

First Family Foundations

Building a foundation of Faith for Families.

Unit 5 — Jesus

Lesson 3 — His life and teachings are an example for us.

Introduction —

Stories of what Jesus did and said should be favorites at your house. Repeat them often. Also let your children see film versions like the recent *The Gospel of John*. Only once in history did God show himself so vividly. His years as a man on earth are told in wonderful accounts that never get old. The way He loved and related to other people is breathtaking. Plus, Jesus' teachings amaze and challenge even those believers who have studied them for decades.

Here's the Activity:

Read this story with your family.

Rat-a-tat-tat go the small drums. Toot-toot-toot go the shiny trumpets. Pete loves to see and hear bands. Grandpa and Pete like to watch parades on television together.

"Oh, look, Grandpa!" Pete shouts. "There's the tuba."

Oompa! Oompa! goes the big tuba.

"They are all walking the same way," Pete says. "How do they stay in a line even while they are doing tricks?"

"They are following a leader," Grandpa answers. "They practice marching behind their leader. If he turns right, they will also turn right. If he stops, they will also stop."

"It seems like that would take a lot of practice," Pete says.

"Yes," Grandpa replies, "and look what happens after all of the practices."

"Our Sunday school teacher says that God's Son, Jesus, was a great teacher and that His life and teachings are an example to us. She says it's important to follow Jesus' example and do what He says in the Bible."

"It's very important to follow Jesus," Grandpa replies. "It takes lots of practice to be like Jesus — just like the band following its director. When we follow Jesus, we become like Him."

"I'm going to practice following Jesus," Pete says. "When I grow up, I want to be just like Him."

"Me, too," Grandpa says.

Ask

- While watching the parade, who did Pete decide he wanted to follow: Jesus or the man leading the band?
- Read Matthew 4:18-22. When the fishermen in the Bible put down their nets, who were they going to practice following?
- How can you practice being like Jesus?

Act

- Adopt a missionary family as pen pals for your family. Talk about the ways the missionaries have chosen to follow Jesus. Discuss how your own family follows Jesus like the disciples did.
- Play "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says." As you play, review the story that tells how Jesus' disciples dropped what they were doing to follow Him.