

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

ONE

FEBRUARY 2019

SMALL GROUP

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



## first look™

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

**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.  
Color Search  
Spots  
Kid Search

**10**  
MIN

**WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Cool  
Everybody Praise Him

**10**  
MIN

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

Introductory Sketch  
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.  
Memory Verse with Motions  
Jesus and the Children  
Jesus Loves  
Jesus Loves Me, Yes, He Does!  
Bug on My Head  
Journal and Prayer

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**



## 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

Who loves you?

## BOTTOM LINE

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## BASIC TRUTH

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### 1. COLOR SEARCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children on one side of the open area in your room as you stand several feet away. Call out different colors or patterns of clothing using the suggestions. Children wearing that color/pattern will walk to you. After each command, have the children move back to their original spots for the next round.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Okay, friends. I want you all of you to stand there (*point*), and I will stand over here. Great! Now, I will say a command like this, 'If you have on a purple shirt, come to me.' If you **DO** have on a purple shirt, I want you to walk over here to me. Then I will send you back and make a different command. Let's put on our listening ears so we can move when we're supposed to. Are you ready? Awesome!" (*Continue with other colors or patterns like stripes, dots, flowers, cartoon characters, etc.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "You did a super job listening and coming when it was your turn. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about how Jesus said, 'Come to me.' But Jesus wasn't talking about adults! I can't wait for you to hear all about it."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by having the children stop as you move a few steps ahead, and then say, "Come to me." Continue stopping, moving away, and calling out, "Come to me," until you've arrived at your Large Group area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**



## 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

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### 2. SPOTS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Spots" Activity Page, red cardstock, scissors, and 27 small black pom-poms

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Spots" on red cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. You will have six cards. Lay the cards on a table or the floor in order from two through seven.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lay the pom-poms in a pile near the cards. Help the children identify the number on the first card. Then challenge the child to place two pom-poms on the back of the bug to be her spots. Continue the activity by identifying all of the numbers on the love bugs and adding the appropriate number of spots to each bug.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "I see love bugs on our table. Oh, no! They do not have any spots. Let's help them!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Each love bug has a number on it. The number tells us how many spots the bug should have. Can you tell me the first number? (*Point.*) Yes, it is a two. So this love bug should have two spots! (*Point to the pom-poms.*) Let's place two spots on the love bug!" (*Continue and do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! We put a lot of spots on the love bugs. Today we are going to hear a Bible story about how many children came to see Jesus. Just like the love bugs had more and more spots, more and more children came. I cannot wait to hear what happened next!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to fly like ladybugs to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
LUKE 18:15-16

## 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.



## EXPLORE

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

### 3. KID SEARCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Kids and Adults" Activity Page, white cardstock, scissors, a valentine-themed gift bag, magazines, index cards, glue sticks, a large piece of blue construction paper, and a large piece of red construction paper

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Kids and Adults" on cardstock and cut out. You might also choose to cut pictures of kids and adults out of magazines and glue them to separate index cards. Place all the cutouts of children and adults in the gift bag. Lay the blue and red construction paper on the tables.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to take turns pulling a cutout from the gift bag. If the cutout is a picture of an adult, place it on the red construction paper. If the cutout is a picture of a child, place it on the blue construction paper. Allow each child a turn selecting a cutout and placing it on the correct pile until all the cutouts have been sorted.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Inside this bag, you will find several pictures. We will each take turns. When it's your turn, I want you to choose one picture out of the bag. If it's an adult, let's place it on the RED construction paper. Can you point to the piece of red construction paper? (Pause.) Great job. If you pull out a picture of a child, let's place it on the blue construction paper. Where is the blue construction paper? (Pause.) Very good. How many pictures does each person draw out from the bag? (Pause for responses.) Yes, one! We want to make sure each friend has a turn."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "You are super sorters! Over on the red paper, I see so many adults. And over on this blue paper, who do you see? (Pause for responses.) Yes! Children. Children are very important in our Bible story today. I think you'll really love this one. Let's go!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by calling out different things an adult or a child might do. For each example, children will respond with, 'Child,' or 'Adult.' You may also choose to include some things that both children and adults do. When you do, children will say, "BOTH!" Examples: play with the dog, pay the bills, ride a scooter, have a dance party, go to work, read, brush your teeth, make a phone call, grocery shop, drive a car, ride a bike, sleep late, make dinner, clean your room, do the laundry, go to preschool, eat dinner, etc.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR  
FROM GOD**  
MEMORY VERSE  
REVIEW



