

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

**THREE**

FEBRUARY 2019

SMALL GROUP

**2**

YEAR-OLDS



## first look™

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**first look**<sup>TM</sup>  
SMALL GROUP



WEEK  
**THREE**  
FEBRUARY 2019

**2**  
YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



## BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

## MEMORY VERSE

“How wide and long and high  
and deep is the love of Christ.”

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only  
Monthly Overview  
Create the Environment

**15**  
MIN

### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.  
Side to Side  
Jar  
Bug Bin

**10**  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Cool

**10**  
MIN

### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Bible Story  
Prayer

**25**  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.  
Ruler  
Little People® Retell  
March  
Butterfly

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

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**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**



## MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

## MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

## KEY QUESTION

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## BOTTOM LINE

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### 1. SIDE TO SIDE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Guide the children to stand in front of you.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Challenge the children to march from one side of the room to the other. Emphasize the words left and right so as to introduce these words to the children. Repeat several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's march!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "When we march, we pick our knees up and walk like this. (*Demonstrate marching.*) Great job! Let's march to the left of the room. (*Point and do activity.*) Now let's march back to the right of room. (*Point and do activity.*) Now we're going to go left again. Now, right again. Left, right, left, right." (*Continue as long as there is interest.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Nice work! It is so much fun to march. You guys looked like soldiers. We are going to hear a Bible story today about a soldier. I am so excited to hear our Bible story!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by marching to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**



## PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

## MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

## BASIC TRUTH

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### 2. JAR

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Bugs" Activity Page, white cardstock, yellow butcher paper, wall tape, scissors, clear tape, and a permanent marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. You will need two bugs per child. Roll a small piece of clear tape and place it on the back of each bug. Cut a jar shape out of the butcher paper about three feet long and tape it on the wall at preschool level. Write "Fill the Jar with Love Bugs" on the top of the jar. Draw hearts around the words.

*(OPTION: You may consider using bug stickers instead of the Activity Page.)*

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Place the bugs near the jar on the wall. Ask the children to help you place all of the bugs inside the jar. Be sure each child has a turn to place a bug in the jar.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "There is a jar on the wall. *(Point.)* Oh, no! The jar is empty!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We need to put love bugs in our jar. *(Point to the bugs.)* Will you please help me put love bugs in the jar?" *(Pause and do activity.)*

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "WOW! Look at all of the bugs in the jar. *(Point.)* Nice work! Thank you so much for your help. We are going to hear a Bible story today about someone very special that helps us."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by holding hands and helping each other to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**



## EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

## MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### 3. BUG BIN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large plastic bin, green shredded paper, and several plastic bugs

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place the shredded paper inside the bin. Hide the bugs inside the paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Challenge the children to use their hands to dig through the paper and find the bugs hidden inside. Repeat until each child has had a turn to find the bugs.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "I need your help to look for love bugs."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "There are love bugs inside the bin. (*Point.*) Use your hands to dig through the grass (*point to paper*) and find the bugs." (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! You found the bugs! Thank you so much for your help. We are going to hear a wonderful Bible story today all about how Jesus wants to help us!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by pretending to look for bugs as you move to the story area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR  
FROM GOD**  
MEMORY VERSE  
REVIEW



**CREATE**

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION  
MATTHEW 8:5-13**

**1. RULER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Ruler" Activity Page, gold cardstock, bug stickers, heart stickers (*one per child*), and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Ruler" Activity Page on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Each child will need one ruler.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a ruler and one heart sticker. Help the children place the heart sticker in the middle of the ruler. Encourage the children to decorate the rulers with the bug stickers.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Say the memory the verse with the children.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us wide, long, high, and deep!"

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to make a ruler that shows us how wide, long, high, and deep Jesus' love is." (*Do activity.*)

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! Your rulers have hearts on them, and that shows that Jesus loves us! Let's say our memory verse together. How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, Ephesians 3:18. Perfect! Jesus loves us SO much! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



**IMAGINE**

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine,  
and role play to enhance their learning

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

**MEMORY VERSE**

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and deep is the love of Christ."

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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**2. LITTLE PEOPLE RETELL**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 10-15 Little People® figures

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Line all but two Little People figures up like soldiers. Place the other figures over to the side but still in sight.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Show kids the soldiers and introduce one of the group as the centurion. The other two figures will play the parts of the servant and Jesus. Retell the Bible story using the figures.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We heard an amazing Bible story today!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Point to soldiers.*) "These are the soldiers that followed the centurion. (*Point to centurion.*) The centurion was big and strong and led many soldiers, but he needed help, too! His servant was sick, and he needed Jesus to help him. (*Move the servant and Jesus over by the soldiers.*) He asked Jesus to help him, and HE DID! Jesus helped the centurion's servant."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus loved the centurion and helped him. He loves and helps us too! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION  
MATTHEW 8:5-13**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**3. MARCH**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children line up behind you.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead the children in a march all around the activity area. Repeat the activity several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's play 'Follow the Leader.' I'll be the leader, and you follow me!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone get behind me and march like this. (*Demonstrate.*) We can march all around the room. I'm being a leader just like the centurion was a leader. He led a whole big army that did what he said. Be sure you do what I say. Now let's march and clap our hands. (*Demonstrate.*) Great job! Now we're going to march and nod our heads. (*Demonstrate.*) You are being such great soldiers." (*Continue as long as there is interest.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "That was so much fun! The centurion was very strong and led many soldiers, but he still needed help. Jesus helped him and loved him very much. Jesus loves and helps us, too. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**CREATE**

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION  
MATTHEW 8:5-13**

**4. BUTTERFLY**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Butterfly" Activity Page, white cardstock, purple paint or inkpad, paintbrush, and wet wipes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Butterfly" Activity Page onto the cardstock.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child an Activity Page. Use the paintbrush to paint the child's left hand (or press the hand onto the inkpad), and press the hand on the left side of the butterfly's body to look like a wing. Repeat with the right hand to create a right wing.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Lay the Activity Pages aside to dry. Wipe messy fingers with the wet wipes.

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to make a butterfly with our hands!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to use our hands to make wings for our butterfly. (Do activity.) WOW! That is so beautiful. I love our LOVE BUGS!"

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "We are talking about love bugs this month because Jesus LOVES us so much. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.