

# Holding On to Jesus

## Theme

To find your way in life, hold on to Jesus.

## Object

3 blindfolds; 1 short piece of rope

## Scripture

Luke 9:51-62

I need four volunteers to help show what we'll be learning about Jesus today. (Choose four kids, and have them join you in front of the others.)

Wow! You all are brave to say you'll help even though you don't know what I'll be asking you to do. What if it were really difficult, like helping me carry a couch? (Pause.) Or what if it were scary, like walking a tight rope 20 feet high? (Pause.) Don't worry! It's not scary, and you're not going to be carrying a couch. You'll just be playing a game of Follow the Leader. Ready? (Pause for the four volunteers to agree, and then choose one child to be the leader. Have the other three get in a line behind the leader.)

Now we're ready...but wait. The followers need to be wearing blindfolds. (Place the blindfolds on the other three.)

- Explain who you think has the most difficult job, the leader or the followers.
- What are some difficult parts about following a leader?

We wouldn't want our followers to bump into anything or get hurt. Thankfully, I have a rope here to help them. The leader will guide the followers by gently pulling them behind [him or her]. (Place one end of the rope in the hand of the leader, and then feed it to the three others with blindfolds on.)

As long as they keep holding on to the rope, they will be able to follow the leader. (Invite the follower to lead the other three around the room. Encourage the spectators to cheer on the volunteers. After a few minutes. Take off the blindfolds and have the volunteers join the rest of the children sitting.)

This reminds me of Jesus and His followers. In the Bible it tells about a time Jesus was walking along the road with some of His disciples when someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." How many of you have said that to Jesus or would like to? (Pause for responses.)

When Jesus' friends told Him they'd follow Him wherever He went, He said something strange to them. He said, "Foxes have holes to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man doesn't even have a place to lay His head." What do you think that means? (Pause.)

Jesus meant that even though following Him is the best thing we can ever do, that doesn't mean it will always be easy. Like our volunteers, we don't know all He'll ask us. But if we hold His hand, we can trust He'll guide us through anything difficult we face.

There's a song called, "Hold on to Jesus" by Erin O'Donnell. I'll say each line, and you'll repeat it after me.

*I wish I could protect you* (Kids repeat.)

*from the worries of this life.* (Kids repeat.)

*but if there's one thing I could tell you* (Kids repeat.)

*it's no matter what you do* (Kids repeat.)

*hold to Jesus, He's holding onto you.* (Kids repeat.)

God, we thank You for sending Your Son to save us and to be our guide through life. We are holding on to Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Interactive Group Activities  
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

**Sermon Title:** "Hold on to Jesus"

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 9:56-62

**FOLLOW ME TRAIL:** Have the children follow ONE leader or, if the class is larger, divide the class into teams with each team having a leader. The children will put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them and everyone will do whatever the leader begins doing - such as skipping, hopping, jumping, walking on knees, running, etc. After a short period of time, the leader of the group will move to the back and the next person will take the lead for a short time. Continue this until each child has had a turn being the leader!

**HOLD ON ROPE:** Let children divide into two equal groups and play "tug of war". Tell them to HOLD ON just like we need to HOLD ON to Jesus. If one side seems to win too easily, change the children around and continue to TUG on the rope to see which side will pull the other side of players, over the center line. Let children sit down in a circle and give ideas of times when we need to HOLD ON to Jesus!

**BLINDFOLDED OBSTACLE RACE:** Group the children into pairs. One child will be blindfolded and will hold on to a rope that the other classmate will hold and "lead" the blindfolded child through a maze of obstacles that the teacher has placed in a designated area. Obstacles could be chairs, stacks of books, tables, or toys for the children to weave in and out of. Ask children if they felt more secure because they could HOLD ON to the rope.

