

Have You Decided To Follow Jesus At School?

➤ = next PowerPoint Slide

➤ Intro:

- **time of year**, starting school
 - clothes, supplies, enroll and go to orientation, class schedule, extra curriculum activities, clubs, talking to friends and finding out who's in what class and where their locker is
- **but as Christians**, most important thing to get ready is your soul — spiritual preparation
 - **good time to get a fresh start**
- **title:** Have You Decided To Follow Jesus At School?
 - **song #280, "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"**

➤ Deciding to follow Jesus is the most important thing you'll ever do!

- **illus.: Can you think of anyone who didn't have to decide whether to follow the Lord?**
 - **Adam and Eve:** decide whether to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 - **Noah:** decide whether believe it would rain, flood, and build an ark
 - **Abraham:** decide whether to leave family, go to a land God would show him, then offer his son
 - **Rahab and Ruth:** decide whether to leave family and friends, and live with God's people
 - **Peter:** decide whether to deny Jesus, repent, be a leader in the church as an apostle
 - **Judas:** decide to betray Jesus, not repent, commit suicide
 - **Everyone has a choose:** follow God, reject God – obey God, disobey God
 - **Who have you decided to follow at school?**

➤ - 1 Pet. 2:21 Christians follow Jesus – follow in His steps

➤ What does it mean to follow Jesus?

- **1 Pet. 2:22a not live a sinful life – Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:3-7; 1 Jn. 1:7b, 9**
 - **illus.: 1 Pet. 2:22b-23** not be deceitful, not revile or threaten, entrust yourself to God
- **1 Pet. 2:24-25** obey, so sins remitted, **return to the Shepherd and Guardian of your soul**

➤ - Have you decided to follow Jesus at school? Are you willing. . . . Is your life reflecting. . . .

- be a Christian, be His disciple, put Him first, walking in His footsteps

- **Have you decided to make Jesus your role model? – Who do you admire and look up to?**
 - **1 Pet. 2:21** Jesus has to be your #1 role model, if you're a faithful Christian
 - **role model:** "a person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be **emulated** by others, esp. by younger people" (Dictionary.com) – **follow Jesus = Jesus is your role model**
 - **illus.: heard an interview before football game in T-ville**, young people, student asked, who is your role model, said Jesus
 - **I asked myself, "Would I have given the same answer?"**
 - **What answer will you give if you're asked, "Who is your role model?"**
 - **illus.: you will become like your role model – be careful who you choose – 1 Cor. 15:33**
 - **Steve DeVore built a multi-million dollar company on the principle of role modeling.** DeVore is **president of Syber Vision**, a company that markets **instructional video and audio tapes** on everything from golf to skiing to weight control.
 - **When DeVore was in college, he happened to watch a bowling tournament** on television.
 - **As he paid close attention to the movements** of the bowlers, the thought struck him that if he could emulate their movements, he could probably achieve the same results.
 - **After watching the bowlers closely for thirty minutes**, he got in his car and drove to the local bowling alley.
 - He got an alley, picked out a ball, and for the next thirty minutes he **did just as the professional bowlers** had done on TV.
 - He **threw nine straight strikes and recorded a score of 278**. His highest score up to that point was 163.
 - By **emulating a proficient role model**, he improved his performance by 115 pins. But the key was **"just as."** He had to do it just as the pros. (Steve Ferrar, Point Man, p. 183, net.Bible.org)
 - **When you choose a role model, you are choosing to be like him / her.**
 - **Since Jesus is the way, truth, and life, in whose steps we follow, He has to be our #1 role model!**
- - **1 Jn. 1:3** to imitate Jesus (role model), **must obey His word**, communicated in the **Bible** by apostles
 - fellowship = sharing – becoming like our role model
- - **2 Pet. 1:2-4a** through knowledge (word) we become **partakers of God's divine nature**
 - **we become like our role model, Jesus Christ, through knowledge of His word**
 - **2 Pet. 1:5-8** how?
 - **2 Pet. 1:10-11** result
- - **Are you learning more about your role model, Jesus Christ, and becoming more like Him?**
 - changing your life to emulate His

➤ **Have you decided to make Jesus your best friend?**

- **illus.:** Vinny Nasta, school teacher

- **Vinny Nasta, a high school teacher in NY died last week (8-17-08), while piloting a plane in an air show**

- **students were shocked**

- **here are some of their comments**

- "He made you feel special."

- "He believed in me when no one else did."

- "He understood you, even though he was an adult."

- "He changed my life."

- "I wouldn't have gotten into college without him."

- "He made me believe in myself."

- "He taught me I could accomplish something."

- "He inspired me."

- **Erika Haas, Riverhead High School class of 2009, created a Facebook web site, said on a telephone interview:**

- **he's "more than a teacher -- he was one of my best friends."**

- **our best friends are:**

- **people who** inspire us, make us better, make us feel special, believe in us, understand us

- **we have no better best friend than Jesus**

➤ - **Jesus wants you to be His friend!**

- **Jn. 15:13** Jesus died on the cross to be your friend

- Jesus chose you as a friend, have you chosen Him

➤ - **Jn. 15:14** obey Jesus to be His friend

- easier than dying on a cross to be His friend – Jesus did the hard thing, asks you to do a easy thing

- **illus.:** song 121, "I'll Be A Friend To Jesus" review all vs. then chorus

- **friends typically a bigger influence** for teen than anyone else

- **very important who you choose** to be your best friend

➤ - **Have you decided to be Jesus' friend? Are you willing. . . . Is your life reflecting. . . .**

- **If Jesus saw you at school with your friends, would he want to be in your "group" of friends?**

- **1 Cor. 15:33** "Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals" – **Jesus?**

➤ **Two final thoughts from “I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”**

- **Have you decided to follow Jesus, even if you’re the only one? – even if you have to following Him alone?**

- vs. 2, song #280, “I Have Decided To Follow Jesus” review vs. 2 and chorus

➤ - **Have you decided to carry your cross at school (following Jesus), every day?**

- vs. 3, song #280, “I Have Decided To Follow Jesus” review vs. 2 and chorus

➤ - **Have you decided to follow Jesus at school? Are you willing. . . . Is your life reflecting. . . .**

- most important think you’ll do

- #1 role model

- best friend

Summary / Inv.

- **inv.:** commit self to follow Jesus, recommit

- If not a Christian. . . .

- **song #280, “I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”**