

# Followers

## Easter Sunday 2022



### Intergenerational segment

“Then Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him, ‘Rabboni.’ The Aramaic word ‘Rabboni’ means ‘Teacher.’”

John 20:16, (CEV)

### Consider and prepare

The key message for this segment is that Jesus calls us to be his followers. Mary was a follower of Jesus and he knew her by name. He also knows and welcomes us as his followers.

This is an intergenerational segment that can engage EVERYONE. You can build connection within your community by including participants of all ages and abilities.

Please think about the needs and abilities of people in your gathering and tailor the activity accordingly so that everyone is included.

For example, in the game:

If mobility is an issue for some participants or you are in a small space, ask the leader to only do actions that can be completed while sitting down (for example, clapping hands, tapping nose, folding/unfolding arms).

If you have participants who have a hearing impairment, ask the leader to also point to a person when calling their name.

Pray that all who engage with this activity will also choose to be a lifelong follower of Jesus.

### You will need:

PowerPoint slides – 3 or 4 slides that each contain an image of a well-known social media personality that children would recognise. For example:

- Ryan from Ryan’s Toy Review
- Prestons Stylez
- Family Fun Pack
- The Izzys
- KiKi and Miumiu
- The Norris Nuts
- DanTDM
- Jazza
- The Reaticorns

Ask three people to pray for one of each of the prayer points below. If possible, choose people from different generations.

- Pray for the followers of Jesus around the world
- Thank Jesus for who he is and for what he has done – the reason that we follow him
- Pray that Jesus will teach us all we need to learn to be great followers

## Interact

*This game is like 'Follow the Leader' but only the person whose name is called must copy the actions of the leader.*

*Ask for a volunteer to be the leader.*

*The leader will then choose a 'follower' by saying their name. The leader must then do an action for the 'follower' to copy. The leader can then name another 'follower' and so on.*

*Explain: If [leader] says your name then you must copy whatever they do.*

*If you have time, let several participants have a turn at being the leader.*

## Listen

Did you know that ...

- Cristiano Ronaldo is the most followed person on Instagram. The Manchester United superstar has more than 400 million followers. On average, his posts receive 10 million likes each!<sup>1</sup> People look up to him. They want to see what he's wearing, what he's eating. They want to learn as much about him as possible.
- Charli D'Amelio is the most followed TikTok female in the world. At the beginning of 2022, this 17-year-old had 134 million followers.<sup>2</sup> She shares dance and lip-sync videos, she bakes, and she has a clothing line.

I wonder if you know of someone else who has a lot of followers? If you are old enough to have a social media account, there might be someone that you follow. [Invite one or two people to share who they follow.]

Do you know who this is... *Show images of several well-known personalities that children would be likely to recognise.*

All of these people have many followers. A follower wants to know more about the ideas and opinions of the person that they are following.

When Jesus was on Earth, he had lots of followers. People were interested in what he was doing and saying, and they chose to follow him.

Can you imagine how Jesus' followers felt after Jesus died? They were very, very sad.

In the Bible, in John 20, we can read about what happened on the first Easter Sunday.

One of Jesus' followers, Mary, walked a path to the place where he was buried and was even more upset when she discovered that his body was gone. She thought it must have been stolen.

Then, Jesus appeared near to her. He had risen to life and he called out her name! I wonder how she would have felt in that moment! Relieved? Excited? Amazed? Filled with hope?

Did you know that Jesus calls us to follow him too? He has over 2 billion followers, living across the world!<sup>3</sup> He doesn't have an Instagram or TikTok account but there are lots of ways we can 'follow' him and learn more about him...

## Wonder

I wonder what you know about Jesus. You might like to share one thing you know with someone sitting near you.

## Pray

*Invite someone to pray for each of these points:*

- Pray for the followers of Jesus around the world
- Thank Jesus for who he is and for what he has done – the reason that we follow him
- Pray that Jesus will teach us all we need to learn to be great followers

### References:

1. <https://www.marca.com/en/lifestyle/celebrities/2022/02/07/62010ac646163fe0678b45b2.html>

2. <https://influencermarketinghub.com/most-tiktok-followers/>

3. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/religion-by-country>