

# TREK

## Lesson 3 - "God's People Honor God"

**Series Objective:** Students will learn:

- That a "Trek" is a long, vigorous journey.
- That every individual's life is their Trek.
- That the Bible is full of stories about others' Treks that help us to better understand how our Trek should be lived out.
- That being a disciple of Jesus is a daily Trek, not a one-time choice.

**Series Theme Verse:** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

**Lesson Objective:** Students will understand:

- One chooses to follow God
- God does great things with God's followers' talents
- God's followers are expected to use their talents to honor and serve God

**Lesson Passage:** Mark 1:16-20; John 6:1-13; Mark 12:41-44

**Lesson Materials:**

**Pre-service** - Music, lights, announcement slides

**Video** - "National Talk Like a Pirate Day"

**Activity** – Goldfish Crackers, Baskets, Cups

**Worship** – Lyrics for TVs

**The Story** - Copy of story outline

**Small Groups** - Trek Journals, Pens

**The After Party** – Fritos, Cheese, Chili, straws, Q-Tips, tees, scorecards

**Attachments** – None

**Lesson:**

**Video:** *National Holidays with Andres* - "National Talk Like a Pirate Day"

**Activity:** Goldfish Flipping

- Each team will need a basket and the same number of goldfish crackers in a cup.
- Place the basket and cup of goldfish at opposite ends of the room.
- Teams will select 4 team members to compete for their team.

- 1 team member will hold the basket, one team member will hold the cup of goldfish, and the other two will space themselves between the basket and cup holders.
- When the leader says go, the team member with the cup will take out one goldfish and “flip” (toss) it to the next person. That person will toss it to the next person, who will then try to toss it into the basket held by the final person.
- If a goldfish is dropped at any point along the way, it cannot be picked up.
- When one cup is empty, the game is over.
- Count up the total number of goldfishes in the basket and the most in the basket wins.

### **The Story: (Talking Points)**

- Theme Development: Trek
  - A long and vigorous journey usually made on foot.
  - Remind students of last week’s scenic lookout (Visual Aid) of our Trek.
  - Matthew 1 and Luke 2:
    - God sent a Rescuer
    - The Rescuer came quietly into the world
    - The Rescuer is for everyone
  - Transition: “God sent Jesus to be our rescuer, and humans are left with a choice: follow Jesus and live for God or live life without God.”
- Follow Me: Mark 1:16-20
  - *This story happened outside, so use big gestures and a loud voice for calling out across the waters...*
  - “One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake. They were fishermen. ‘Come and follow me,’ Jesus said. ‘I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. Then Jesus walked a little farther. As he did, he saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat preparing their nets. Right away he called out to them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men. They followed Jesus.”
    - Humans have a choice to make: Follow Jesus or Do Not Follow Jesus.

- Following sometimes means leaving what you know and is safe for the unknown: It is called trusting God.
    - Anyone can choose to follow: Fishermen were low in educational status.
  - God is Able: John 6:1-13
    - “Some time after this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then Jesus went up on the mountainside. There he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So, he said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked Philip only to test Philip. He already knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, ‘Suppose we were able to buy enough bread for each person to have just a bite. That would take more than half a year’s pay!’ Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He said, ‘Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?’ Jesus said, ‘Have the people sit down.’ There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. About 5,000 men were there. Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish. When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. ‘Gather the leftover pieces,’ he said. ‘Don’t waste anything.’ So, they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.”
      - God can do amazing things with our talents.
      - God does not do the minimum in our lives, God gives us more than enough...there were leftovers.
      - Followers of God are supposed to honor God with their talents, no matter how small they seem to be.
  - The Widow’s Gift: Mark 12:41-44
    - “Jesus sat down across from the place where people put their temple offerings. He watched the crowd putting their money into the offering boxes. Many rich people threw large amounts into them. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins. They were worth only a few pennies. Jesus asked his disciples to come to him. He said, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. That poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. They all gave a lot because they are rich. But she

gave even though she is poor. She put in everything she had. That was all she had to live on.”

- God’s people are expected to be generous.
- Tithing is important, even as a youth, but generous living is the goal of God’s people.
- Transition to Small Groups: “In your Small Groups, you will be discussing how we honor and serve God as we follow Jesus.”

## **Small Groups:**

### **Beginning the Conversation**

- Go around the room and have each person introduce themselves, beginning with the leaders, by answering two questions:
  - What is your name?
  - If you could play any character in a movie, who would it be?

### **Trek Journals**

- Have Trek Journals and pens on table for students to grab
- Explain to students that part of small group will be journaling in their Trek Journal. Have students AND LEADERS write the following questions in their Journal (*it would work best if you had these questions written on a piece of poster board to make it easier to copy into the journal*) and take about 5 minutes to respond to the questions in their Journals.
  - What is my favorite part of the story I heard in Big Group?
  - What does this story tell me about Jesus?
    - How has God taken care of me?
    - Why would God want to take care of me?
  - What do these stories tell me I need to do?
    - Am I following God and telling others about Jesus?
    - Am I living a generous life? What can I do to be more generous? Who do I need to be more generous to?
    - If I make money at a job, do I give some back to God during the offering time in Worship on Sundays?
- After 5 minutes, have everyone (leaders first) answer the first question out loud to the group.

- Work through the rest of the questions together, letting a couple answer each question.
- The last three questions can be personal, so do not go over those as a group, instead, answer them as leaders in the group, illustrating how you are living out the answers to those questions.
- Close in a prayer like: “Lord God, help us to follow you daily, serve you and honoring you by living a generous life...Amen.”
- Transition: “As you go back into the big room, you can have some Frito Pie. After you eat, find three other people and get a copy of Q-Tip Golf from one of the adult leaders and see who shoots the best.”

### **The After Party:**

#### **Frito Pies**

#### **Q-Tip Golf**

- Attach the Q-Tip Golf holes around the room in the marked locations on the scorecard.
- Mark the Tees on the floor in the marked locations on the scorecard.
- After eating, groups of four can grab a scorecard, a straw per player, and a Q-Tip per player and play a round of Q-Tip Golf.
- Scorecards have rules, course map, and place for score keeping.