

service

Welcome

Good morning everyone! Welcome to our children's sabbath program! We are so thankful that you are here! We pray that you will be blessed and encouraged as our children share their talents, gifts, and enthusiasm with you in our very special message today. Our key verse is found in 2 corinthians 5:17. It says "if anyone is in christ, he is a new creation. The old things passed away, behold, the new things have come!" Being in Christ is no ordinary experience. There is a BIG difference when we give our lives to him. Lets take some time to greet on another and share this promise together. Turn to your neighbor and say to them "Jesus makes the difference!" (play some music and give some time for greeting) Today we will discover several ways Jesus calls us to be different, and we will be reminded that knowing Jesus is a transforming, life changing, AMAZING experience... when we say YES to Jesus, we will never be the same.

Opening Skit: Now That's Different!

Props

- 1 extra large white shirt
- 2 extra large rainbow tie dye shirt
- 6 large paint bottles, each different colors

Note: you can use cheap Crayola washable tempera paints. As part of the skit, each child will be squirting some paint into a box. You can place a sheet on the floor if you want to prevent any splattering, or you can use empty paint containers and put water inside. If you don't have paint containers, you can use condiment bottles, and wrap them in construction paper for each color.

- 1 cardboard box with a large sign that says "BE DIFFERENT"

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Setup

Label each paint bottle with one label

“Love” – blue paint

“hope” – purple paint

“Joy” – yellow paint

“peace” – green paint

“truth” – orange paint

“Jesus” – red paint

Place the box on a table, setting the tie-dye shirt behind the box, out of sight from the audience.

Characters

7 children and 1 adult

Note - optional: You can have each child wear a plain colored shirt that coincides with the color paint bottle they are carrying. For example, if a child has the bottle labeled “Love”, they can wear a plain blue shirt.

Script

Adult- (Comes onstage wearing extra large white shirt over regular clothing, whistling casually. Adult stops, notices box and looks at it curiously) hmmm... Whats this? (walks around box inspecting it carefully and reads the sign) “Be Different” ... hmmm... I wonder what that means... (calls out) HEY, does anyone know what this sign on this box means?!

Child - (comes onstage wearing tie dye shirt) I do!

Adult – you do?

Child – I do! Take a look at my shirt! (spins around)

Adult—Wow! What a neat shirt! How did you get that shirt?

Child – That’s what the box is for.

Adult – it is? Well how does the box work?

Child – Its easy! Just take your shirt and put it in the box!

Adult – that’s it?

Child – yep! That’s it. Go ahead and give it a try! (adult takes off white shirt, bunches it up and places it in boxes) (Child calls out to the audience) OKAY EVERYONE! LETS GET TO WORK!!!! (runs offstage)

Adult – Wait! Where are you going? (scratches head) I wonder what that was all about

Child 2 – (comes onstage holding blue paint labeled “love”)

Adult – Who are you?



Child 2 – Hi! I’m here to share some love with you!

Adult – Love?

Child 2 – Yes! The bible tells us in 1 John 4:19 that we love because Jesus first loved us! That kind of love is UNCONDITIONAL (Squeezes blue paint into box, squeeze enough so the audience can see the blue coming out of the bottle. After child 2 squeezes paint child runs offstage with bottle)

Adult- Hey! Where are you going?! (looks into box and scratches head) hmmm... unconditional love? Wow that’s different...

Child 3 (Comes onstage holding purple paint labeled “hope”)

Adult – Who are you?

Child 3 – Hi! I’m here to share some hope with you!

Adult – Hope?

Child 3 – Yes! The bible tells us in 1st peter 1:3 that we have a LIVING HOPE in Jesus. That’s a hope that stays with us always, because we know He loves us and has saved us. (Squeezes purple paint into box, swirling the paint around as it is squeezed. Squeeze enough so the audience can see the purple paint coming out of the bottle. After child 3 squeezes paint, child runs offstage with bottle)

Adult- WAIT!!!! Where did you go?! (scratches head and looks around... looks inside box) Hope huh? (picks up box and looks inside thoughtfully) not just any hope a LIVING HOPE... hmmm... that’s really different. (continues to look inside box while child 4 comes onstage)

Child 4 – (comes onstage holding green paint labeled “peace”. Adult doesn’t notice, so child taps on adults shoulder)

Adult – WHOA!!! (notices child and puts box down) wait... who are you?!

Child 4 – Me? I’m here to give you some peace!

Adult – Peace?

