



TEACHER GUIDE
Preschool B

Unit 6: February

Jesus Is Our Good Friend

One in Christ Preschool—An Overview

Welcome to the One in Christ preschool curriculum and to an easy-to-use format that will help you plan your “Jesus Time” and related experiences. There is one Teacher Guide for each month of the year. (Be sure to recognize that these are not disposables, like magazines.) Each month (unit) has 4 weeks of lessons, with 4 days per week. You will find that there is an abundance of ideas. This provides you with the freedom to pick what works best for you. Don’t try to cover all the material given. Make choices—make it your own!

To help you organize by quarters, the covers are color-coded. The Fall quarter (September, October, November) has autumn orange covers; the Winter quarter (December, January, February) has red covers for Christmas through Valentines; the Spring quarter (March, April, May) has spring green covers; and the Summer quarter (June, July, August) has turquoise blue covers. Each quarter will have one bonus lesson (because of variations in schedules and calendars). Please note the flexibility of the program, which has a Summer quarter for preschools that have a year-round program.

You also have flexibility in how you store your Teacher Guides. The pages are 3-hole punched if you would like to place each quarter in a separate binder. The pages are also perforated if you want to place them in file folders. Or you may simply want to place these colorful Teacher Guides on a bookshelf as your religion curriculum library.

Let’s see what a week provides. The first page of a weekly plan gives you an overview for the week. This is followed by 2 pages of ideas for each of 4 days of Jesus Time lessons. Note that each activity has a heart icon. To keep track of the activities you select to use, you can put a check mark, or better yet, a cross, in the heart icon. Checking off activities will also help you in your planning next year!

You will find teaching tools referred to in the lessons such as play scenes, Bible figures, puppets, and *The Story Bible* (hardback edition), all available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH). Song suggestions come from *Little Ones Sing Praise (LOSP)* or *Lift Little Voices (LLV)*, also available from CPH, along with CD recordings of the songs. You will need a variety of materials and methods for teaching a Bible story, because each week, the story is presented four times. This repetition is important, age-appropriate, and educationally sound. One time is not enough for a good story—children want to hear it over and over again. (*Note:* If you do not have the materials suggested, you can still teach the lessons, adapting them to fit with the materials you do have available.)

The second main section of each week provides circle time and center ideas on a variety of themes. Though independent of your Jesus Time, connections to our faith are made to show children that Jesus is part of all parts of our lives. The categories are Express (language development), Create (the arts), Explore (science and math readiness), and Relate (social development). Take note of the numbers in parentheses at the end of each activity. These relate the activity to an early childhood curriculum standard. Reproducible copies of these standards are found in the Administrators Guide. The standards are based on a compilation of state and national preschool standards.

Student materials consist of Family Letters that encourage families to read from *The Story Bible*, (hardback edition) with pages listed each week, so that children can hear the Bible account both at home and at school. (*Note:* If you find it difficult to get weekly letters to the home, consider giving parents the entire packet at the beginning of the year.) Blessings!



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Editor: Carolyn Bergt

Series editors: Rodney L. Rathmann, Carolyn Bergt, Brenda Trunkhill

Associate editor: Amanda G. Lansche

Writers: Tracie Douglas, Jill Otte, Annette Skibbe, Kim Violette

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Unit 6—February

Jesus Is Our Good Friend

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Skills in Unit 6—See www.OneinChrist.org

From the Editor—A Look at This Month

This month, we focus on friendship and the welcoming, kind, and forgiving feelings that friends share. Because of Valentine’s Day, children will often be thinking of their friends, but we also focus on our very best friend, Jesus. We will see that Jesus welcomes children and adults alike. He shares His Word and His blessings with all. We will see that Jesus welcomes outcasts, those who are sick, and those who are sin-sick. Jesus is a friend to all in need, helping and showing mercy through healing and healing forgiveness. And as Jesus is a friend to all, He calls on us to share those same feelings of welcome and friendship with all others too. Make this a month of celebration—celebrating the eternal friendship of Jesus and the friendship we share with others as we are led by Jesus.

You are encouraged to use the hardback edition of *The Story Bible* (copyright © 2011 Concordia Publishing House) as a companion piece to the lessons you will teach in your classroom. Also

encourage family use of this book in the home. Accompanying page numbers are listed in the Family Letters. The Family Letters are an important way of getting God’s Word into the home. The messages of faith are for the parents too!

The CPH Big Books *Sit Down* and *Too Tall, Too Small* will be important companion pieces in this unit. Several titles from the CPH Arch Book series are also related to our Bible stories (and always check for new ones!): *Jesus Blesses the Children*; *Mary and Martha’s Dinner Guest*; *Zacchaeus*; and *The Thankful Leper*.

As you view the materials list, consider that you may not need all items, depending on which activities you choose. We provide you with many ideas from which you can pick and choose and adapt. Think of this resource as a guide, not a prescription.

God bless your teaching of the faith!

Meeting Individual Needs

Every teacher has experienced a student who is calming down from an emotional outburst and seems in control of his or her emotions, only to start the cycle of crying or yelling all over again when asked to rejoin the group. The student has just communicated very clearly that he or she was not ready to move on from the incident and was not ready to comply with teacher demands. A teacher’s idea of calming time and a student’s notion of the same concept can be very different. If a student is sitting quietly after crying and a tantrum, that could mean that he or she is ready to rejoin the group—or it

could mean he or she is simply exhausted and is catching his or her breath for round two. Before sending a student back into a situation that caused the issue, have him or her complete a simple task—putting items in a jar, counting backward, or pulling smaller items out of play dough. If a student is able to complete a simple and nonthreatening task, he or she has communicated that he or she is ready to comply with more demands in a group setting. This is an example of “checking for compliance.” Respect the student’s need for time to regroup and calm before increasing demands.

Week 23—Jesus Welcomes Children

JESUS BLESSES CHILDREN

MARK 10:13-16

Discovery Points

Law: The consequences of living in a sin-filled world can make us feel worthless and unimportant.

Gospel: We are so important to Jesus that He died to save us from our sins and gives us new life.

Sanctification: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can treat other people as important and beloved children of God too.

Background

Who comes to mind when you think of someone important? Maybe you think of a celebrity, the president, your doctor, or a firefighter. When Jesus thinks of someone important, He thinks of you! The disciples did not understand that everyone is important to Jesus. When the children came to see Jesus to be blessed by Him, the disciples sent them away. They thought Jesus was too busy to be bothered by little children. How sad the children must have been! However, Jesus called the children to Him because He loved them, and they were important to Him. Jesus loves us too; we are important to Him!

