

Who Will You Follow?

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 9****Focus:**

We can follow God
when others don't.

Lesson 9**Bible Basis:**

Numbers 13:1—
14:45

Lesson 9**Memory Verse:**

“Choose for yourselves this day
whom you will serve.” —Joshua
24:15

Students will watch a video about conformity as they discuss peer pressure and realize they can say “no” to their peers and “yes” to following God.

Materials:

- Internet access

Doing something simply because others are doing it is a good example of what is called “herd mentality.” Herd mentality is when people are influenced so much that they behave the same way as other people—even when they do not understand why the group is acting a certain way.

Show the following video [5:34; stop at 4:31]:

Brain Games Conformity Waiting Room

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6kWyggR0L8>

- **The woman said, “Everybody was doing it, so I thought I was supposed to,” and “when I saw everybody stand up, I felt like I needed to join them.” When have you done or said something because everybody was doing it?** (Answers will vary but may include: following trends in clothes, music, or food; doing positive things like joining an after-school club or team; unkind behaviors such as teasing a peer or carrying on when there is a substitute teacher, etc.)
- **The woman felt “much more comfortable” when she stood at the tone even though she had no idea why she was standing. Why did she feel more comfortable doing what the others were doing?** (Answers will vary; she did not feel left out; she did not stand out as being different; she felt like she was part of the group; she felt like she was doing the right thing because everyone else was doing it, etc.)
- **Even the man who seemed determined not to join in eventually stood. Perhaps he felt odd for being different. How does a person keep from giving in to that kind of pressure?** (Answers will vary.)

Standing at the sound of a tone in the video was harmless, but it says a lot about the way people respond to peer pressure. We want to belong or fit in with others. We may end up following others without stopping to think that we have a choice. We may follow even when what the others are doing is not what we should or want to do.

> When have you felt pressured to follow the crowd or follow just a few friends?

(Answers will vary.)

> What is your biggest fear about what might happen if you do not go along with the group? (Answers will vary; rejection, ridicule, loneliness, isolation, teasing, bullying, etc.)

Moses, Caleb, and Joshua went against the group and stood up for God's plan when others were too afraid to trust God. Let's see how they managed to say "no" to peer pressure and "yes" to choosing to serve God.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 9 / October 30, 2022

Who Will You Follow?

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 9**Focus:**

We can follow God
when others don't.

Lesson 9**Bible Basis:**

Numbers 13:1—
14:45

Lesson 9**Memory Verse:**

“Choose for yourselves this day
whom you will serve.” —Joshua
24:15

Materials:

- Internet access
- Index cards
- Pens or markers

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring index cards and pens or markers to class.

Rather than giving in to the “herd mentality” and agreeing with those who were driven by fear and doubt, Moses, Caleb, and Joshua followed the Lord, their Shepherd. They had a choice, and they chose to serve God. With every pressure to follow the crowd, we have a choice, too. Do we follow the crowd so we can fit in, or do we choose to serve God and walk in His ways even when others do not?

- **Why do you think people join the crowd even when they do not agree with what the crowd is doing?** (They are afraid of how others will treat them, etc.)
- **Where did Moses, Caleb, and Joshua get their strength to choose to serve God?** (Answers might include: they believed God’s promises; from their commitment to God, etc.)

This week as you are faced with big and small pressures, and when following God might mean that you are the only one doing so, making the godly choice may not be easy.

Give each person an index card and a pen or marker. (If your class is meeting online, invite students to have supplies ready at home.)

On the index card, write Joshua 24:15, “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” Each day, you have a choice: follow the herd of sheep, or follow the Lord, our Shepherd.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song in the background as your students think and write [2:42]:

Step by step you'll lead me and I'll follow you all of my days
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJ2VS7x7KFO>

Place the index card in your room where you will see it each day this week. Or, keep it in a pocket or in something else that you carry. When you are faced with peer pressure and the choice to follow God's ways, let this verse remind you to say a prayer for strength, and choose who you will serve.

Moses, Caleb, and Joshua followed the Lord even when the others did not. Will you?

Close in prayer asking God to give the students the strength to choose to walk in His ways no matter what.

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