Child 4- Yes! Jesus promised us in John 14:27 that he leaves us his peace. Peace not like the world gives... a peace that only God can give. We don’t have to be troubled or afraid because his peace passes all understanding. (Squeezes green paint into box, swirling the paint around as it is squeezed. Squeeze enough so the audience can see the green paint coming out of the bottle. After child 4 squeezes paint, child runs offstage with bottle)

Adult – Wait come back!! Where are you going?! (shrugs shoulders) I guess s/he went with the others... lets see what we have here... (looks inside box) oh wow! Peace that passes all understanding? And hope and love? This is starting to look really different!

Child 5: (comes skipping onstage holding yellow paint labeled “Joy”. When child gets to adult jumps up and down clapping shouting YAAAAAAAAY!!!! Adult joins in and shouts yay and claps too)

Adult – Yaaaaaaaay!!! Wait, (scratches head) what are we cheering for?

Child 5 – Because I’m here to give you some joy!!!! The bible tells us in Psalms 32 to “Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, to sing all who are upright in heart”. We can be filled with JOY because we know Jesus!!! (Squeezes yellow paint into box, swirling the paint around as it is squeezed. Squeeze enough so the audience can see the yellow paint coming out of the bottle. After child 5



squeezes paint, child skips offstage with bottle)

Adult – Wait?! Where are you going? (waits a moment and looks into box again) hmmm... Joy! Rejoicing? Wow that's really really different! I like the way this is looking! I wonder what else will go into the box? (looks inside box carefully)

Child 6 - (comes onstage holding orange paint labeled "truth". When child gets to adult (looks inside box carefully too) Wow! you've got a lot of things inside your box!

Adult- I do! I'm really excited! I have love and peace and hope and joy! Its looking really different inside the box... don't you think? But... Who are you?

Child 6 – Well I'm here to add something else into the box! Its really important. I'm here to add truth!

Adult- Truth?

Child 6 – Yes, the Jesus tells us in John 8:31 and 32 that if we abide in God's word we can know the truth and the TRUTH WILL SET US FREE (Squeezes orange paint into box, swirling the paint around as it is squeezed. Squeeze enough so the audience can see the orange paint coming out of the bottle. After child 5 squeezes paint, walks offstage with bottle)

Adult: Wait!!! Where are you going????.... (waits a moment and looks inside box) Hmmm... I guess s/he is with the others... (looks closer in box) Wow! These are some really great things that were put into this box!!! and wow! Its beginning to look really really different in the box... And truth was added... and now its very different! But (thinking a moment) where are all of these really great things coming from? Where did Joy and peace and hope and love come from? Where did truth come from? How are all of these things inside the box?

Child 7– I can help you answer that! (comes onstage holding red paint labeled "Jesus")

Adult – Who are you?

Child 7 – I'm here to help answer your question. And to give you something. (gives bottle labeled Jesus to adult)

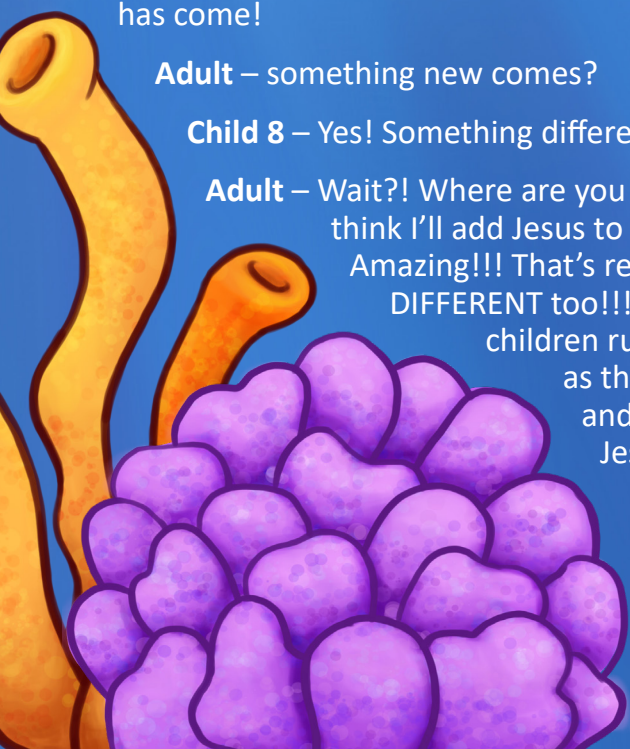
Adult – What's this? Jesus?