Each day, as you teach the story of Jesus blessing the children, you teach several important truths about Jesus and His love for us. These truths provide a firm foundation for not only your faith, but also your children's faith. These truths include the following:

- Everyone is important to Jesus.
- Even if we feel sad or unloved, we can rest assured that Jesus' love for us is not determined by our feelings and emotions. He loves us no matter how we feel!
- Jesus loves us so much that He suffered and died to save us from our sins.
- We can share the love of Jesus when we treat others as loved and important children of God!

No matter how we feel, Jesus loves us. He showed His love for us as He suffered, died, and rose again so that we can be with Him eternally. May the Lord bless you as you share this important message with your children this week.

Bible Words

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me." Matthew 19:14

Week 23

Day 1 Materials

- Zippy puppet
- Bible
- Family Letter 23
- *The Story Bible* (available from CPH)
- Bulletin board with large red heart, picture of Jesus, and title strip
- People-shaped cookie cutters or templates
- Paint, crayons, or markers

Day 2 Materials

- Paper stoplight
- Reproducible 23
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters or templates
- Paint, crayons, or markers

Day 3 Materials

- Bible
- Cupettes
- Large white paper circle
- Marker
- Cross-shaped cookie cutters or templates
- Paint, crayons, or markers

Day 4 Materials

- Vinyl play scene (available from CPH)
- Large paper shapes: rectangle, oval, triangle, heart
- *Jesus Blesses the Children* (CPH Arch Book)



Help the children understand that even though we feel sad or unloved at times, we are always important to Jesus! He will never tell us to go away. The love of Jesus never changes. We can be happy knowing that Jesus always loves us. He died on the cross and rose again for us!

(Zippy enters, bent over and obviously feeling sad.)

Teacher: What's wrong, Zippy?

Zippy: *(Sadly)* I am feeling a little bit sad today.

Teacher: Oh no! I'm sorry to hear that! What's wrong?

Zippy: Well, the problem is . . . I'm only four years old.

Teacher: Being four years old is great! There are so many new things you are learning and doing. You keep growing and growing each day.

Zippy: But I can't be on a football team until I'm *fourteen* years old.

Teacher: That's true, but soon you will be on a T-ball team. That will be great.

Zippy: But I can't drive a car until I'm *sixteen* years old.

Teacher: True, but you can't reach the brake pedal yet anyway. I've seen you, though, on your new bike with training wheels. That sure is fun.

Zippy: But nothing really important ever happens to me. I guess I'm just not important.

Teacher: Oh, Zippy! You are *very* important to your family and your friends and to me. And best of all, you are important to Jesus. You are so important to Jesus that He was willing to die on the cross to take away your sins. Jesus makes you special. You are special because you are a child of God! Let me read a story from the Bible that will tell you how important you are to Jesus.



Say, **It's true that there are some things that you have to wait to do until you are older. Some of Jesus' disciples thought children were not old enough to see Jesus. Let's find out what Jesus thinks about little children just like you.** Read directly from an open Bible, interspersing the following comments.

Read Mark 10:1. Say, **Jesus and His disciples were walking from town to town on their way to Jerusalem. When mothers heard that Jesus was near, they stopped their cooking. When fathers heard that Jesus was near, they put down their hammers. The parents took their children to see Jesus. They wanted their children to know about the Savior.**

Read Mark 10:13. **But the disciples were very grouchy. They rebuked—or scolded—the parents and children. The disciples thought Jesus was too busy to have time for children. Or they thought Jesus was too important to be bothered with children. Or**

they thought Jesus was too tired and the children would not let Him rest. The moms and dads and children must have felt so sad as they walked away. But . . .

Read Mark 10:14–15. **Jesus turned things around. He was upset with the disciples. Jesus said He wanted to see the children. Jesus loves children. You are important to Jesus. He is never too busy or too tired for you.**

Read Mark 10:16. **Jesus didn't just talk to the children, He welcomed them, He held them, He hugged them. And Jesus blessed the children. He spoke of the good gifts of God He wanted them to have. I want to tell you about the good gifts of God that I pray you will have in your lives!** Go around the group, put your hand on the head of each child, say the child's name, and then give a blessing such as "May God give you joy" or "May God bless you with His love."

✦ ✦ ✦ Jesus Welcomes Children ✦ ✦



Show the puppet Zippy again.

Teacher: Zippy, you're back! I hope you learned something very important from the Bible story. There may be times when we feel sad or unimportant, but Jesus loves us anyway. Even if we feel sad or unloved, Jesus never stops loving us. He will never tell us to go away. Jesus always has time for us. Jesus loves each and every one of us so much! We are so important to Him that He died on the cross and rose again for us!

Zippy: Jesus died and rose again even for little children?

Teacher: Yes! He died and rose again for every one of us!

Zippy: And He loves us very much?

Teacher: Yes, He loves all of us very much! Let's play a little game to remind us that Jesus loves us.

Ask the children to respond with the actions you suggest. For example, say, **Jump up and down if Jesus loves you; wave your arms if Jesus loves you; tap your nose if Jesus loves you; stomp your feet if Jesus loves you; turn around if Jesus loves you.** Then, together, shout "Hooray!"



Throughout the week, where it works best with your schedule, include these activities: sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (*LOSP*, p. 94 and on CD), show the illustrations on the Family Letter, and read pages 380–382 in *The Story Bible*.



Begin an activity that you will work on all week and will, perhaps, leave up all month. Place a very large red heart at the center of a bulletin board or piece of mural paper. Point out that **this month is Valentine's Day, when we think about friends and being kind and sharing love with others. We see many red hearts at this time of year to remind us of Valentine's Day and loving kindness. This is a big, special valentine because it will remind us of the love of Jesus!** Place a large picture of Jesus on the red heart. Both the heart and the picture need to be quite large in order to be the focal point of the display.

In advance, print the title "Jesus Loves the Little Children" on a strip of paper. Now, place this strip at the top of the bulletin board or mural, and tell the children what the words say (pointing to each word as you say it). Stand back as if you are admiring your work, and read the title again. Then say, **Wait a minute! Something is missing! It says that Jesus loves the little children. What is missing on this big picture?** (The children!)

Have each child add a child representing him or her to the display by one of these methods: (1) have them stamp the shapes onto the bulletin board using people-shaped cookie cutters dipped in a shallow dish of paint; or (2) provide poster paper templates that the children can trace around on the display using markers or crayons.

When dry, let each child write his or her name on the shape he or she created. More items will be added to the display as the week progresses.



Make a simple, double-sided stoplight on a tall rectangle with three circles on each side. On one side, the bottom circle should be green; on the other side, the top circle should be red. All other circles should be blank. Briefly discuss what message the green and red colors give. Tell the children to identify either GO or STOP whenever you hold up the sign.

