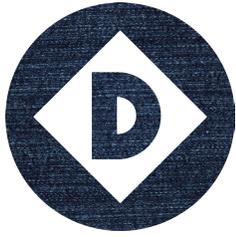


DISCIPLES



“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25



Week 1



TOPIC

Boldness

DISCIPLE

Peter

BIBLE STORY

Peter Speaks Up
Matthew 16:13-19; 17:1-8

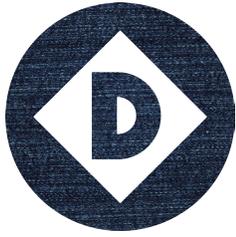
TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I will be bold about following Jesus.

WEEKLY VERSE

“The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions.”

Proverbs 28:1



Week 1



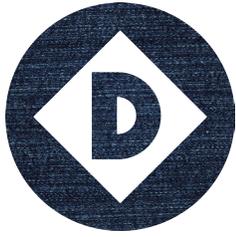
SKIT

Skit Information

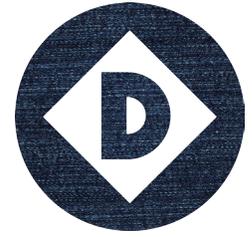
The skits will require two people. One person will play themselves (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

Character Bio

The character's name is Minion Maddie. If a male is playing the character consider calling them Minion Mark or Minion Matt. Minion Maddie loves minions so much that she decided she wants to become one herself. Her goal in life is to become more like a minion in every way. Consider putting your character in a yellow shirt, overalls, black shoes, black gloves, a yellow hat, and goggles. Extras: Add minion accessories, wear a minion shirt, decorate minion shoes, go all out.



Week 1



SKIT

Leader: I'm so excited to get started with our Disciples series today.

Minion Maddie: *Skips in cheerily.* Bello!

Leader: Excuse me, what did you say?

Minion Maddie: Bello! Bello!

Leader: Huh? Are you trying to say hello?

Minion Maddie: No, Bello! That's how minions say hello!

Leader: Ok, I don't know if you know this, but you're not a minion.

Minion Maddie: Excuse you! I am a minion in training.

Leader: Is that actually a thing?

Minion Maddie: I'm not sure, but I have decided it is so that's all that matters.

Leader: Sure. I don't think I caught your name.

Minion Maddie: Oh yeah! Minion Maddie at your service!

Leader: I don't think that's your real name...

Minion Maddie: Well, my name used to be Maddie, but now that I am a minion in training I changed it to Minion Maddie! Catchy isn't it?

Leader: Ok, we'll go with that. So, Minion Maddie, what brings you here?

Minion Maddie: I follow anything and everything minion-related. Of course, when I heard about your new series, I knew I had to come check it out!

Leader: I'm not sure how you heard about it, but I guess you're welcome to come hang out with us. I am curious about what being a minion in training is all about?

Minion Maddie: I'm so glad you asked. Being a minion in training is all about becoming the best minion you can be. You have to learn to talk like a minion, walk like a minion, act like a minion, dress like a minion, everything minions!

Leader: That sounds like a lot of work. We are sort of in our own kind of training program, too. We are disciples in training.

Minion Maddie: Disciples in training? What's a disciple?

Leader: Well, disciples are actually kind of similar to minions. Disciples are followers or students of a teacher or leader. We are training to be better disciples of Jesus.



Week 1



SKIT

Minion Maddie: That does sound very similar to my training to become a minion. I can't wait to hear more about it, but I have to go now. There is a minion convention down the road that I just can't miss! I'll come back next week!

Leader: Ok. See you next week!



Week 1



GAME: BANANA EATING CONTEST

Supplies

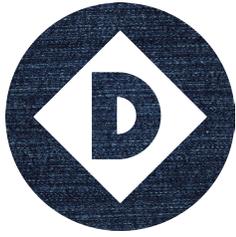
- Bananas (one per kid playing the game)
- Blindfolds (optional)

Setup

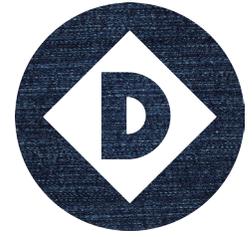
- No setup is required for this game.

How To Play

1. Choose 2 kids from each team to play the game.
2. Give each kid a banana.
3. When the leader says go, the kids can begin peeling and eating their bananas.
4. The first kid to eat their entire banana and say “banana” clearly wins.
5. Optional: Make the game more challenging by blindfolding all of the kids playing the game.



Week 1



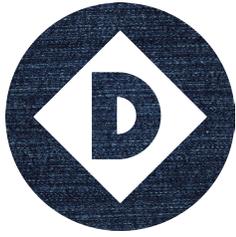
MESSAGE

Supplies

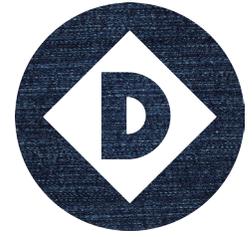
- A Bible in your preferred version (this curriculum uses the NLT version primarily)
- Despicable Me 2 Clip prepared – Bee doo scene (1:01:58-1:02:31)
- Rocks or slab of concrete
- Sand
- Shallow containers for rocks and sand

Introduction

Today, we are kicking off our Disciples series by talking about boldness, specifically how to be bold about following Jesus. What does it mean to be bold? *Allow kids to respond.* To be bold is showing an ability to take risks, being confident and courageous. Do you think it is always easy to be bold? *Allow kids to respond.* Do you think it is always easy to be a bold follower or disciple of Jesus? *Allow kids to respond.* Some people are just more naturally able to be bold and take risks. If we're going to be disciples of Jesus, we have to learn how to be bold in our faith. Let's check out this clip from Despicable Me 2. *Play Bee doo clip.* In that clip, Carl is the minion with the red lights all over his head. Saying he is bold would be an understatement. He is willing to get everyone's attention no matter what the cost. Carl reminds me of one of Jesus' disciples, Peter. What do you know about Peter? *Allow kids to respond.* Peter is the most well-known, talked about, and written about disciple of Jesus. Peter's name is mentioned 205 times in the New Testament; that's at least twice as many time as any of the other disciples. Peter was outspoken, courageous, willing to take risks, and enthusiastic. However, he was also impulsive and a little hard to handle. In spite of all of his strengths and faults, he was one of Jesus' closest disciples and friends.