**HAND SEWING:** Provide the children with 2 matching cut-outs of hands or let older children cut out the traced and matching set of hands. Have the children color and decorate the hands and write in large, bold letters HOLD ON TO JESUS. Then punch holes along the outer edges of the hands and let children use yarn or plastic craft lace in and out of the holes and sew the hands together. Place a small amount of tissue inside to give the hands a little puffiness. The teacher can have the hands hole punched before class time if desired to save time.

**FOLLOWING FEET:** Have the children trace their shoe, cut it out, and color the feet. Let the children place the feet in a long trail to walk on. Pair the children so that one can HOLD ON to the other child's hand so that the child can walk on the feet in the trail WITHOUT falling off of the trail. After the first player "follows the feet", then

start over with the other player walking the trail of feet while holding the hand of the teammate.

**HAND FINGER PAINTING:** Let the children paint their hands with the color of paint of their choice. Then place their hands firmly and carefully on a piece of paper and lift up gently without smearing. Children can then write on the painted hands with their finger or a pencil eraser or toothpick - HOLD ON TO JESUS... and let the painted hands dry. Hang the hand finger paintings on the classroom wall, to remind children of today's lesson.

**SONG HAND:** Have the children cut out a traced hand. Color the hand and glue or tape on a typed copy of the song HOLD ON TO JESUS from today's lesson. Give children construction paper to glue the cut-out hand on the paper and fold in half to place in their Bibles or hang on the wall.

**BIBLE VERSE HAND PUZZLE:** Before class time, the teacher can trace hands (just the outside form of the hand for easy cutting apart), and write the Bible verse on the hands. Each hand will then be cut into pieces to form a jigsaw puzzle and placed into an envelope. Give an envelope to each child and let them piece the puzzle back together and read the Bible verse together after everyone has put the pieces into the correct order to form the hand.

**HOLD ON TO THE SNACK:** When it is snack time, let children come to the teacher and close their eyes, put out an open hand and the teacher will place a small snack in the child's hand, and close the fingers. When the entire class has received their snacks, the teacher will say, "FOLLOW ME and do what I do." The teacher will then begin to open one finger at a time starting with the little finger until the surprise snack is revealed.

**Song: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Accompaniment Track](#)

**Song: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"**

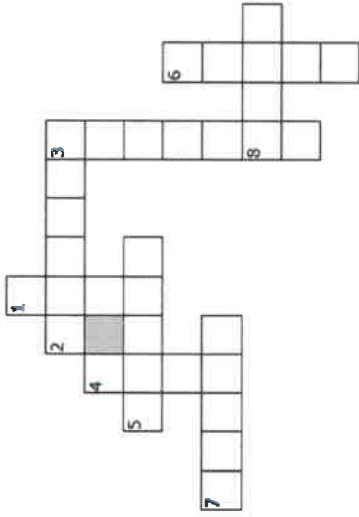
[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Accompaniment Track](#)

### **About Carol Williams**

Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi,

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- To walk behind someone
- Animals similar to dogs with a long, bushy tail
- Creatures with feathers and wings, usually able to fly
- A home for birds

## DOWN

- An opening in the ground where an animal might live
- Traveling on foot
- A pathway for vehicles, people, and animals
- The Son of God

|       |        |         |       |
|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| BIRDS | NEST   | WALKING | FOXES |
| JESUS | FOLLOW | ROAD    | HOLE  |



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# Children's Worship Bulletin

