

## Third Sunday of the Year

### Follow me

#### INTRODUCTION

Jesus called the first disciples to follow him, and they left everything and went with him. Today each of us is called to follow Jesus by sharing God's love with everyone as he taught us to.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song together.

#### SORRY

Listen carefully to the words of this story told by Matthew in his Gospel:

One day Simon Peter asked Jesus, "Master, how many times must I forgive someone who hurts me? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not just seven times, Peter, but seventy times seven! You must always forgive someone from your heart." (Matthew 18:21-22, 35)

Ask the children to quietly think about what they have just heard before reading this prayer:

Dear Jesus, please help me to be forgiving  
and ready to forget the mistakes  
made by other people,  
just as you are always ready to do for me.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2.

#### GOSPEL (MARK 1:14-20)

After John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod, Jesus began to preach to the crowds and proclaim the good news. One day, while walking beside the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting their nets to catch fish.

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of people." The brothers left their nets and followed him. Further along the shore Jesus saw James and his brother, John, who

were mending nets with their father Zebedee. Jesus called them, too, and at once they left their father and followed him.

#### DISCUSSION

Who were the brothers who left their boats and nets to follow Jesus? They were Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John. Jesus asked them to follow him and become fishers of people. These men would help lead people back to God and teach others of God's great love for them.

Many people followed Jesus and became his disciples, but Jesus chose a small number of them to carry on his work. How many did he choose, and can you remember some of their names?

Jesus chose twelve apostles. The name "apostle" was given to a follower of Jesus who had been specially chosen. They were all close friends of Jesus who were chosen to preach and perform miracles in his name.

The names of the twelve apostles were: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, (another) James, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas.

Jesus calls us to follow him, too. When we are baptized into the Christian family we are called to be followers of Christ. But Jesus also calls us to follow him every day. How?

To follow Jesus, we do not usually have to leave home like the first disciples did! By loving God and our neighbor we can follow Jesus every day by living as Jesus taught us to.