Show the green circle. (GO!) **Yes, GO! Families were going to see Jesus. They were happy because they knew that Jesus is true God, who came to be their Savior.**

Show the red circle. (STOP!) **That's right—STOP! The disciples stopped them. The disciples said, "Don't let the little children bother Jesus. He is too busy to take time for them."**

Show the red circle again. (STOP!) **STOP! Jesus stopped His disciples! Jesus wanted to see the children. Jesus always has time for children because He loves them.**

Show the green circle. (GO!) **GO! Now the children could go to Jesus. He held them in His arms. He placed His hand on their heads and blessed them.**

Show the green circle again. (GO!) **GO! This message is for you! Go to Jesus in prayer. Hear His words of blessing and forgiveness for you. Jesus died on the cross and arose at Easter to take away your sins and make you children of God. Jesus welcomes you! Jesus loves little children like you and big children like me and your mommy and daddy too!**



Use Reproducible 23 to reinforce these concepts. Remind the children that when we bless someone, we are praying that God will give them good things. At the top and bottom of the page are blessings that are words from the Bible. Read the blessings to the children. Have them cut off each section so that they can give this blessing to someone else, perhaps their mother or dad or grandparents or a brother or sister. Suggest that they say "God bless you" when they give the blessing to someone else. (Let them put their blessings in a coat pocket or book bag for later use.)

Continue by looking at the picture of the watch. Read the words "Jesus always has time for me." Explain, **At any time of day, Jesus is near, hearing our prayers and blessing us. He never turns us away or goes away. He always has time for us. Whether it is lunchtime or playtime or school time or bedtime, Jesus has time for you.** Children may color the watch and then cut it out with scissors. Then have them wrap the watch around their wrist so that you can tape the ends of the straps together for a good fit. (Overlap and/or cut off excess.) *Note:* If you use a stapler, be sure to tape the back edges of the staple so that it doesn't scratch.

✦ ✦ ✦ Jesus Welcomes Children ✦ ✦



Review the Bible story, having the children echo your words and actions.

I wake up. (*Yawn and stretch.*)

I jump out of bed. (*Jump up.*)

I eat breakfast. (*Pretend to eat.*)

This is a special day.

I'm going to see Jesus! (*Clap hands softly.*)

Mommy and I walk down the road.

Walk, walk, walk! (*Walk in place.*)

Are we there yet? (*Pretend to tug on Mom's clothing.*)

My feet are tired! (*Point to feet.*)

This is a long way to walk!

But I'm going to see Jesus! (*Clap hands softly.*)

Uh-oh, there are a lot of people here.

(*Look around, hand above eyes.*)

Everyone is happy.

There He is! There's Jesus! (*Point and jump up with excitement.*)

Let's run to see Him. (*Run in place.*)

Some grouchy men say, "Go away!" (*Look sad, disappointed.*)

But wait! Jesus says to come to Him. (*Hold out welcoming arms.*)

Jesus puts His arms around me. (*Hug yourself.*)

This is a happy day! Jesus loves me! (*Place hands over heart.*)



Sing this song to the melody of "Skinnamarink." (If you are unfamiliar with this melody, check the Internet, especially YouTube.)

Refrain:

Skinnamarinky, dinky-dink. (*Roll arms.*)

Skinnamarinky, doo. (*Roll arms.*)

God loves you! (*Point to your friends.*)

Repeat Refrain. Then sing following stanza:

He loves you in the morning (*Point both hands to the left.*)

And in the afternoon. (*Point both hands straight up.*)

He loves you in the evening (*Point both hands to the right.*)

And underneath the moon. (*Touch fingertips above head, making a big circle.*)

Repeat Refrain.

Say, **This song reminds me of the watch you are wearing. Jesus always has time for you. He has time for you in the morning** (*point both hands left*), **in the afternoon** (*point both hands straight up*), **in the evening** (*point both hands to the right*), **and underneath the moon** (*touch fingertips above head, making a circle*). Sing the song again.



Say, **Jesus loves us, and we love Him. We love Him because He first loved us. A valentine heart is a reminder of the love and care we share because of Jesus.** Let children dip heart-shaped cookie cutters in shallow trays of paint, then stamp a heart on the bulletin board or mural you are creating together. Or have children trace around heart-shaped templates that you have made. Then continue with the following finger play.

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

He spread His arms out wide. (*Spread arms wide.*)

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

He spread His arms and died. (*Spread arms wide.*)

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

He rose again for me. (*Point to yourself.*)

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

From sin He set me free. (*Wave hands in the air.*)



Use pantomime and action where the story line suggests as you review this week's Bible story. Say, **One day, some mommies and daddies said, "We are going to see Jesus! Let's bring our children so Jesus can bless them!"** So the grown-ups got their children ready. Perhaps they scrubbed the children's faces. Maybe they put clean clothes on the children. Then they all went out the door and down the path to where Jesus was. The grown-ups walked and talked. The children laughed and skipped and ran. Grown-ups carried children who were too little to walk.

Soon they all came to where Jesus was. What a big crowd was around Jesus! But the grown-ups and the children kept walking. They kept talking and laughing and skipping and running. How happy and joyful they felt.

Suddenly, Jesus' disciple friends stood in front of them, blocking their way. "Stop!" they said in big voices as they held up their hands. "Stop! You can't see Jesus!"

The grown-ups stopped. The children stopped. They stopped walking. They stopped talking. They stopped laughing and skipping and running. They felt sad and unimportant. Their mouths turned down into a frown. Their shoulders turned down as they slumped over. Their feet dragged on the ground as they slowly walked away. They were so sad.

BUT WAIT! Jesus heard what His helpers said. Jesus saw the grown-ups and the children. He saw that they were sad. Jesus loved the grown-ups and He loved the children too. Jesus scolded His disciples and said, "Let the little children come to Me! I love them and I want to bless them."

Then the grown-ups and the children crowded around Jesus. He took the children in His arms. He hugged them. Jesus put His hands on each child and blessed each one. The grown-ups and the children were happy again. They were filled with joy because they knew that Jesus loved them.



Say, **It must have been so exciting to see Jesus! We can't see Jesus right now, but He is right here with us because He is true God. We can't see Jesus, but we can hear His words from the Bible.** From an open Bible, read Isaiah 41:13: "**I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'**"

Let's pretend that we are walking to see Jesus. Have the children follow you as you walk around a table and listen to the recording of "Walking, Walking to See Jesus" (LLV, p. 23, and on CD). This song retells

the Bible story. Try the song a second time, encouraging the children to sing along with any words that they know.

In the middle of the table, place a cup-pette with a picture of Jesus attached to an upside-down plastic foam cup. Give each child a cup-pette with a picture of a Bible times child attached to a cup. Sing the song again, this time letting the children march their cup-pettes around the table. When the song is completed, the children may place their cup-pettes all around the cup-pette of Jesus, in the center of the table.

