

# FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 21

For Kids

## Make Friends for Jesus

### Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

Jesus Wants  
us to bring  
our friends  
to Him



**Say:** Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to use our spiritual gifts to serve others. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about the service project you have chosen. Tell who you plan to help and what you plan to do.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

### Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** how Jesus made friends
- **Feel** inspired to make friends for Jesus
- **Respond** by starting to make friends for Jesus

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day  
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



## The Bridge (10 Minutes)

### You need

- 2 paper bags
- 2 unusual objects that are difficult to identify by touch alone

Divide the class into two groups and give each group one bag. Instruct each group to stand in a circle and with eyes closed silently pass the bag from person to person. **Say:** When you receive the bag, reach inside and feel the object. Try to figure out what it is. Do not talk.

When the bags have completed their circles, instruct the participants to pair up with someone from the other group. Instruct them to take turns sharing what they felt in their bags and describing what it might be useful for.

Take the objects out of the bags for all to see.

### Debrief

**Ask:** How well did you describe your object? (Acknowledge responses.) How does it feel to tell someone else about something you are not familiar with? (Acknowledge responses.) How does something become familiar? (When you can see it, touch it, use it.)

Instruct the participants to think of an object they are very familiar with. Invite them to describe this object to their partners. Allow 30 seconds for each person. Call time.

**Ask:** How did it feel to talk about something you are familiar with? (Acknowledge responses.)

**Say:** The things we spend time with and think about the most are the things that are most familiar to us. These are the things we are most comfortable talking about with others. When we spend more time with Jesus, it becomes easier to talk to others about Him.

**Prayer:** Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



## Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:  
**Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.**

### Activity

Based on Luke 19:1-8; John 17:20, 21

Place the step ladder off to one side and behind the plant so it will look like Zacchaeus is climbing the tree.

Select volunteers to be Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Zacchaeus and Jesus.

Instruct the actors to freeze their action as Narrator 1 speaks then resume action when Narrator 2 speaks. Place Narrators 1 and 2 at opposite sides of the front of the room. Give Zacchaeus a handful of coins. Direct the acting and encourage enthusiasm.

**Narrator 1** Jesus knew a lot about friendship. Let's see what we can learn from His example.

**Narrator 2** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through this city.

**Narrator 1** Let's notice something here. Who came to whom? Jesus came to Jericho looking for Zacchaeus. We make friends by looking for others where they are.

**Narrator 2** A man there by the name of Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector; he was wealthy.

**Zacchaeus** [Enters and stands pouring a handful of coins back and forth from hand to hand.]

**Narrator 1** Here's the story on tax collectors. They were Jews, but they collected taxes for the Romans. The Jews hated the Romans and tax collectors. Tax collectors made people pay too much. If the tax was \$1.00 the tax collector could charge \$2.00 and keep the difference for himself. There was nothing that anyone could do about this. So Zacchaeus was not a popular guy. He had hardly any friends.

### You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- 3 copies of the script
- Props: coins, step ladder, real or artificial plant to hide the step ladder, red scarf for Jesus

### Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

- Narrator 2** Jesus entered Jericho and walked down the street.
- Jesus** [Enters followed by a crowd at the side opposite the step ladder and plant.]
- Narrator 2** Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus.
- Zacchaeus** [Stands on tip toes trying to see over the crowd.]
- Narrator 2** But he was a short man and couldn't see because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a tree to see Jesus. He put his hand above his brow and peered out between the branches.
- Zacchaeus** [Climbs step ladder; peers out between branches.]
- Narrator 2** Jesus and the crowd were heading toward the tree. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."
- Jesus** [Looks up at Zacchaeus.]
- Narrator 1** Wow! Did you catch that? Jesus knew Zacchaeus needed a friend. And so He spoke first and made the first attempt at friendship.
- Narrator 2** So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly. He shook His hand and pointed out the direction of his home. They immediately headed that way. All the people saw this and muttered in astonishment, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner!"
- Zacchaeus** [Climbs down from the ladder; shakes Jesus' hand; points.]
- Narrator 1** Eating with someone is considered an act of friendship and acceptance. No other Jew in all of Jericho would eat with Zacchaeus. Yet Jesus accepted him and even invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus wanted Zacchaeus for a friend, and He wanted to set an example for others to follow. Jesus' love and acceptance made Zacchaeus feel six feet tall. He just wanted to love Jesus back. His face became one big smile as he turned to Jesus.
- Narrator 2** Zacchaeus said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

## Bible Discovery

**Write on the board:** How Jesus Made Friends.

**Say:** The story of Zacchaeus gives us some important pointers on how to make friends for Jesus.

**1 Read Luke 19:1.** Did Zacchaeus come to the city where Jesus lived, or did Jesus come to the city where Zacchaeus lived? (Jesus came to Zacchaeus.)

**Say:** We need to go up to visitors at church and be the first one to speak. We need to go and make friends with our neighbors.

**Write on the board:** Jesus went where people were

**2 Read Luke 19:5.** In the story of Zacchaeus, who made the first move to start a friendship? (Jesus.)

**Write on the board:** Jesus looked for ways to begin the friendship

**3 Read Luke 19:5 again.** What needs did Zacchaeus have that Jesus met? (Need for a friend; need for acceptance.)

**Write on the board:** Jesus met their needs

**4 Read Luke 19:5-7 and John 3:17.** What did Jesus NOT do when He met Zacchaeus? (He did not reveal his sins or condemn him.)