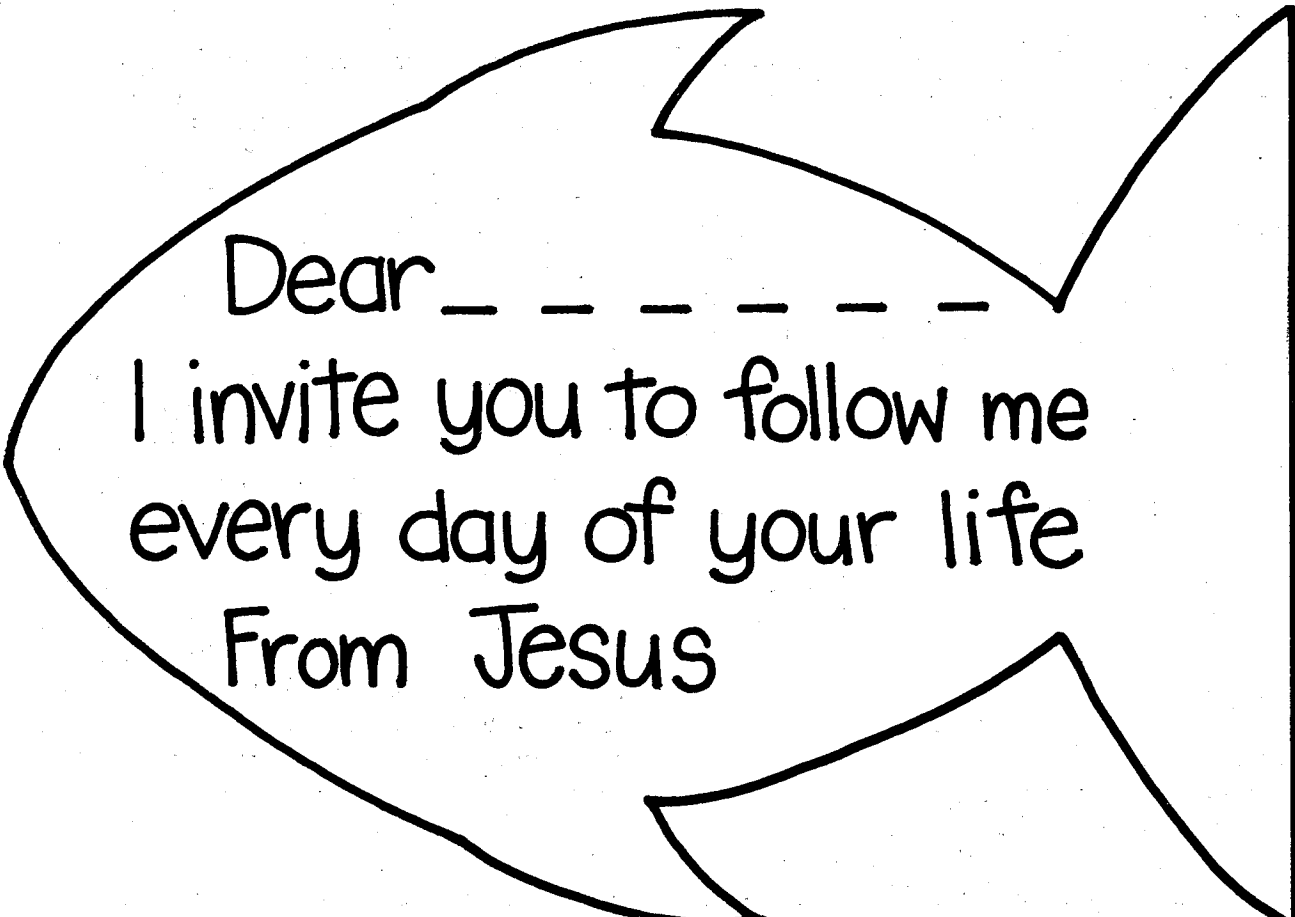
#### ACTIVITY

The children can cut out these invitation cards. They can then fill in the blanks and decorate their cards.

#### CREED

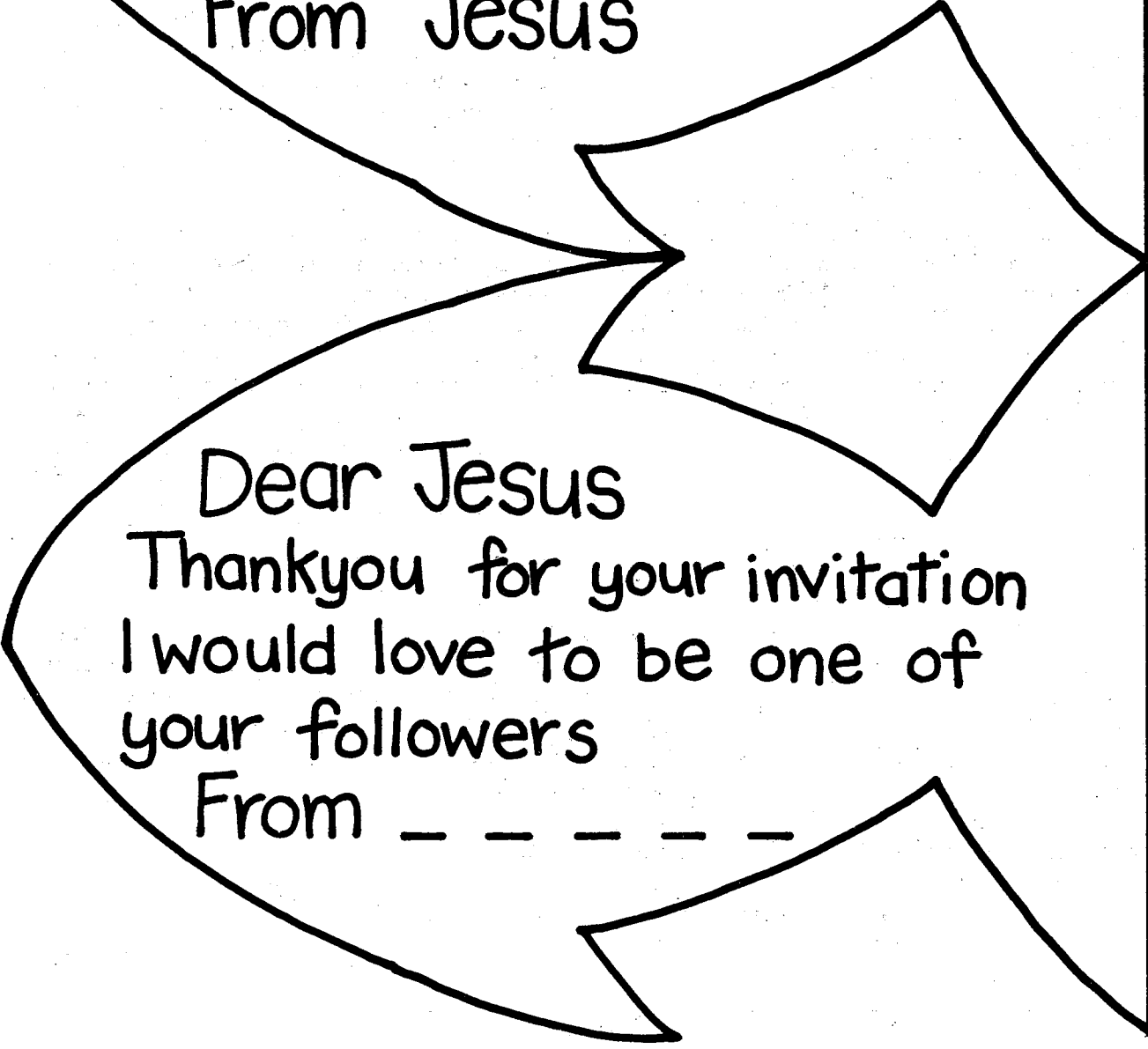
#### CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, help us to follow you each day,  
so that in our own small way  
we can help to make our world  
a better place.



Dear \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

I invite you to follow me  
every day of your life  
From Jesus



Dear Jesus

Thankyou for your invitation  
I would love to be one of  
your followers

From \_ \_ \_ \_ \_