



# FOLLOW THE LEADER

# PREVIEW

The Holy Spirit is many things: our comfort, our help, our strength, and (maybe most important), our guide. Today we are going to take a look at how the Holy Spirit can lead us and guide us through life's difficult journey.

# PRAISE

Start your class session by playing a game called Copycat.

1. Have everyone in the group stand in a circle facing inward.
2. Choose one person and send them out of the room. While they are out of the room, appoint a leader. This person will, while staying in the circle, lead the students in various movements (stamping feet, spinning, standing on one foot, dancing, singing, etc.) Everyone else in the circle must mimic the leader without giving away who the leader is.
3. Bring the person back into the room and begin the game.
4. The aim of the game is for the person who was sent out of the room to guess who the leader is. They get three chances to guess it right.
5. The leader then becomes the "guesser" and the game continues.

# PARABLE

Did anyone ever play the game Follow the Leader as a child? The goal was to follow the leader around and mimic their actions, as we did a moment ago, except back then you knew exactly who the leader was. Maybe this reminded you of that song from Peter Pan: "Following the leader, the leader, the leader. We're following the leader wherever he may go." Most people jockeyed for the position of being the leader, but it seemed as if the older ones always got chosen. As leader, you had the right to tell your followers what to do, what games you would or would not play, who would clean the house, who would take out the trash, who would vacuum the carpets, and so on.

# PRESENT

Read John 16:13.

When the Spirit comes, He will be our ultimate guide for what is right and what is wrong. He will help us understand what actions, thoughts, and activities would be most pleasing to God. One of the greatest difficulties of the Christian life is being faced with something you know is wrong and choosing whether or not to do it. This prompting in the face of conflict is called “conviction,” and conviction comes from the Holy Spirit.

Jesus explained in John 16:13 how the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. The Holy Spirit is the special God-given guide sent to not only guide our everyday choices, but to be the voice of truth. Without the Holy Spirit, we would be lost in our understanding of what God is trying to reveal through His Word.

Read Acts 2:1–4.

This is the account of the disciples of Jesus, including Jesus’ mother, being filled with His Spirit. The Holy Spirit was tangibly heard, felt, and seen. The amazing thing is the same Holy Spirit accessed on the Day of Pentecost is the same Holy Spirit accessible to us right now. When you worship, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your praise. When you feel conviction, listen to the Spirit and remember the promises in His Word. The Holy Spirit will guide you into truth—and that truth will set you free.

## PRACTICE

Read Romans 8:14.

In Greek, the structure of this sentence is reversed so that it reads, “For as many as by the Spirit are being led, they are the sons of God.” This version puts the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the verse, and we are placed behind Him—just as children stay behind the leader when they’re playing Follow the Leader. We should be so surrendered to the Spirit that wherever He tells us to go or whatever He tells us to do, we should simply be obedient and follow.

Although the Holy Spirit wants to lead us, our human will doesn’t like the idea of being led. You see, it’s the nature of the flesh to want to go its own way. So when we choose to walk in the Spirit, His leadership over us creates a struggle between the will of our flesh and the desire of our human spirit to follow after the Holy Spirit. Some kids who played Follow the Leader didn’t like being led or told what to do. They wanted to be in charge themselves so they could call the shots. Maybe that’s how you’ve been feeling about your own life. But as a child of God, you have to learn to stay in your place—behind the Holy Spirit, following His lead.

If you want to learn to live a Spirit-led life, there is no way around it—you have to deal with your flesh. The flesh wants control, so you must mortify or defeat the flesh and allow the Holy Spirit to have His way. The struggle may seem great, but it’s the only way to live a successful Christian life. Make it your goal to learn how to discern the Holy Spirit’s leading. Become His constant “tag-along” watching to see what He’s doing, where He’s going, and how He’s leading. Stay sensitive to Him so you can sense His “nudge” in your heart.



## PRAY

Jesus, thank You for being our leader today. You know what's best for us. Thank You for always looking out for our best interests. You are a good God even when we aren't good followers. Thank You for the reminder that we must keep our fleshly nature submitted to Your Spirit so You can lead us and guide us. We trust Your plan and we put our lives in Your hands. We surrender our hearts to You today. Thank You for loving us even when we are unloveable. Let us always follow You in the paths of righteousness. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



## PLUS

Challenge your club members to do a self-evaluation of some areas in their lives they need to allow the Holy Spirit to have more control.