

FOCUS

Early
Childhood

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

Look at what Jesus did for us.
Salvation
The Gospels

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus."
Hebrews 12:2, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

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

1. KEEP YOUR EYES ON IT!

WHAT YOU NEED: Play scarves (tissues can be substituted) and fun preschool music

WHAT YOU DO:

Give everyone a play scarf. Show them how to gently toss their scarf in the air and catch it as it floats back down. Next, encourage them to try and toss their scarf in the air, spin around once, and then catch it. End your time with a few moments of scarf dancing as you play your favorite preschool songs.

(Note: Play songs with slow, medium, and fast tempos. Encourage the children to move with the sound.)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I have a super fun game for us to play! Everyone gets a scarf. *(Distribute scarves.)* Does everyone have a scarf? Wave it in the air so I can see. Great! This is how you play the game. It's very important that you keep your eyes on your scarf. That way when you toss your scarf in the air . . . *(demonstrate)* . . . you can catch it! Or when you toss it and spin . . . *(demonstrate)* . . . you can catch it. Ta-da! You try it! And remember to keep your eyes on the scarf."

(While they toss and spin with their scarves, encourage them and say, "Keep your eyes on your scarf.")

"We kept our eyes on our scarves to play the game, but our memory verse (Hebrews 12:2 NIV) reminds us to keep looking to Jesus. We keep our eyes on Jesus because He loves us AND 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.)

"Today's story was the best story EVER! Jesus came to live in the world. He did things only He can do. He died and then He came back, just like He said He would. Lots of people saw Jesus and talked with Jesus and ate food with Jesus after He came back. Some of those people wanted everyone to know that Jesus is alive, so they wrote it down and now we can read what they wrote in the Bible. All we have to do is look!

"Do you remember why Jesus died and came back? *(Pause.)*

"Jesus died and came back because He wants to be your friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**

"Let's say it louder! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Yes! Jesus is the best friend we will ever have.

"Today we are going to do something very special in our prayer journal. Get ready!"

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Let's write down our names. Then, I want you to draw a heart by your name and say, 'Jesus loves me!' Do you know why we are going to do that? Because Jesus loves you *(point to each person)* so much, He died and came back and wants to be your friend forever."

(Write each person's name and help them draw a heart next to it.)

"Yay! Jesus loves *(say each person's name)*, and He wants to be your friend forever! Let's pray and thank God for Jesus."

PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You, thank You, thank You for Jesus! Thank You for the people who saw Him and talked with Him and ate food with Him after He came back. Thank You that they wrote down what they saw so we can know Jesus is alive and wants to be our friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."