**Say:** Jesus did not embarrass Zacchaeus by telling others what Zacchaeus had done wrong. Zacchaeus was well aware of his own sins and confessed them when he experienced Jesus' love and acceptance.

**Write on the board:** Jesus did not point out faults but showed love

**5 Read John 17:20, 21.** What did Jesus do for His friends? (He prayed for them.)

**Write on the board:** Jesus prayed for His friends

## Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "How did Jesus make friends?"
3. After each answer follow up by asking, "What can we do to make friends for Jesus?"
4. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



## My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.**

**Leader:** Share briefly an experience you have had in sharing Jesus with one of your friends.

### You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

**Say:** Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



## My World (5-8 Minutes)

**Leaders:** While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

### You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.



## **Closing** (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

**Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.**

### **You need**

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

**Say:** Making friends is the first step in bringing people to Jesus. You never know who God has put into your life for the purpose of helping that friend know Him.

**Ask:** Did you all think of a person who might not know Jesus as his/her friend? Did you think of something you can do to be a friend to this person?

**Grace Point — Say:** Next week I will ask you to share any first step you have taken to help this person know Jesus as his/her friend.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His friendship
- asking Him to help us bring our friends to Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

# FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



# My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

## Forming Friendships that Last Forever...

Jesus was a master at making friends. He wants His followers to continue to make friends for Him. By following His example we can learn how to make friends for Him.

1. Jesus went to people instead of waiting for them to come to Him..... Luke 19:1
2. Jesus looked for ways to begin a friendship ..... Luke 19:5
3. Jesus met their needs ..... Luke 19:5
4. Jesus did not point out faults but showed them love..... Luke 19:5-7; John 3:17
5. Jesus prayed for His friends ..... John 17:2, 21

3. Parents/mentors **Share** the name of a person in your circle of influence who needs to know Jesus. How could hope in Jesus help that person?
4. **THE CHOICE – Ask:** Would you like to share Jesus with your friends? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together as a family. Tell Jesus you want to bring your friends to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you know which people you need to help.

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

## My World

Work with your child to complete the following:

1. Make a “Friends for Jesus” list. Write the names of people you know who might not know Jesus as their friend.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Select one person from your list and put a check beside his/her name.

3. Complete this outline:

<b>GO</b>	How will you get to where this person is? How will you start getting to know this person? What are some things you might have in common?
<b>LOOK</b>	How might you begin a friendship?
<b>MEET</b>	What needs does this person have and how will you meet them?
<b>LOVE</b>	What things will you look for in this person that you can like? How will you keep showing love to this person even if you don't think he/she will accept Jesus?
<b>PRAY</b>	Pray right now for this person. Continue to pray that you will be the kind of friend to this person that Jesus would be.

**Grace Point** — Next week you will be asked to share any first step you have taken to help this person know Jesus as his/her friend.

**Next week** Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share your experience of leading another person to receive Jesus as his/her Savior or your experience of being led by someone else to accept Jesus as your Savior.

## Make Friends for Jesus

### **Mentoring Moments for Lesson 21**

*Mentoring Moments* are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

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#### **Choice One**

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:1

**Activity:** Draw a picture of you and your best friend.

**For Discussion:** The Bible says Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. Do you love your best friend that much? How do you know how much you love someone? How can you show your best friend how much you love him/her?

**Prayer Point:** Thank God for your spiritual friends. Ask God to help you keep Him at the center of your friendships.

#### **Choice Two**

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:4

**Activity:** Gather your family. Give each person a piece of paper and a pencil. Have each person write down what they think are the others' most prized possession(s). Compare notes and see who got the most correct answers.

**For Discussion:** Have you ever given a friend a present you wanted for yourself? How did that feel? Have you ever given your most prized possession to someone else? What do you think prompted Jonathan to give his most valuable possessions to David?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to make you as generous with your friends as Jonathan was with David, and as He is with us.

## **Choice Three**

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 19:1-7

**Activity:** Draw or create a “danger” sign using construction paper, felt, craft foam, or any items you have at home. On the back, write down the dangerous things you come up with in the discussion section.

**For Discussion:** Was Jonathan concerned about the consequences of warning David? How do you know? What dangers can you think of that you might need to warn a friend about? Have you ever tried to mend a relationship problem like Jonathan did? What happened?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to make you a fearless friend who is more concerned with doing the right thing than with the consequences.

## **Choice Four**

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 20, especially verses 41 and 42

**Activity:** Look at the list of names you came up with previously or think of another friend whose well-being you can put above your own. Ask your parents or another adult for help thinking of a way you can show that person you are concerned about him/ her, and then do it.

**For Discussion:** How did Jonathan show that he was more concerned with David’s well-being than his own? Ask several adults if they have ever had a friend who was more concerned about the welfare of others than their own. What were the results? Are you more concerned about your friends than yourself?

**Prayer Point:** Ask Jesus to make you a friend like Jonathan, who was more concerned about his friend than himself.

## **Choice Five**

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 23:15-18

**Activity:** Look at the names on your list again. Whom do you think might need encouraging? Give that person a call or find another way to encourage him/ her.

**For Discussion:** Have you ever helped a friend find strength in the Lord? Who? How? Has anyone ever helped you find strength in the Lord? Who? How? What did that do to your friendship, or what do you think it would do to your friendship?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to make you the kind of friend who helps others find strength in Him.