✦ ✦ ✦ Jesus Welcomes Children ✦ ✦



Hold up a large white paper circle that has a black diagonal line through it. Explain that this is a sign that means “DON’T.” Say, **On a door, this sign would mean “DON’T open this door.” Above a drinking fountain, this sign would mean “DON’T drink the water.” On a television screen, this would mean “DON’T turn on the television.”**

This “DON’T” sign reminds me of the disciples in our Bible story. They said, “DON’T bother Jesus. DON’T come near Him when He is busy.” But we learned that Jesus loves us and welcomes us to come to Him.

The best way He showed how much He loves us is when He died on the cross to take away our sins. Let’s change the DON’T sign to a sign about Jesus’ great love for us. Turn the sign until the line is straight up and down. Then, use a marker to add a shorter horizontal line to change it into a cross. Say, **A cross tells us about the love of Jesus.**

Review the finger play learned earlier in the week:

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

He spread His arms out wide. (*Spread arms wide.*)

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

He spread His arms and died. (*Spread arms wide.*)

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

He rose again for me. (*Point to yourself.*)

Jesus loves me so much. (*Hug yourself.*)

From sin He set me free. (*Wave hands in the air.*)



Say, **The cross of Jesus tells us of His great love for us. He did this for you and me so we can live with Him in heaven someday. Today, let’s add crosses to our bulletin board to show the great love Jesus has for you and me.** Follow the same process you used to add the children and heart shapes to the bulletin board earlier in the week, but use cross-shape cookie cutters or templates this time. When finished, have the children sit on the floor in a circle as you listen to and then

sing “Do You Know Who Died for Me” (*LOSP*, p. 93, and on CD).

Then, while still seated in a circle, have the children share a blessing with each other: One by one, have each child turn to his or her neighbor and make the sign of the cross on that child’s forehead. Have the children repeat these lines to their friends while making the sign of the cross:

Jesus loves you every day.

He will never go away.



Use the vinyl play scene to retell the Bible story. (Remember that play scenes, available from CPH, are like wordless books with figures that you can move to tell the story. You can use it like a book-sized flannelgraph.) Use the following script as you move the vinyl figures.

Narrator:

A crowd of people gathered 'round
From far away and near.
They came to see the Son of God,
Our Lord and Savior dear.

Grown-ups:

I guess we're not the only ones
Who want to see God's Son.
Look at those little children there.
See! They don't walk—they run!

Disciples:

We really do not like this mess.
We don't want children near.
Please, keep those kids out of the way.
There's no place for them here.

Jesus:

Now wait a minute! Stop that now!
Don't send the young away.
These little ones have faith in Me.
I like to hear them pray.

Narrator:

Then one by one, He blessed them all.
Oh, it was truly grand!
The children, waiting patiently,
Were touched by His own hand.



Say, **You are important to Jesus! What makes you important to Him? You're important because God made you and loves you. He loves you even though you sin and do wrong things. He loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take away those sins. He loves you and forgives you!** Do the following finger play with the children.

I am important to Jesus. (*Point to yourself.*)

Yes, it's true. (*Nod your head.*)

I am important to Jesus. (*Point to yourself.*)

You are too! (*Point to a friend.*)



Sing this message to the melody of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

**"Let the children come to Me,
Come to Me, come to Me.
Let the children come to Me."
That's what Jesus said.**

**I will gladly follow Him,
Follow Him, follow Him.
I will gladly follow Him,
For Jesus loves me so.**



Say, **Each person in this room is important to Jesus. If each person is important to Jesus, each person is important to you and me! How do you treat another important person? Give me a thumbs-up if the choice is right, and a thumbs-down if the choice is wrong.** Discuss each scenario below with the children.

Saying, "You are my friend."

Punching a friend.

Giving a high-five.

Saying, "I don't like you."

Taking a toy away.

Sharing your toy.

Following teacher's directions.

Not obeying Mom and Dad.

Going to church to sing praise to Jesus.

Saying, "You can't play with me."

Saying, "Jesus loves you, and I do too."



Review the Bible Words for the week (Matthew 19:14):

Jesus said, (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

"Let the little children (*Point to the children.*)

Come to Me." (*Motion to "come."*)

✦ ✦ ✦ Jesus Welcomes Children ✦ ✦



In advance, prepare paper shapes to display: a rectangle, oval, triangle, and heart. Each needs to be about 12 inches wide or tall, and each should be a different color. Display the shapes one at a time in a horizontal line, using the following narrative to help the children understand that **Jesus loves each and every one of us, even when we might feel unlovable or unimportant. We are all important to Jesus, no matter how we feel! What is necessary is how Jesus feels—and His love never changes!**

The four shapes will make a “machine” with sound effect noises that the children can help with. Say, **I made a machine last night! I can’t wait to show it to you, but it might look a little silly! It took me a long time to make it, and I picked out the pieces very carefully. First of all, I made the “On” button.** Show the children the *rectangle*, and tape it to the board. **What shape is my “On” button? (Rectangle) The “On” button makes this noise: Honk!** Let children practice the noise a few times.

Next, I made the mover. Show the children the *oval*, and display it directly to the right of the rectangle. **The mover helps the machine to go! What shape is my mover? (Oval) The mover makes this noise: Glug-glug!** Let children practice the noise.

Then I made the connector. Add the *triangle*; say, **The connector makes sure the machine is running smoothly. What shape is my connector? (Triangle) The connector makes this noise: Chicka-chicka!** Let children practice the noise.

The last piece is the ping. Add the *heart*. **What shape is the ping? (Heart) The ping makes this noise: Ping-ping!** Let children practice the noise.

I worked so hard to make this machine! Are you ready to see it go? (Yes!) Okay, here it goes! Point to each shape, and as you do, say the sound it makes: **Honk! Glug-glug! Chicka-chicka! Ping-ping!**

Hmm . . . well, the machine looks great, except for one thing: I don’t think we need the heart. It just says “Ping-ping!” That’s not important at all. It’s little; we don’t need it. Remove the heart.

Now my machine will be perfect! Let’s try it again! Point to each shape, but give these sounds: **Hiccup! Blurb-blurb! Shoo!**

Oh no! That’s not how the machine is supposed to work! The “On” button is supposed to say Honk, not Hiccup! The mover is supposed to say Glug-glug, not Blurb-blurb! The connector is supposed to say Chicka-chicka, not Shoo!

Ask, **What happened?! Why didn’t my machine work? Did I do something? (You took off the heart!) What should I do to try to make it work again? (Put the heart back on the machine.) Do you think we need the heart? (Yes!) Even though it only says Ping-ping? (Yes!) Okay, let’s try it.** Tape the heart back on.