Week 1

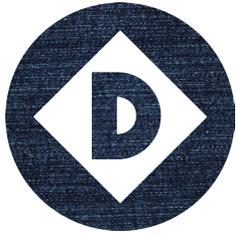


MESSAGE

Bible Story

Peter is an example of boldness almost every time we see him mentioned in the Bible. Let's turn to Matthew 16:13 to learn about how bold he was about telling others about Jesus. Jesus went to his disciples and asked them an odd question. He said, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Basically, Jesus wanted to know what people were saying about him from some of his closest friends and followers. Some of them responded: "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Jesus didn't really seem to care that everyone else was incorrect about who he was. He had a much more important question for his disciples. He asked, "But who do you say I am?" As I'm sure Jesus expected, Peter was the first to jump up with a response. This is what he said: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Peter didn't hesitate, he didn't mumble, he boldly spoke the truth about who Jesus was. Jesus appreciated Peter's boldness. Let's check out his response in verses 17-19, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

What a response from Jesus! He said that Peter was going to be the rock he would build his church on. I bet the other disciples wished they had been bold enough to speak up first. Jesus blessed Peter for his boldness, and in the next chapter, chapter 17, we see that Peter was chosen to go on a very special trip with Jesus. Jesus only took three of his disciples with him, Peter, James and John. Jesus took them up a high mountain and out of nowhere, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus. Wait, aren't Moses and Elijah from the Old Testament? That would mean they were dead. Jesus allowed Peter, James, and John to experience this whole thing! Once again, Peter is the first guy to jump up with an idea. He said, "Lord, it's wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I'll make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." That was a nice offer, but something even more awesome was about to happen. Let's read Matthew 17:5-8 together, "But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings



Week 1

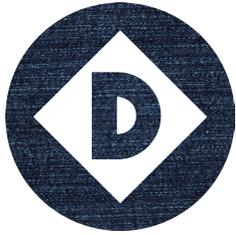


MESSAGE

me great joy. Listen to him.’ The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground. Then, Jesus came over and touched them. ‘Get up,’ he said. ‘Don’t be afraid.’ And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus.” Wow! Peter was able to experience seeing prophets brought back to life and he heard God’s voice that day.

Life Application/Object Lesson

Peter was able to experience many amazing things during his life because of his boldness in following Jesus. He could have chosen to just continue being a fishermen when Jesus called him to follow him, but he chose the hard path of leaving everything he had to follow Jesus. Jesus gave Peter his name which means rock, because he knew that he could trust him to follow him boldly no matter what. Pull out rocks and sand. If you were going to build a house, do you think it would be better to use rocks as the foundation or sand? Why? *Allow kids to respond.* Rocks are solid, they aren’t broken down by rain and the elements. However, sand is easily moved and washed away. Jesus said that he would build his church on a rock. Are we willing to boldly follow Jesus no matter what, just like Peter? It might be hard for us to do it on our own, but we don’t have to. If we are followers of Jesus we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us. The Holy Spirit will help us and give us the boldness to stand up for what we believe in. Let’s pray and ask God to help us to be disciples who are willing to follow him boldly wherever He leads us.



Week 1



GAME: BANANA HUNT

Supplies

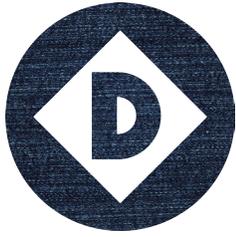
- **Lots of bananas (made out of cardstock, paper plates, or, real bananas)**

Setup

- **Before the kids enter the room, hide bananas all over the room.**
Optional: have one of the leaders take the kids outside of the room while another leader hides the bananas.

How To Play

1. **Everyone can play this game.**
2. **Kids will have 2 minutes to find as many bananas as possible.**
3. **At the end of 2 minutes, have everyone count up their bananas. The kid with the most bananas wins.**
4. **Optional: Play more rounds allowing the winner from the previous round to hide the bananas.**

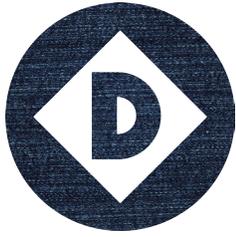


Week 1



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be bold?
2. What does it mean to follow Jesus boldly? Give an example.
3. What are some ways that Peter showed boldness in following Jesus?
4. Is it easy or hard for you to be bold about following Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Optional: Look up these verses about boldness and discuss them as a group.
 - Proverbs 28:1
 - Acts 28:31
 - 2 Timothy 1:6-7
 - Hebrews 13:6



Week 1



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of our current series?

Answer: Disciples

2. What does it mean to be a disciple?

Answer: A follower or student of a leader or teacher

3. When Peter, James, and John were on the mountain with Jesus, who else appeared?

Answer: Elijah and Moses

4. What is Today's Takeaway?

Answer: I will be bold about following Jesus.

5. What does our theme verse say that the wise man built his house on?

Answer: The rock