**MOVE**

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

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

**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.

**1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children.

How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*hold arms out vertically*) and high (*jump as high as you can*) and deep (*pretend to dig with a shovel*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ (*point up*), Ephesians 3:18. (*Hold hands open like a book.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "I am going to say our new memory verse today. Everyone watch me! How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*hold arms out vertically*) and high (*jump as high as you can*) and deep (*pretend to dig with a shovel*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ (*point up*), Ephesians 3:18." (*Hold hands open like a book.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now let's do it all together! Are you ready? (*Say the verse with the motions several times with the children.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! Our memory verse tells us that Jesus LOVES us so much. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
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 loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

**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.

**2. JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus" and "Four Children" Activity Pages, white cardstock, scissors, and Velcro® dots (*four per child*)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Jesus" Activity Page onto cardstock, one per child. Copy the "Four Children" Activity Page onto cardstock and cut apart. You will need four different cutouts for each child. Place one side of a Velcro dot on the back of each of the four cutouts. Place the matching side of the Velcro dots (*all four of them*) on the "Jesus" Activity Page. Spread the matching dots out on the page so that all four child cutouts fit on the page without covering Jesus.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Pass out a "Jesus" Activity Page with the Velcro already attached. Then pass out the "Four Children" cutouts to each child. Show them how to press the Velcro to the dots on the page to make them "stick" as you review today's Bible story using the text below.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Make sure each Activity Page has the child's name on the front and set aside for pickup.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Who did we talk about in our Bible story today? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! Jesus. (*Hold up an Activity Page.*) And in our true story, who did Jesus want to come to Him? Was it just the adults? (*Pause for responses.*) Nope! Jesus wanted the children to come to him. (*Stick one child cutout on the page.*) Jesus wanted more children to come." (*Place another child cutout on the page, etc.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job, friends! I want you to take your page home so you can tell your family about this TRUE story straight from the Bible. You can take these off and put them back on the page as you tell your dad or little sister or grandmother or friend about how Jesus called the little children to come to Him! Why? Because **Jesus loves me!** Tell me: **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.** Yes, He does, friends! He loves each one of us, no matter how old or young we are!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**THINK**

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN  
LUKE 18:15-16**

**3. JESUS LOVES**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children sit in a circle, criss-cross applesauce. Choose one child to be "It" first.

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage It to walk around the outside of the circle and to gently touch each child's head and say, "Jesus loves," each time. It will then choose one child and touch her head and say, "Jesus loves YOU!" When the new child is chosen, he will get up and will be the new It. Continue the activity until every child has a turn to be It.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus loves YOU! We are going to play a super fun game. Everyone, please sit in a circle with your legs criss-cross applesauce."

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Choose one child to be It.) "[Child's name] will go first. Walk around the circle and gently touch your friend's heads and say, 'Jesus loves.' (Demonstrate.) Then choose one of your friends and touch their head and say, "Jesus loves YOU!" Then that friend will have a turn to walk around the circle. Are you ready?" (Do activity.)

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! Jesus loves YOU! And you and you and you! (Point to each child while saying 'you.') **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!"**

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.



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 loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN  
LUKE 18:15-16**

**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.

**4. JESUS LOVES ME, YES, HE DOES!**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Line up the children and stand next to the first child in line. Sing the following words to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down." Each time you sing the song, point to a child and say that child's name at the end as indicated below. Hold your hands up with the other children like a bridge and let the child that's named run under the bridge.

Jesus loves me, yes, He does,  
Yes, He does, yes, He does.  
Jesus loves me, yes, He does.  
Jesus loves [child's name].

Repeat, allowing each child to have a turn going under the bridge.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone come over here! I have a fun song for us to sing and game to play!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, Jesus does love you SO much. In our TRUE story today, Jesus wanted to make sure that people knew that children were very special to Him. And Jesus loves YOU too. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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 loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN  
LUKE 18:15-16**

**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.

**5. BUG ON MY HEAD**

Visit First Look's February 2019 Pinterest Board to see the inspiration for this activity: <https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/february-2019-love-bugs/>