Child 7 – Yes! Jesus. He is the one that gives us peace, and love, and hope, and joy, and truth. He tells us in Galatians 3:26-27 that if anyone in Jesus (Christ) he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Adult – something new comes?

Child 8 – Yes! Something different!! See for yourself!!! (walks offstage)

Adult – Wait?! Where are you going?! (Thinks a moment) hmmm.... What do I do? Hmmm... I think I'll add Jesus to the box. (adds red paint to box) WOW!!! (pulls out tie dye shirt) Amazing!!! That's really different. (excited and puts on tie dye shirt) Wow!!! I feel DIFFERENT too!!!... (calls to children offstage) Hey everyone come back!!! (all the children run onstage and stand in line Adult shows the shirt to each child as their color is called out) look at this!!!! I have love... and hope... and joy... and I have peace! And I have truth because of my friend Jesus. Wow!!! Thank you so much everyone. Hey look!!! (pulls out second tie die shirt) There's another one!!! (holds shirt up to audience) Would you like to be different too? (holds out shirt to the audience and skit ends)



Play Song: We Are Different

Scripture Reading

Supplies – 8 poster boards

Setup – label the posterboards with the following words

- 1 – therefore if anyone
- 2 – is in christ
- 3- he is a new creation
- 4 – the old things
- 5 – passed away
- 6- behold new things
- 7 – have come
- 8 - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Offering

ADRA: Every Child. Everywhere. In School! (print pg. 32)

Child: The ADRA mission project provides resources and supplies to *all* children in third-world countries to be able to go to school, to have fresh water to drink, to have enough food to eat and to have a safe home to live in. Look over the ADRA Mission projects and links provided where you can give your money to help children around the world!

Sermon Introduction

(come onstage holding tie dye shirt and the white shirt from the skit) Today in our skit we used a white shirt **(hold up white shirt)** and a tie dye shirt **(hold up tie dye shirt)** as a lesson about what it is like to be different when we choose to be a Christian. We are changed for the better from the inside out! This is because our friend Jesus has saved us and invites us to be with him every single day.

When we spend time with Jesus, we become more like him. This is why we have more love to give to one another without limits. This is why we have peace that stays with us even in hard times. This is

why we have hope in his promises. This is why we can stand in truth. This is why we have joy that fills us up! We definitely stand apart, because of these changes. Our bible verse of the day is a promise that reminds us of these good changes that come from knowing Jesus. Lets invite 8 children up so that we can read our Bible promise together.

(Choose 8 participants ahead of time and give each one a sign as they come onstage. Line each participant in the order of the bible verse) Now here's where we need your help! When a sign is held up, lets read that part of the verse out loud together. We'll do it a few times.. Ready? **(have each child hold up their sign one at a time. As each sign is held up, the audience reads the sign as a group. Do this two or three times)**

Being a new creation in Jesus is a beautiful, wonderful, amazingly awesome change! But you don't have to take my word for it. Today we are going to hear the stories of real people who met Jesus in person, and were made new in him. By hearing how Jesus helped them change, we can learn how Jesus helps change us too!

PART 1 – JESUS HEALS OUR WOUNDS

Supplies:

Bandaid printout (see pg. 33)

Crayons (put sets of crayons in sandwich baggies to hand out to families)

First aid kit with supplies or a play doctor kit

Note: any medical equipment can be used, either real supplies or play supplies. Choose 6 different items that would be recognized. Some items you may want to include are

- *Thermometer*
- *Stethoscope*
- *Band-aids*
- *Blood pressure cuff*
- *Gauze*
- *Ice pack*
- *Tongue depressor*
- *Ointment*

Song: We Are Called

SERMON PART 1 OPENING

Have you ever been to the doctor? We go see them when we don't feel well. They have all sorts of tools that help them care for their patients. **(hold up doctor kit)** I have a few of those tools here with me. Lets see if you can figure out the name of the tool, and what its used for.

(hold up stethoscope) What is this? _____ That's right! It's a stethoscope. Doctors use stethoscopes to hear a person's heartbeat.

(hold up gauze) What is this? _____ that's right! Its gauze. **(wrap gauze around arm)** Doctors use gauze to wrap up open wounds. This is called "dressing" the wound, and helps keep injuries clean while they heal.

(hold up bandaid) Your families probably have some of these in your home! What is this? _____ that's right! These are bandaids! We use them to cover up small scrapes. And sometimes we use **(hold up antibiotic ointment)** some ointment on our bandaids. **(place ointment on bandaid)** to help with the healing process and prevent infections.