## Hold on to Jesus

Luke 9:56-62

## Word Search

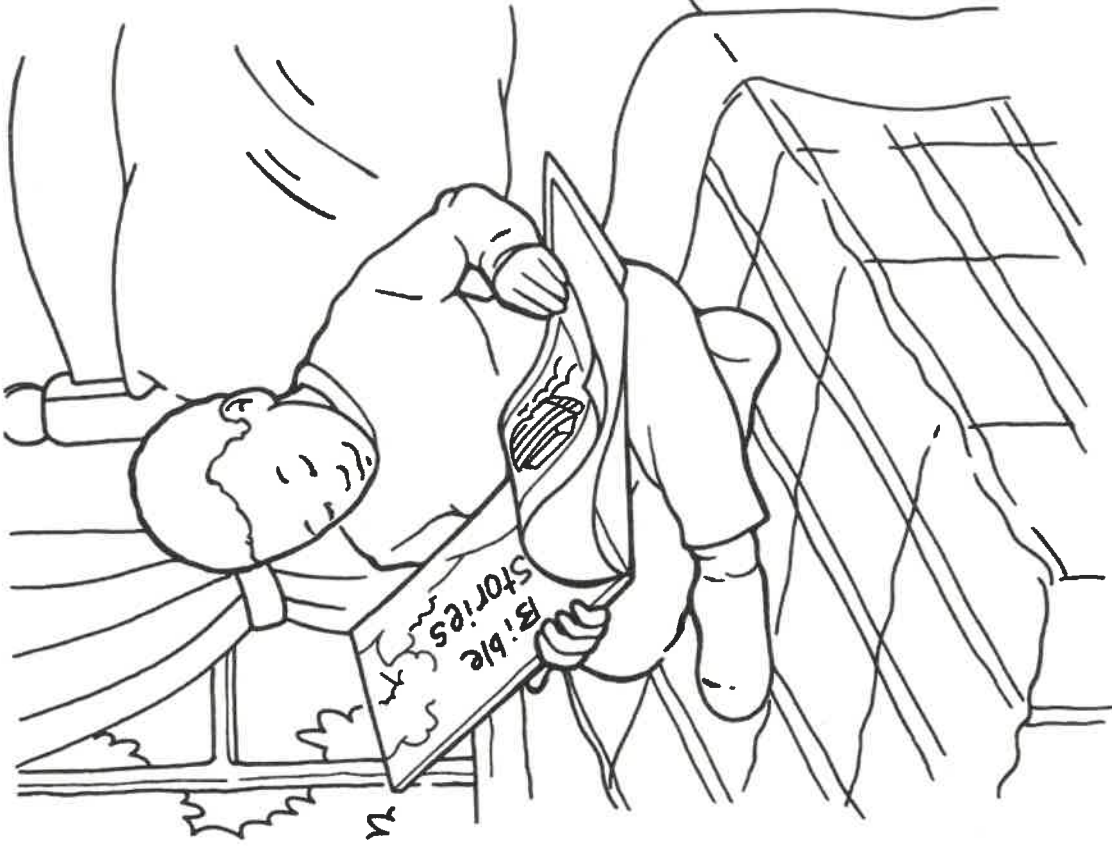
A I B I Q H V C F J L K X Y X  
 W R M Z E S B V A O W A N M I  
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 B O D O T Y S S M W N A V U E  
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 Y V W D H A K S P G S B X N L

|       |        |       |         |       |
|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| BIRDS | AIR    | FOXES | MAN     | JESUS |
| ROAD  | SON    | HEAD  | HOLES   | PLACE |
| MAN   | FOLLOW | LAY   | WALKING | NESTS |

Your Church Name Here  
Anytown, USA

# Dot to Dot

Connect the dots to complete the picture.



I want to follow Jesus. He is God's Son.

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Luke 9:58 (NIV)

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# The Cost of Following Jesus



Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."  
Luke 9:62 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

|               |                 |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| plow<br>foxes | kingdom<br>hand | follow<br>birds |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|



# Hold on to Jesus

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." Luke 9:58 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| L | R | W | K | E | P | U | B | T | Y  | Z  | S  | G  | F  | O  | V  | J  | D  | M  | X  | A  | I  | C  | Q  | N  | H  |

1. 8-22-2-18-12 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 21-22-2 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 19-21-25 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 12-15-25 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 26-5-21-18 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 25-5-12-9-12 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 14-15-20-5-12 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 26-15-1-5-12 \_\_\_\_\_

|     |       |      |       |
|-----|-------|------|-------|
| SON | HOLES | HEAD | BIRDS |
| MAN | FOXES | AIR  | NESTS |





**I want to follow Jesus. He is God's Son.**

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