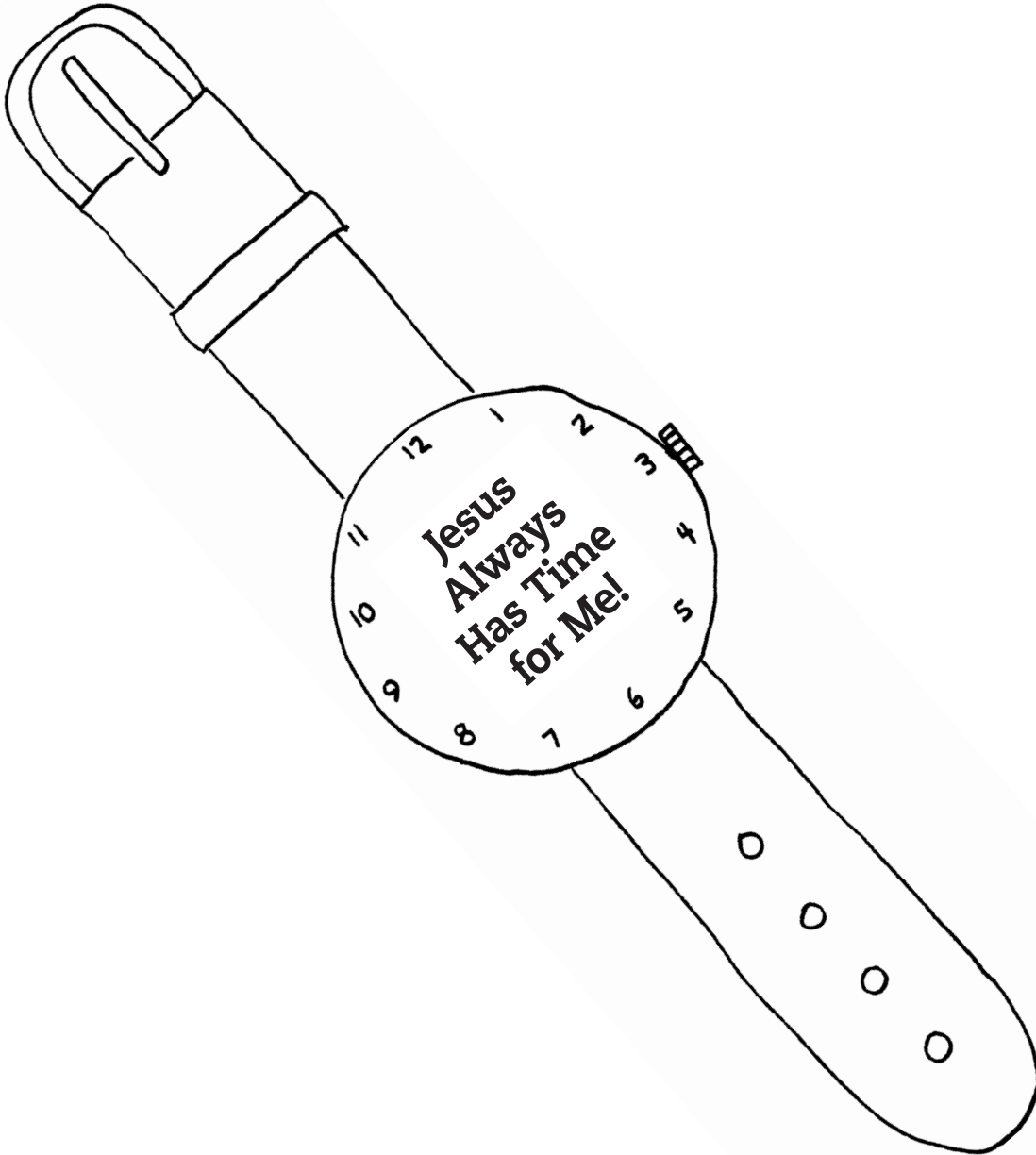
Do you think it will work this time? (Yes!) Can you help me? Here we go! Point to each shape. As you point to the shapes, say the correct sounds: **Honk! Glug-glug! Chicka-chicka! Ping-ping!**

Hooray! My machine works again! Well, each piece of the machine I made was important to the machine. And better yet, we are all important to Jesus—even if we feel sad or sinful! Listen again to the story of Jesus blessing the children. Read the CPH Arch Book *Jesus Blesses the Children* or another version of this Bible narrative.

Then say, **Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me.” Jesus welcomed the children to Him! He took the children in His arms and blessed them! So even if you feel sad or unimportant, remember that just like the heart in the machine, you are important to Jesus! Let’s turn on the machine one more time!** Point to each shape. As you point to the shapes, say the correct sounds: **Honk! Glug-glug! Chicka-chicka! Ping-ping!**

A Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace. Romans 15:13



A Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

WELCOME FEELINGS

Valentine's Day

(Worship) Point out that this month includes Valentine's Day. **Valentine's Day is about friendship and love. It's not just about giving one another valentine cards. It is about sharing kindness and loving actions. The best love of all is from Jesus. He loves us so much that He died on the cross to take away our sins.**

Jesus loves us! We love Jesus! But Jesus also wants us to show loving kindness to one another. Can you name some ways to be kind to others? List the words the children use. Pick out several of these words to include in the song "Valentine's Day Is about Love" (*LLV*, p. 56, and on CD). Possibilities include: We show our love by sharing, helping, laughing, kindness, and so on. (*P.3.2.2*)

My Friend

(Worship) Sing "Jesus Is My Special Friend" (*LOSP*, p. 43, and on CD). As you sing together, have the children pass around an unbreakable mirror that has a sticker picture of Jesus attached. The children will see their own faces next to Jesus, reminding them that Jesus loves them individually. Then say the following litany. Lead the children in their response as they hug themselves and say, "I always have my friend, Jesus." Follow this by singing the song once more (without the mirror). (*P.4.4.1*)

All: I always have my friend, Jesus.

Teacher: Even when my other friends go away . . .

All: I always have my friend, Jesus.

Teacher: Even when my pets don't want to play . . .

All: I always have my friend, Jesus.

Teacher: Even when my grown-ups are too busy to play . . .

All: I always have my friend, Jesus.

Teacher: Even when I'm all by myself . . .

All: I always have my friend, Jesus.

Teacher: Jesus is my special Friend who is always with me.

All: I always have my friend, Jesus.