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Bug Label" Activity Page, Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, black bulletin board border, black construction paper, white construction paper, yellow construction paper, black pipe cleaners (two per child), scissors, clear tape, and glue sticks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Bug Label" onto the label paper. You will need one label per child. Cut four-inch ovals out of the white construction paper. Each child will need two ovals. Cut two-inch circles out of the black construction paper. Each child will need two circles. Each child will need a one-inch and a six-inch heart cut out of the yellow construction paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child two white ovals and two black circles. Encourage the children to glue a black circle inside each white oval. These will be the bug's eyes. Give each child a strip of bulletin board border and help them glue the bottom of the eyes to the top of the middle of the strip. The top of the eyes will hang off of the strip at the top. Give each child a small yellow heart and help them glue it to the middle of the strip under the eyes. This will be the bug's nose. Tape one pipe cleaner on each side of the eyes. Be sure to tape the bottom of the pipe cleaners to the back of the sentence strip so that the top of the pipe cleaner hangs over the top of the sentence strip. Curl the top of the pipe cleaner to look like a bug antenna. Place the strip around the child's head and use the tape to secure it in place. Tape the large heart over the seam in the back.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Place the label in the middle of the large heart.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's make love bug hats!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Do activity.) "Awesome job! Now let's put the bugs on our head!" (Fit the strip around the child's head.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Now we have love bugs and can wear them to tell everyone that Jesus LOVES us. Jesus loves everyone. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY  
TO GOD**  
PRAYER  
ACTIVITY



**REFLECT**

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

**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.

**6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group. You will also need a heart stamp and a red inkpad.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time. If you are a child, raise your hand. (*Look at each child.*) Okay, everyone who is a child, follow me!

(*Lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

"We made it! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story now. One, two, three, sit down with me!

(*Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.*)

"Our Bible story today was about how Jesus wants all children to come to Him because He loves them. Raise your hand again if you are a child. (*Look at each child.*) Jesus loves you and you and you! (*Say this as you point to each child.*)  
**Who loves you?"**

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus loves me!"**

**SGL:** "He sure does! And Jesus' love for you is SO big it will never, ever, EVER end. It just keeps going! The Bible verse we are going to learn this month talks about how big Jesus' love is. Listen to this!

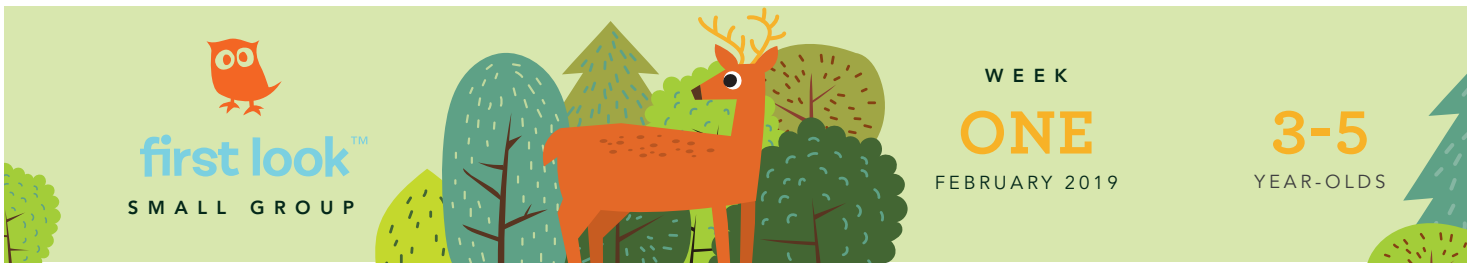
(*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, Ephesians 3:18.

(*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say that verse together with the motions."

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*hold arms out vertically*) and high (*jump as high as you can*) and deep (*pretend to dig with a shovel*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ (*point up*), Ephesians 3:18." (*Hold hands open like a book.*) (*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY  
TO GOD**  
PRAYER  
ACTIVITY



**REFLECT**

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**SGL:** "That is fun to say and do! Nothing is wider or longer or higher or deeper than Jesus' love for you. (*Point to the children.*) Let's sit down and write in our prayer journal now.

*(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

"Today we are going to do something special in our prayer journal because Jesus loves us SO much. I will write down everyone's name in our journal. When I say your name, I want you to get this heart stamp, press it on the red inkpad, and then stamp it on top of your name. As you make the heart stamp on your name, I want you to say, '**Jesus loves me!**'

"Ready? Let's do this!

*(Write the names with space between them so the children can stamp their names without stamping another child's name.)*

"Wow! I love seeing all of those red hearts on your names. Let's talk to God and thank Him for sending Jesus to be our friend forever and to love us so much. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

*(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

### **PRAYER**

**SGL:** "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that He loves children and wants them to come to Him. I pray (*name each child*) will always remember that nothing is wider, longer, higher, or deeper than God's love for them. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."