(hold up thermometer) what's this? _____ That's right! It's a thermometer! Thermometers are used to take a person's temperature.

All of these tools, and more are used by many doctors when they are trying to figure out how to help people who are sick, or to treat people when they are hurt. When they figure out the problem, they will find a plan to help their patients feel better.

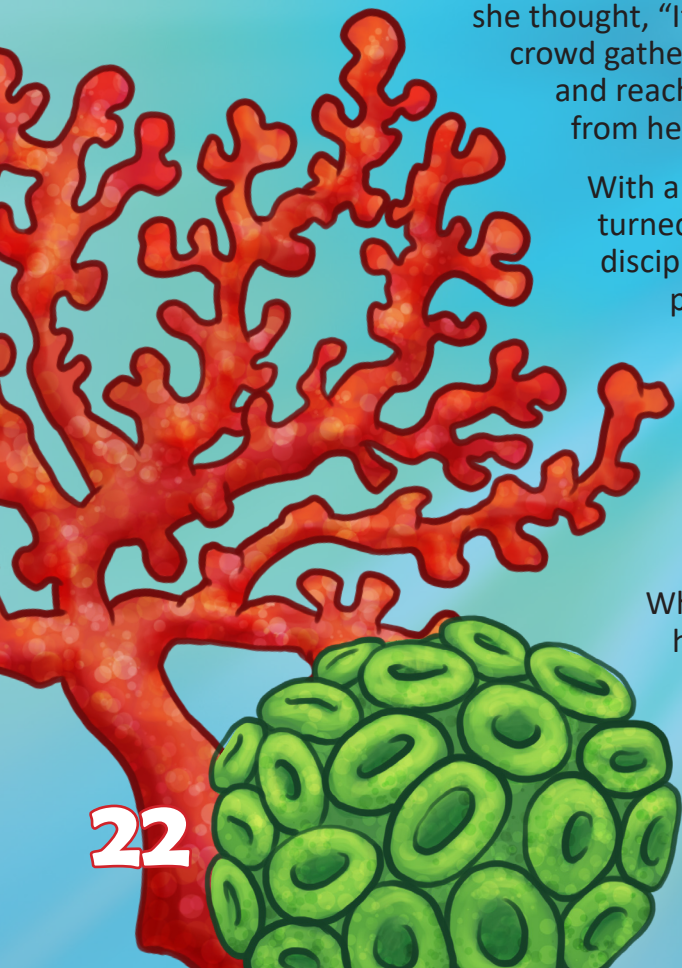
The woman in the story found in Mark 6:25-34 would have probably recognized some of these doctors tools too. The Bible tells us that she had her illness for 12 long years! She had been under the care of many many doctors. She spent all that she had. Instead of getting better, she grew worse. No one could help her feel better. No one, that is, until she met Jesus.

When she heard about Jesus, she had such faith that He could help her that she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I can be healed." There was a large crowd gathered around Jesus that day. She came up behind the crowd, and reached for his cloak. IMMEDIATELY she was healed, and freed from her suffering.

With a thankful heart, she intended to leave quietly. But Jesus turned into the crowd and asked, "who touched me?" The disciples were confused... "Lord" they said, "there are many people crowding against you! How can you ask who touched me?" But Jesus continued to look to see who had done it.

The woman knew she had to answer Jesus' question. She came forward, and told him everything that happened. Jesus' warm response to her was "daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. Be freed from your suffering."

When this woman met Jesus, she became different. She was healed from her suffering and pain. She reached out to touch the hem of Jesus' cloak, and when she touched him, it was different than the touch of the crowd. Her touch was a simple act of faith. I imagine she was asking, and believing that Jesus could heal her, and her faith was honored. Jesus helps heal us too!



Activity: Bandaid Prayer

SERMON PART 1 ENDING

(Hand out bandaid cutouts and crayons) Just like the woman in the story reached out to Jesus, we are able to reach out through prayer. When we feel sad, angry, or hurt.... when we are going through something that is very hard, we can talk to Jesus and ask for help. That's what these bandaids are for. Today we are going to take some time to talk to Jesus about where we need healing. You can write your prayer on your bandaid, and you can color your bandaid however you'd like. As you color your bandaid, remember this prayer

"Jesus, I ask you to see and hear what I've written on my bandaid today. Please heal me where I need to be healed. Thank you for healing my hurt, and helping me to be different. I love you and trust you. Amen."