God Loves You Too

(Worship) Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Start the game by saying, **Jesus loves me and Jesus loves you.** Roll a ball to someone and have them repeat the phrase and roll the ball to someone else. After everyone has had a turn, sing "God Loves You" (*LOSP*, p. 100, and on CD). After the children are familiar with the song, insert the names of the children in place of the word *you*. Hold your hand over the child you are singing about so the other children can join in. The first line would be something like "God loves [Shelly], and I love [Shelly], And that's the way it's gonna be!" Use another name in the second line so that you can insert 2 children per stanza. Continue until all the children have been recognized. (*P.3.2.2*)

The Lord Bless You

(Worship) Explain that a *blessing* speaks of the good things God gives to us. Say the blessing we often hear in church (and perhaps in preschool too!) from Numbers 6:24–26: **The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.** Tell the children that you will read a poem about God's blessings. The words are written as if God is speaking them to us and calling us His children. Read stanzas 1 and 4 of "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (*LSB* 922). (*P.2.3.4*)

Pastor Is My Friend

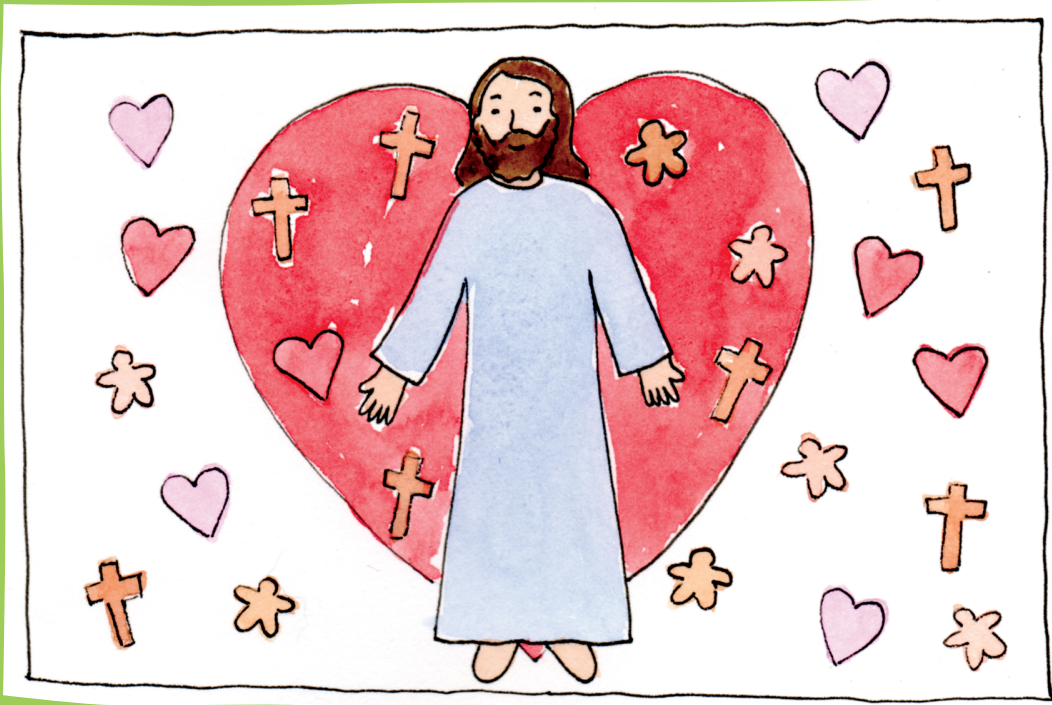
(Worship) Invite the pastor into your room. Explain that the pastor is one of God's helpers because he tells us about Jesus, our Savior. Have the pastor sit on the floor as the children form a circle around him. Have the children hold hands and walk in a circle around the pastor as they sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (*LOSP*, p. 94, and on CD). Then the children may sit down, and (having asked in advance) have the pastor go around the circle, placing his hand on each child and giving each a blessing. (*P.4.4.1*)

Express

WELCOME FEELINGS

Jesus Loves the Little Children

(Bulletin Board) This is an example of the bulletin board or mural that you and your class will be creating throughout the week (see Days 1–3). Use any picture of Jesus that you have, or enlarge the one shown on page 77 in the Appendix. (P.3.2.5)



All Colors, Shapes, and Sizes

(Circle Time) In advance, prepare a large bag that contains a variety of styles and sizes of shoes (for men, women, children, babies, sports, dress-up, slippers, and the like). Bring out the bag and say this little poem.

**Here is a bag. Oh, what can it be?
I'll just take a peek inside it and see!
Hurry, please hurry, let's open it wide.
Ready now? Let's look and see what's inside!**

Empty the bag onto the floor and talk about the contents. Say, **Some shoes are big and some are little. Some are plain and some are fancy. Some are for boys and some are for girls. Some are for children and some are for grown-ups. This reminds me about people, and especially about the love of Jesus. He loves us all, whether we are big or small, plain or fancy, girls or boys, children or grown-ups. Jesus cares about all of us. He forgives us and blesses us too!**

Explain that you will place the shoes at a center area. Children may sort the shoes to find matching pairs. They can also arrange the shoes in order from little to big. (Provide hand sanitizer for children to use after handling the shoes.) (P.1.5.2)

Bring Your Children

(Imaginary Play) In a Drama Center, encourage the children to use washcloths to “scrub” the faces of the dolls and dress them up to get them ready for a special event. They can pretend that they are the parents, taking their children to see Jesus. Say, **Jesus loves the children, like you and you and you.** (P.4.3.4)

Parade Review

(Group Time) Review details of the Bible story as you lead the children on a march around the room. Help the children keep the walking beat with the aid of a rhythm instrument. Stop marching periodically to ask a review question:

Who was walking to see Jesus? (Grown-ups and children)

Who stopped them? (Jesus’ disciples, who thought He was too busy)

What did Jesus say about this? (“Let the little children come to Me.”)

What part of the story is about you? (Jesus loves me too.) (P.4.2.2)

Let the Children Come to Me

Sing the following to the melody of “London Bridge Is Falling Down.”

“Let the children come to Me, (*Motion to “come.”*)

Come to Me, come to Me. (*Motion to “come.”*)

Let the children come to Me.” (*Motion to “come.”*)

Jesus loves us. (*Hug yourself.*)

Jesus loves His little ones, (*Sing in a small, quiet voice.*)

Little ones, little ones. (*Sing in a small, quiet voice.*)

Jesus loves His little ones. (*Sing in a small, quiet voice.*)

Jesus loves us. (*Hug yourself.*)

Jesus died for you and me, (*Point to someone, then to yourself.*)

You and me, you and me. (*Point to someone, then to yourself.*)

Jesus died for you and me. (*Point to someone, then to yourself.*)

Jesus loves us. (*Hug yourself.*)

Jesus saves us from our sins, (*Form cross using your index fingers.*)

From our sins, from our sins. (*Form cross using your index fingers.*)

Jesus saves us from our sins. (*Form cross using your index fingers.*)

Jesus loves us. (*Hug yourself.*) (P.4.4.1)

Share the Joy of Jesus

(Circle Time) Express the joy we have in Jesus through music. Sing joyful songs such as these from *Little Ones Sing Praise* (also found on the CD): “Happy All the Time” (p. 59), “If You Feel Happy” (p. 60), “I Have the Joy” (p. 62), and “Let Us Sing for Joy” (p. 105). Then share this joyful action poem, as children echo each line. (P.4.4.1)

