

FOCUS

Early
Childhood

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

**Look at how we can talk
to God, anytime, anywhere,
about anything.**

Prayer

Matthew 6:5-13; Jeremiah 29:12

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us keep looking to Jesus.”

Hebrews 12:2, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.**

1. DRESSED UP OR NOT

WHAT YOU NEED: Dress-up clothes (make sure to have some fancier clothes as well as casual ones, costumes, etc), two baskets, painter's tape, a timer

WHAT YOU DO:

Place dress-up clothes in two baskets on one side of the room and a line of tape on the floor on the other. Set your timer for 20-30 seconds. *(You may need to adjust the time depending on age of child.)*

Time children as they go to the basket to put on dress up clothes. When the timer is up, they come back to the tape with whatever they had time to put on. Talk about all the things they found to wear. Ask the children if they need any of the fun dress-up clothes to talk to God. Repeat as long as there is interest.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“I found a lot of fun dress-up clothes for us to play a game with today. Come stand on the tape line. *(Pause.)* When I say your name, go to the basket and put on whatever you want until the timer dings. When the timer dings, come back to the tape. Let's get ready to play!

“Okay, *(call your child's name)*, get ready and go! *(Pause.)* There's the timer! Come back to the tape. Wow! Look at you! *(Pause.)* You look amazing in those special dress-up clothes! Let's tell God thank you for a fun day today. Thank You, God! But do we need special clothes to talk to God? *(Pause.)* No! Let's see if we can put our dress-up clothes back in the basket before the timer sounds. Ready, go! *(Pause.)* Let's tell God one more time how much fun we are having. Thank You, God!

“We talked to God when we were wearing special clothes and when we weren't! Jesus tells us that we don't have to wear fancy clothes, shout through a megaphone, or talk to God in a special place. We can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything! Isn't that awesome news? Jesus taught us how we can talk to God because He's a good friend and loves us so much. In fact, Jesus loves us so much He wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**”

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JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Open the Bible and lay it where the children can see it.)

“Jesus taught us something very special in our Bible story today. Let’s see if you remember.

“Did Jesus teach us how to talk to giraffes? *(Pause.)* Nooooo.

“Did Jesus teach us how to talk to teddy bears? *(Pause.)* Nooooo.

“Did Jesus teach us how to talk to God? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus taught us how to talk to God! Jesus said we can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything! That’s great news!

“Jesus is such a good, good friend! Let’s write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Today we are going to write anything we want in our prayer journal because we can talk to God about anything! So, I want you to say whatever you want to God and I will write it down.

“You can thank God for something. You can ask God for help. You can tell God you’re sorry for something you did. You can tell God you love Him. You can say anything you want!

(Encourage everyone to think of things to talk to God about. Write down what they say.)

“This is great! We can use this when we talk to God.

PRAYER

“Dear God, You are so awesome! There is no one else like You. Thank You that we can talk to You anytime, anywhere, about anything. Today [person’s name] wants to tell You *(read what they listed)*. *(Repeat for everyone.)* You are the best, God, and we love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”