



UNIT 28 | SESSION 4

# GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM

## MATTHEW 28

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus wants us to know and love Him forever.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** People who know God will live forever. John 17:3

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus talked with His friends on a mountain.
- Jesus said, “Go and tell people to follow Me.”
- Jesus said, “I am always with you.”

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Jesus told His eleven friends to go to a mountain in Galilee. When the friends got to the mountain, Jesus was there. The friends worshiped Jesus, but some wondered, *Is this really Jesus?* Jesus talked with His friends. He said, “I am in charge of everything. Go and tell people from every place on earth to follow Me. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. Remember, I am always with you.”



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Matthew 28. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

“I can tell the good news.  
I can tell the good news.  
Praise God forevermore.  
Jesus is alive!”

**SAY** “ Jesus talked with His friends on a mountain. Jesus said, ‘Go and tell people to follow Me.’ Jesus wants us to tell people the good news that Jesus loves them. ”

#### 2 OPEN GIFT BAGS

Place various picture Bibles in gift bags (one bag per Bible). Cover the Bibles with tissue paper and curling ribbon. Seat babies on the floor in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Place the bags in front of the babies. Encourage the babies to pull out the tissue paper and ribbons. When the Bibles are discovered, place them in the babies’ laps. Help the babies find pictures of Jesus in the Bibles.

**SAY** “ Jesus said, ‘I am always with you.’ Today you found a picture of Jesus. He is with us in the Bible. Jesus wants us to know Him and love Him. ”

#### 3 MARCH AROUND THE ROOM

Play worship music on an electronic device. Tape the Bible story picture to the wall. Assign leaders to hold babies in their arms and gently march around the room. (Push or pull babies in walkers around the room, if desired.) As you march, point out people and objects in the room. Stop at the Bible story picture and talk about Jesus’ friends going to the mountain to meet Jesus. Review the gospel gems.

**SAY** “ Jesus asked His friends to go to a mountain to see Him. When the friends got to the mountain, Jesus was there. The friends worshiped Jesus on the mountain. Jesus gave His friends a special job to tell people from every place to follow Him. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Matthew 28. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 FIND THE PEOPLE FIGURES

Use painter's tape to attach 11 people figures around the room (under tables, chairs, on doors, and even to the floor). Challenge toddlers to find the people and bring them to you. Count the figures, focusing on how Jesus told His eleven friends to go to a mountain to meet Him. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “How many people did we find around the room? That's right! Eleven! Jesus told His eleven friends to tell people everywhere to follow Him. Jesus wants us to know and love Him forever.”

#### 3 FOLLOW THE PATH

Write Jesus wants us to know and love Him forever on separate sheets of paper. Draw shapes in the corner of each paper so toddlers can follow the path. Space out papers and tape to the floor in order. Allow the children to jump from sheet to sheet. Say the words as the toddlers jump.

**SAY** “Jesus told His friends to go to every place on earth and teach people to follow Him. We can tell our friends and family that Jesus loves them and wants them to know and follow Him too!”

#### 4 PLAY FOLLOW-THE-LEADER

Ring a bell and invite the toddlers to follow you around the room. Then, choose a toddler to be the new leader. Hold one of her hands while she rings the bell with the other hand. For an added challenge, remove obstacles and have children close their eyes. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “Who are we supposed to follow? Yes! Jesus! Jesus wants people to follow Him. He wants people to do what He says. We can follow Jesus. Jesus wants us to know and love Him forever.”

#### 5 ROLL CARS

Tape poster boards or cardboard pieces to a chair to make a ramp. Print the Bible story picture and tape it to the chair. Provide toy cars for children to move the cars up and down the ramps. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “Where did the friends meet with Jesus? That's right! On a mountain! Jesus asked His friends to come up a mountain. Jesus gave His friends a special job—to tell people from every place on earth about Him. He told them to go down the mountain and tell everyone about Him.”

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## MATTHEW 28

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus wants us to know and love Him forever.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** People who know God will live forever. John 17:3

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE A HEART

Draw a large heart on a sheet of paper. Provide dot stickers or dot markers. Show the children how to place dot stickers inside and along the lines of the heart. Talk about the Bible story, focusing on how each dot represents someone we can tell about Jesus.

**SAY** “ Jesus loves us. Jesus wants us to know and love Him forever. Jesus wants us to tell people all over the earth that He loves them. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

“Jesus is alive today, tell the news, tell the news.  
Jesus is alive today, tell everyone you know.”

### 3 TALK IN A TOY MICROPHONE

Say, “Jesus wants us to know and love Him forever,” into a toy microphone (or paper tube). Offer the microphone to an interested toddler and suggest he say, “Jesus” into the microphone. Pass it to the next toddler to say, “wants.” Continue for all words. Repeat the Christ connection aloud together.

**SAY** “ Do we need a microphone to tell about Jesus? No! We can tell other people about Jesus by what we say and what we do! Jesus loves people and He wants people to follow Him. Jesus wants you and me to tell other people about Him. ”

### 4 BALANCE A BEANBAG

Tape the Bible story picture on the the wall at toddlers’ eye level. Demonstrate how to balance a beanbag on your head. Challenge toddlers to walk to the Bible story picture with the beanbag on their heads, point to Jesus, and return to the group. Repeat, allowing all toddlers to have a turn, balancing the beanbag on different parts of their bodies (shoulders, elbows, back, back of their hands, and so forth). Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ In the picture, Jesus is talking to His friends. Does Jesus want us to tell our friends about Him? Yes! Jesus wants us to tell people all over the earth about Him. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.