**Clap your hands and shout “Hooray!”
Jesus takes my sins away.
When things go wrong, I stop and pray:
“God, I need Your love today.”**

**God loves me and God loves you.
God helps me forgive you too.
Clap your hands and smile and say,
“God, forgive me!” Shout “Hooray!”**

Express

WELCOME FEELINGS

Ice Cube Painting

(Art) This month, we will talk often about valentines, the love of Jesus, and the friendship we have for one another. These things give us happy, joyful feelings. Let children express happy feelings by painting with ice cubes as they listen to happy music. In advance, mix water and food color-

ing in ice cube trays, and place the trays in the freezer. Have the children use these ice cubes to paint a picture of how they feel, knowing that Jesus loves them. Provide plastic gloves to keep children's hands clean. At the top of the picture, write, "I Feel _____ Knowing Jesus Loves Me." Have the children dictate to you how they feel, and write the word in the blank. (P.4.4.1)

Valentines

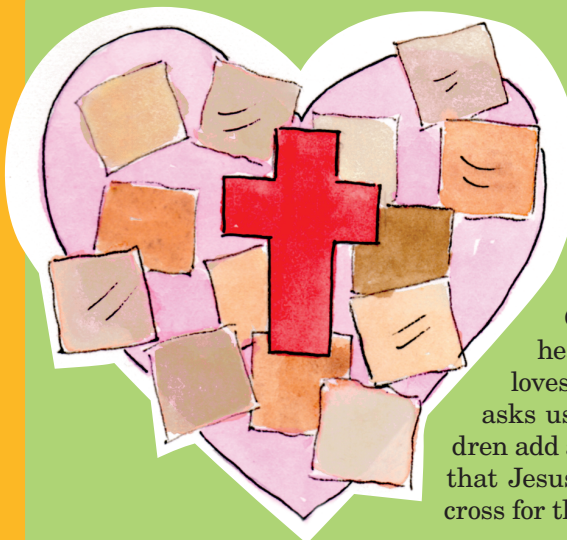
(Art) At this time of the year, it is easy to find red heart-shaped paper doilies and valentine stickers. Provide a variety of these that children can use to create their own valentine pictures. Give them the materials, but not a theme. Perhaps suggest that they outline in crayon each special shape that they apply.

Heart shapes can be difficult to draw. Show children this method for easily making a heart shape on a small piece of colored paper: Fold a 3-inch square of red paper in half. Place your hand next to the folded edge with just your thumb reaching out onto the paper. With your other hand, trace around your thumb. Cut out the shape, open it, and you will have created a beautiful heart shape! (P.4.1.2)



Jesus Loves All People

(Art) Give each child a large heart shape cut from poster paper. Have them tear pieces of tissue paper or construction paper into sections about the size of a Ping-Pong ball. The tissue or construction paper provided should be a variety of skin-tone colors, from beige to tan to dark brown (available at craft and teachers stores). Children are to glue many colored shapes onto the heart until the heart is covered. Explain that Jesus loves all people of all nations and all skin colors. Jesus asks us to share His love with all people too! Have children add a red cross to the center of the heart as a reminder that Jesus showed His love for all people by dying on the cross for the salvation of the world. (P.4.1.1)



Jesus Loves Me!

(Art) In advance, print each child's name in capital letters on a large sheet of paper. (Use larger print for short names and smaller print for longer names to equal out the size of the task.) Provide children with small, heart-shaped rubber or



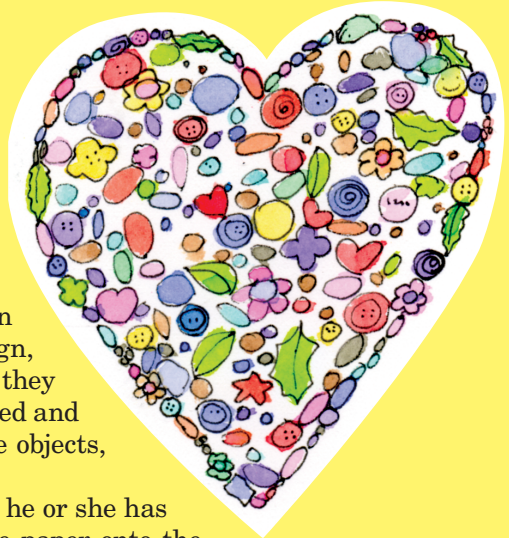
sponge stamps that they can dip into a shallow dish of red paint to stamp hearts along the lines of their names. **The hearts remind us that Jesus loves you and He knows your name. In the Bible, God says, "I have called you by name; you are Mine" (Isaiah 43:1).** Consider writing this Bible verse as a caption at the bottom of each child's picture. *Note:* There are a variety of ways that you can make templates for stamping the heart shapes on the picture. Use whatever method works for you. (Options include small hearts cut from craft foam, with masking tape handles attached for easy use; small hearts cut from sponges with clothespin "handles" attached; and ready-made heart-shaped rubber stamps.) (P.4.1.1)

Mosaic Messages

(Art) Give each child a sheet of paper on which a heart outline at least 4 inches tall has been drawn with a black marker. Children will make "sticky pictures" that involve their senses of touch and sight. Over each child's heart template, place a sheet of clear adhesive contact paper *sticky side up*.

Set out a large supply of items that the children can press onto the "sticky paper" to outline the design, such as beads, seeds, sequins, and so forth. After they outline the shape, the heart template can be removed and the children can fill in the shape with more of the objects, giving a mosaic effect.

When a child raises his or her hand to indicate he or she has finished, place another sheet of the clear adhesive paper onto the picture *sticky side down*. This will enclose the objects. Let children press on the adhesive to secure it and trim off any excess edges with scissors. These mosaics will look best displayed in a window, although they can also be posted with a colored-paper frame. **These pictures remind us of the great love Jesus has for us!** (P.3.4.3.2)



WELCOME FEELINGS

Sound Match

(Sensory) You will need 8 small opaque containers (e.g., film canisters or empty pill bottles). In one pair, place a cotton ball; in another pair, place pairs of paper clips; place a tablespoon of rice in both of another pair; and in the last pair, place small bouncy balls. Seal the containers with tape and place them on a table at a center. Have the children put their ears close to each container, shake the container, and match them according to how they sound. **To figure out what is in the container, you must put your ear close to it. Jesus called the children in the Bible story to be close to Him. He also calls us to be close to Him to hear His Word of loving grace and forgiveness in the Bible. (P.1.7.2)**

Go Away!