(play some quiet music in the background and give families time to write and color their bandaids. If you have time, you can have families share in their family circles quietly what they have written on their bandaids. They can pray together as a family after they share)

PART 2 – JESUS FORGIVES US

Supplies:

Pipe cleaners: two for each person

5 children (have the smallest child be the one to be carried in the story)

1 sturdy blanket (4 children will be carrying 1 small child on a mat to act out the story)

Play Song: Forgive

SERMON PART 2 OPENING

Our next story is about a group of people who helped their friend meet Jesus in a very unusual way! In Mark 2:1-12, we find Jesus teaching in the town of Capernaum. Jesus was teaching in a local home. There were SO MANY people that they filled up the house and even went outside the door. These four men had a friend who was not able to walk. They knew that they needed to get their friend to Jesus, so they carried their friend on a mat to the house. **(have four children carefully carry fifth child on blanket and place him or her down in the middle of the stage all the presenter should continue the story while the children act this out)** But there was a problem! They couldn't get through the door. They didn't let that stop them! They had such faith that they went to the rooftop, cut open a hole, and lowered him down. **(by now the child should be sitting on the blanket on the floor and the other 4 children should have left)**

When Jesus saw their faith, he told the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven”. Jesus knew what was on this man’s heart and mind. He knew that he needed forgiveness. That’s why he told the man he was forgiven. Jesus also knew that some of the teachers of the law were thinking to themselves Jesus didn’t have the power to forgive sins.

Jesus challenged their thinking. He told them “why are you thinking these things? What is easier to say to this paralyzed man, your sins are forgiven or to say get up and take your mat and walk? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins... Then he said to the man “I tell you, get up and take your mat and go home” (**child gets up and walks offstage**) The man got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of everyone. This amazed everyone, and they praised God!

SERMON
PART 2 ENDING

Activity: Pipe Cleaner People

(hand out pipe cleaners, give two to each family) This man who was paralyzed became different when he met Jesus. He became different in two ways. He was healed, just like the woman in our first story. But more important than that, Jesus forgave this man’s sins, even before he healed this man’s body. Jesus has the authority to forgive our sins too. His forgiveness is very different. When we ask him for forgiveness for the things we have done wrong, its as if they never happened. We don’t need to do anything to receive that forgiveness, because Jesus already took care of the consequences himself.

All we need to do is ask in faith.

But his forgiveness goes even farther than just us. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:32 that we are to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as Jesus forgave us.

This man’s friends were kind and compassionate as they carried him to Jesus. Today we will practice being kind and compassionate, choosing to forgive just as Jesus has forgiven us. You’ve been given two pipecleaners. Out of these pipecleaners, form a person (**demonstrate how to make a pipe cleaner person**) As you make your person, take a moment to think of someone you’d like to forgive, or something you’d like to ask forgiveness for. This person that you form, represents that forgiveness. If you’d like, you can talk to one another in your family about your people. Talk to Jesus about your forgiveness. Then take your person and place it on the mat at the front. (**play some soft music and allow some time for families to participate**)

Its easy to stay angry when someone has done something wrong to us, or to want to return the wrong. But Jesus asks us to be different. He asks us to forgive. Each time we forgive, we are reminded just how much Jesus loves us when he forgives us.

PART 3 – JESUS CALLS US

Supplies

2 pretend fishing poles

2 dowel stick poles with yarn attached. Tie a magnet to the other sides of the yarn.

10-20 extra fish (any color and size, cut out from paper. Place large paper clips on the fish)

Cut out fish from construction paper ahead of time or use the printouts provided you will need:

- 1 red fish
- 2 green fish
- 4 blue fish
- 8 yellow fish

Note: the point of the illustration is to demonstrate how the gospel spread exponentially, using the story of fishermen as a focal point. If you have a larger congregation, you can cut out 16 fish of a different color, and 32 fish of another color. You can also get a fishnet and hang it on a wall in a visible place on your stage for families to hang their fish, or you can use Velcro, magnet, or tape to hang the fish on the walls. Use your resources and consider the space you have as well as the amount of participants you want involved. Hand your colored fish out ahead of time to random people in your congregation. You should have 15 fish handed out if you are doing the short version of the illustration. Remember to adapt the illustration to your setting and congregation size.



