. What are the top three, absolute, grossest jobs that you can think of?*
- Take a few minutes to let them discuss and agree upon their top three.
- Once they have agreed upon their three, divide your students into three groups, and give each one of them a different "job" from the top three that they came up with.
- **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Here's the situation, you have all been hired as the recruiting team for these companies, the companies that you said had the grossest jobs around. Your task is to recruit the top talent in the room—myself—to join your company and do that job. What can you say to convince me and invite me to work with you?*
- Give each team five minutes to prepare their invitational pitch.
- Allow each team two minutes to invite you to their gross job.
- Teams will go one at a time.
- At the end, choose whichever gross-job-recruiting-team has given you the best invitation.

RULES

1. No additional supplies may be used in your recruiting invite.
2. Each team has two minutes to present their opportunity.
3. Each job opportunity provides the same salary and benefits—your recruiting invite must sell the recruit on how "worth it" the job is all by itself.

Debrief:

- What was the most creative recruiting angle you heard from another group?
- Think of your leadership opportunities that you currently have. (Thankfully, they are all better than the jobs you just recruited for!)
 - Who is on your list of followers that you already have or followers that you need to invite?
 - How could you invite them to join you; to work with you instead of just completing tasks for you?
 - What kind of impact could they have if they followed you?
 - What could God accomplish through your leadership and your followers?

APPLY IT

2–3 minutes

Pick one task that needs to be done—especially if that task is a leadership opportunity for you—and follow Jesus' example by inviting at least one person to join you.

Be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

FACILITATOR'S NOTE: Whenever students make applications, challenge them to be specific. It's one thing to say, "I'm going to trust God more." The truth is, our students won't really know if they did this, or if they grew in trust over the week. It's another thing to say, "Every morning this week before I eat breakfast, I'm going to tell God that today is His and that I trust Him, and I'm going to ask him to give me the strength to replace worries with trust." So challenge your students to answer the questions under the "Be Specific" section. You can even have them pair and share their applications and ask for accountability from their partner.

THINK ABOUT IT

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" – David Livingstone¹

PRAY

Spend a few minutes praying with students. Thank God for inviting us to follow him, and for giving us the opportunity to serve him with the leadership and the abilities he gave us. Pray for discernment so that you may be able to invite others in such a way that shows them the kind of value God has for them.

MEMORIZE/MEDITATE ON THIS VERSE

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28 (ESV)

¹ David Livingstone, quoted by Priscilla J. Krahn, *Mission of a Lifetime* (Greenville, SC: Ambassador International, 2017), Kindle edition.