(Sensory) Place bowls and a pitcher of water in the sensory table. In each bowl, put 1 Tbsp. black pepper. Place a bowl of dish soap in the center as well. Instruct the children to pour water into their bowl with the pepper. Then, dip 1 finger into the dish soap and then into the bowl of water and pepper. The pepper will move away from the soap! **This reminds me of the disciples who told the children to go away, just like the pepper moved away from the soap. However, Jesus tells us to come to Him! (P.1.7.2)**

What Can You Find?

(Sensory) Fill a sensory tub with plain, uncooked oatmeal (which will vary the sensory experience if you have been using rice or sand in the past). Cut 20 1-inch circles from construction paper. Draw happy faces on the circles, and hide the faces in the oatmeal. Place spoons, bowls, strainers, tongs, and the like nearby. Encourage the children to use the tools to find the faces in the oatmeal. **The happy faces remind us that Jesus told the children to come to Him, and they were happy! We can be happy too, knowing that Jesus loves us so much that He died and rose again to save us. (P.3.2.6)**

Discovery Bottle

(Science) Into a clear 2-liter bottle, pour rice and metal items such as paper clips, bolts, nails, screws, and the like. (Do not fill it so full that the objects cannot move around as the bottle is turned and shaken.) Apply super glue to the cap before closing it, or seal the closed cap with tape. Put the bottle in a center. Let the children use magnets to see whether the rice or the metal items will be attracted to the magnet. Encourage the children to explore the bottle to find the various items. **The metal objects go right to the magnet. That reminds me of Jesus; He wants us to go right to Him in prayer and praise! Jesus' love pulls us near to Him. (P.1.7.3)**



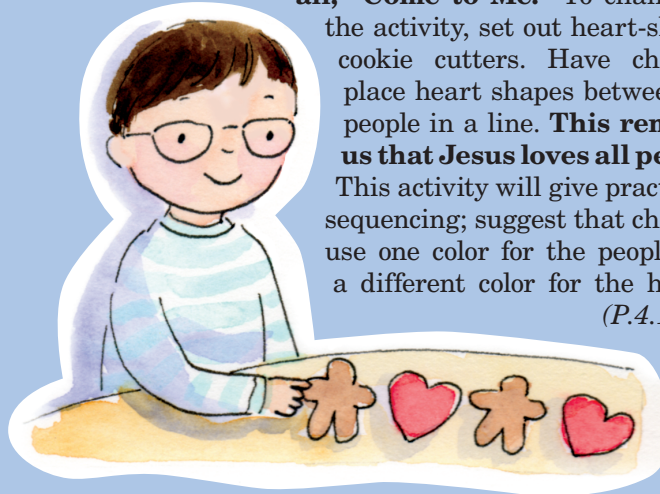
Lines of People

(Manipulatives) Set out play dough, rolling pins, and people-shaped cookie cutters. Suggest that the children make lines of people going to see Jesus. **Jesus says to us all, “Come to Me.”** To change up

the activity, set out heart-shaped cookie cutters. Have children place heart shapes between the people in a line. **This reminds us that Jesus loves all people.**

This activity will give practice in sequencing; suggest that children use one color for the people and a different color for the hearts.

(P.4.1.1)



Estimation

(Math) Fill a clear jar with 10–20 fake jewels (or something special, such as pretty beads, coins, or buttons). Put the lid on the jar, and place it in your Math Center with a piece of paper and a pencil. Encourage the children to estimate how many items are in the jar and write that number on the paper. At the end of the day, count with the children how many items are in the jar. Discuss with the children that each item in the jar is important. And just like the children in the Bible story, each of us is important to Jesus! (P.1.2.10)

Graphing

(Math) Introduce a graph that has one column topped with a happy face and one column topped with a sad face. Be sure there are enough rows on the graph for each child. Hang the graph in the Math Center. During Center Time, encourage the children to draw a check mark below the face that best describes how they are feeling today. Review the graph with the children the next day at Circle Time. Discuss with the children that we all feel sad sometimes (like the children in the Bible story when they were stopped by the disciples), and we all feel happy sometimes. But Jesus loves us all the time! (P.1.2.9)

Number-to-Quantity Match

(Math) You will need 10 small cups for this valentine activity. Write a number, 1–10, on each cup. Encourage the children to choose a cup and identify the number on it. Next, they are to use tongs to place that many small red pom-poms in the cup. To change up the activity, add pink pom-poms to the red ones. Now have the children choose a numbered cup and place that number of red and also that number of pink pom-poms in the cup. (P.1.2.4)



Explore

WELCOME FEELINGS

Angry Cow, Happy Cow, Sad Cow

(Social Game) Have the children spread out around the gym. When you call out “Angry cow,” they need to lie on the ground with their arms and legs in the air (like they are having a temper tantrum). When you call out “Happy cow,” they must get on their hands and knees and moo like a cow. When you call out “Sad cow,” they should lie on their side and pretend to cry. Vary the order as you call out 1 of the 3: “Angry cow,” “Happy cow,” or “Sad cow.” As the game continues, call the names faster. Discuss with the children that there are times when we all feel angry, happy, or sad, but Jesus loves us no matter how we feel! (P.4.3.2)

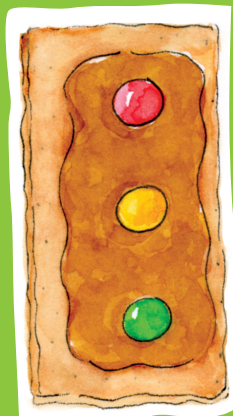


Line Tag

(Social Game) You will need one scarf. Choose a child to be the tagger. The tagger will chase the other children and gently tag another child using the scarf. Once a child is tagged, he or she will join the other tagger by holding hands. The taggers will grow in number as they tag more children. Discuss with the children that Jesus loved the children in the Bible story, and Jesus loves us! Just like the line of taggers grew bigger throughout the game, the kingdom of God will grow as we share His message of love and salvation with one another. (P.3.4.2.1)

Stop and Go!

(Snack) Make a traffic light snack. Connect it to the Bible story (see Day 2) as you discuss who told the children to “stop” (the disciples) and who told the children to “go” to Him (Jesus). For each child, you will need 1 graham cracker, 1 tsp. peanut butter (or marshmallow crème, if there are peanut allergies in your class), and 3 M&M’s (1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green). Spread the peanut butter (or marshmallow crème) onto the cracker. Then place the M&M’s on it in the order of a traffic light (P.3.4.3.2)



Musical Hula Hoops

(Social Game) Begin this game by laying out 7 Hula Hoops on the gym floor. Instruct the children that when the music stops, they need to put one foot in a Hula Hoop. Tell the children that they will have to share the Hula Hoops. Take away one Hula Hoop after each time the music stops, but do not have any children sit out. At the end of the game, the children will all have to share one Hula Hoop. Discuss with the children that just as they shared the Hula Hoop, Jesus wants us to share kindness and joy with others. (P.3.4.2.1)

Relate