Song: I have Decided to follow Jesus

SERMON PART 3 OPENING

Our next story is about four unlikely leaders who met Jesus on their boats. This story is found in Matthew 4:18-22. Jesus was walking beside the sea of Galilee and he saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake. Lets call up two fishermen to see how many fish they can catch today. ***(Invite 2 volunteers up and scatter the fish and have them try to pick up as many fish as they can in 15 or 30 seconds. the magnets should pick up the fish by the paperclips attached to the yarn)*** We will give you ***(15 or 30 seconds)*** to try to catch as many fish as you can. ***(set timer on screen and count fish as they are caught. You can also do this activity with more than 2 children at a time, or do the activity twice with four volunteers. Adapt it to your church's size and needs)*** Great job! As you can see, being a fisherman is not an easy job. These men worked very hard, in the hot sun all day casting nets into the sea. They were tradesmen who had learned their work from their fathers and forefathers before them.

Jesus had a different trade in mind for these men. When Jesus saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets he told them “come follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.” He gave the same invitation to another two brothers on the sea that day, James and his brother John. All of them, without hesitation left their boats and followed him.

For the rest of the time Jesus was on this earth, these four men and eight others with them followed in his footsteps. 12 disciples all together were called from different walks of life to be with him. They walked with him, talked with him, watched him heal the sick, cast out demons, teach to crowds of people, and spread a message of hope. As they spent time with Jesus, they become more like him. Over time, they came to understand Jesus' message of hope.

John 3:16 explains this message, that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son Jesus. And that whoever believes in him will not die, but will have everlasting life. God had sent his son, not to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Jesus came to save us. He came to heal us, and to forgive us. He came to give us hope. He came to make us different.

Jesus died on the cross to take the consequences for our sins. He came back to life again and left his disciples a promise and a calling. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus tells his disciples "go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Then he promises them, "surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age". This promise always stayed with his disciples, and they continued to spread his message after he went back to heaven. They devoted their lives to sharing the gospel, and the gospel is still spreading hope to this day!

SERMON PART 3
ENDING

Activity: Do the Math

When we choose to follow Jesus, we are also called to the same invitation Jesus gave his disciples. We are called to share his message of hope. That message can spread far and wide! Lets see how quickly it can spread. It begins with one person. Lets have the person with the red fish come place their fish on our wall **(or net if you have one hanging) (have the person with the red fish come and place their fish)** Now lets see what happens with this person goes and tells another person about Jesus... can the people with the green fish come place their fish on our wall/net? **(have the people with the green fish place their fish)** Now we have two disciples. What happens when these two people each tell one new person about Jesus? Can we have the helpers with the blue fish come place their fish on our wall/net? **(have the people with the blue fish place their fish)** Now we have 4 people who have heard the gospel. What happens when these 4 people each tell one new person about Jesus? Can our helpers with the yellow fish come place the fish on our wall/net? **(have the people with the yellow fish place their fish)** now we have 8 people who have heard the gospel! **(if you have more fish, continue this exercise until you run out. You can also do the math as a group. What happens when these 8 people each tell one person- that's 16... that's 32... that's 64... that's 128... that's 256... that's 512. And it could go on and on!)** Jesus' message was meant to grow. That's what it means to fish for people! As we tell others, they will tell others and the gospel will go far and wide. The Bible tells us it will go from our homes, to our towns, to our cities, and to the ENTIRE WORLD! Wow! What an amazing Calling. WE can choose to follow Jesus and spread his message too, just like the disciples.

Call to Commitment

Note: the presenter can come onstage wearing the tie dye shirt from the opening skit to illustrate the closing point. They can also opt to hold the shirt up as a visual instead of wearing it.

People hear the gospel and become disciples because of the difference God makes in their lives. Just as the disciples spent time with Jesus every day, we can spend time with him every day. We can read about him in the Bible, and we can talk to him when we pray. As we spend time with Jesus we are changed for the better. We become more like him. We have more love to give, more peace, more joy, and more hope. We are able to stand in truth. And we are called to tell others about that truth. Remember today the stories of how Jesus healed the woman who was sick, and be reminded that Jesus can heal you. Remember the story of the man who was brought to Jesus by his friends and was forgiven, and be reminded that Jesus can forgive you. Remember how Jesus called ordinary people to spread an extraordinary message and be reminded that Jesus has called you. Remember that you can say YES to Jesus. You can choose to be different and YOU can be changed for the better too. **(Say a closing prayer)**

Closing Song: I Will Follow You

(Can be played during closing activity or just after)

Closing Prayer

Pastor

Invitation to Lunch