

Decision Resources

'New Life With Jesus'



This material is suitable for ages 8+.

theme::

We can have new lives with Jesus.

Bible focus:

Colossians 3:8 -10

Preparation:

You'll need a Bible, 2 sheets of light coloured cardboard or paper per child, 2 sheets of white paper per child, scissors, markers, tape or reusable adhesive, attach a picture of Jesus or a sheet of cardboard with the name 'Jesus' written on it in large print to a wall or notice board.

Note:

The text in **bold** below is intended to be said to the group - not necessarily the actual words, but the message they contain. The remaining text are directions for the leader.

Lesson:

Before this activity, attach the picture of Jesus, or the cardboard bearing His name, to a wall, door, or bulletin board. Have children form pairs and hand each pair two sheets of coloured construction paper, two sheets of white paper, a marker, and scissors. Have each child help his or her partner to trace and cut out a white footprint and a coloured footprint.

When completed, say: **It's not always easy to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Sometimes we're tempted to do or say the wrong things — then we're off on the "wrong foot".**

What are some things that keep people from following Jesus?

With your partners, think of two ways people move away from Jesus, then write those ways on your coloured footprint.

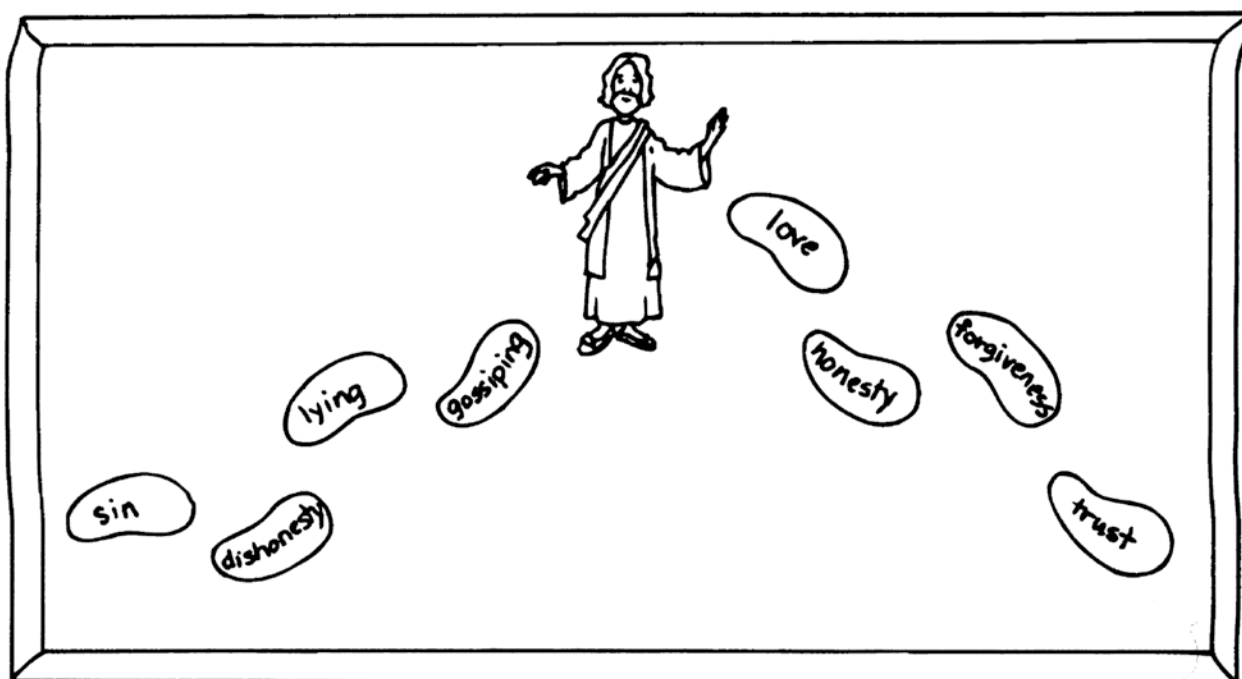
If your class includes children who cannot write, they may draw pictures or ask another child/adult to write their ideas onto the footprint. After everyone has prepared a coloured footprint, invite children to attach their footprints near the picture of Jesus. Position the paper footprints so they appear to be "walking" to Christ.

Read aloud Colossians 3:8 - 10.

This Bible passage tells us that with Jesus in our lives, we don't have to walk in the old ways we used to walk. We have new life through Jesus and we can walk on a new path, too. Jesus helps us leave our old life of doing things we know are wrong, and live a new life that is good.

What are some of the new, good things we have in our new lives with Jesus?

Help children think of things such as love, honesty, forgiveness, kindness, trust, faith, and hope. Have each child write one of these words on his or her white footprint and attach the footprints "walking" away from the picture of Jesus.



Jesus wants us to live good lives and He promises to help us. We need to ask for His help. Some of you may already have done that – asked Jesus to be your Friend and help you. That's great. Jesus is always happy to help us to follow Him. You might like to thank Jesus for being your friend and you can do that in a special way in a moment.

Some children may want to ask Jesus to be their Friend and to help them. You can do that in a moment when we pray. Some children may have some questions about being Jesus' friend. You can talk with a leader.

Some may not be ready just yet to do this and that's OK too.

(If possible, ask at least 3 leaders – one for each response – to be ready to speak with children according to these responses. Invite the children to move to the leader who represents the response they wish to make. For the 'not ready' children, direct them to another activity).

Allow the children a few seconds to think about their response then invite them all to move at once to the person they wish to speak with, or the 'not ready' activity.

Followup:

Ensure you follow up any children who indicate they said this prayer with you for the first time. For this age group Scripture Union produces Bible reading notes called 'Find Out' which are helpful in encouraging children to read their Bible regularly. These are available through SU's Resources For Ministry department ph. 02 4321 0200 or Koorong Books.

Linking children in to other sections in the corps e.g. Sunday School, SAGALA, Kids Club or Junior Soldiers, will also help with their ongoing spiritual development.



