

Following Jesus

Missional Message: God shows me how to become a Christian.

Missional Challenge:

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" - John 15:13

What is needed:

- Picture of best friend
- Bible

Making it Real

(Show a picture of your best friend and tell the children about that friendship you have with your best friend.)

God created each of us with the desire for us to know Him. God wants to be our Friend. However, as is the case with many friendships, something hurt the friendship. That something is sin. Sin separates us from God's friendship and love. An example of a sin is disobeying what the Bible tells us to do.

The Bible says that everyone has sinned (Romans 3:23). In fact, sin separates us from a friendship with God.

Despite our sin, God loved us so very much that He sent His son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Since Jesus lived a sinless life on earth, He was able to make a way for our sins to be forgiven. Jesus gave Himself, by dying for our sins, so that we might know God as our friend.

God wants us to believe that Jesus came to earth, lived a sinless life, and died to forgive us of our sins. Then God wants us to commit our lives to following Jesus. This is a process that many people call *being saved*, because God is saving us from our sins and providing us with a way to know Him.

So how are you saved? The Bible says in Romans 10:9. *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Prayer

God, thank You for loving us so much that You have provided a way for us to know You as your Friend.

Making it Stick

Have the children write the following verses or draw pictures that illustrate the verses. Lead the children to share in their own words what the verses mean. Help them to understand the meaning of words they might not know, such as wages and confess.

- *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23)
- *"But God demonstrates his own love For us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).
- *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23)
- *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9)
- *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Romans 10:9)

If a child is interested in learning more or in making a personal decision to follow Christ, counsel with the child one-on-one.

Making it Personal

Memorize Romans 10:9.

Write a letter to God, thanking Him for sending Jesus. Share that letter with a friend.

Making it Home

Have each family member share about when he or she chose to follow Christ.