

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

**TWO**

FEBRUARY 2019

SMALL GROUP

**3-5**

YEAR-OLDS



## first look™

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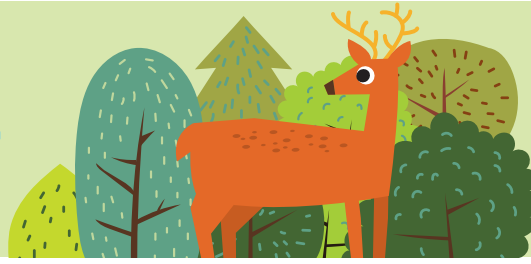
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**first look**<sup>TM</sup>  
SMALL GROUP



WEEK  
**TWO**  
FEBRUARY 2019

**3-5**  
YEAR-OLDS

**PRELUDE**

**SOCIAL**

**WORSHIP**

**STORY**

**GROUPS**

**HOME**



**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus wants to spend time with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA**  
**LUKE 10:38-42**

**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.  
Clean Up  
Bug Matching  
Washing Dishes

**10**  
MIN

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

Cool  
Get Up

**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.  
Measure It Memory Verse  
Sit and Be Busy  
Spending Time with Jesus  
Four Corners  
Time with Me Bookmarks  
Journal and Prayer

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

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## MOVE

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

### 1. CLEAN UP

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 8-10 small inflatable balls, large bug stickers, several preschool-sized brooms, and a large laundry basket

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place a sticker on each ball. These will be the bugs. Lay the bugs in the floor in the activity area. Place the basket on its side with the opening facing the bugs.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give the children the brooms and ask them to sweep the bugs into the basket. Repeat several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Oh! What a mess! (*Point to the bugs in the floor.*) We have bugs everywhere!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's use the brooms to sweep the bugs into the basket!" (*Demonstrate and do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! You are all wonderful sweepers! Today we are going to hear a Bible story about someone who swept her floors and did a lot of housework for a very important guest. I cannot wait to find out who it was!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to sweep the floor as you move to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants to spend time with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA**  
**LUKE 10:38-42**



## 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

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## 2. BUG MATCHING

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Bug Puzzles" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and scissors

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Bug Puzzles" on cardstock and cut out each bug picture. Then cut each bug in half. If you have a large class, you may want to provide an additional set of bugs.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Place one half of each bug on the table. Shuffle the matching halves and stack them face down on the table. Let each child draw a card from the pile and match it to its other half. See if the children can identify the bug. Repeat, allowing each child to have a turn to find a match.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Did you know that each week I can't wait until it's a church day? I LOVE spending time with you. I thought it would be fun to work on some bug puzzles together. Each bug is cut in half. Let's take turns picking a card and then setting it next to its match."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "That was SO fun! No matter what we're doing, whether it's matching up bug puzzles, hearing a true story from the Bible, or coloring a picture, I LOVE spending time with you. Did you know there's someone else who loves you and wants to spend time with you? Let's head to Large Group to find out who it is!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by calling out something you do as children answer back with the name of someone they like to do that activity or task with. For instance, you might say, "Ride my bike," and the kids might respond with, "My brother." Suggestions: have a snack, play soccer, pray, read a book aloud, dance, talk on the phone, play a game, watch a movie, look at the stars, swim, play outside, play school, ride in the car, throw a ball, have an ice cream cone, etc.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

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**LUKE 10:38-42**

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## IMAGINE

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

### 3. WASHING DISHES

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Small buckets, play dishes, large towels, dish towels, sponges, water, and dish soap

*(NOTE: When using water in the classroom, it is very important to have an adult with the children at all times. Be sure to never leave water unattended and to quickly dispose of it after the activity.)*

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Fill the buckets half full with soapy water. Be sure it is not hot. Place the large towels over the activity area, and place the buckets on top of the large towels.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Allow the children to use the sponges to wash the dishes in the buckets. Ask the children to dry the dishes with the dish towels.

*(NOTE: If you do not choose to have water in the classroom, you can fill a tub with blue pom-poms to simulate water or simply allow the children to wash the dishes with wet wipes.)*

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We have dirty dishes. Let's wash them!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone can have a turn to wash the dishes in the water. We have to be sure to wash them all and dry them with the towels." (Do activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! We are going to hear a Bible story today about someone who learned that spending time with Jesus is more important than doing housework. Are you ready for our TRUE story from the Bible?"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by singing "Jesus Loves Me" as you move to the story area.

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 wants to spend time with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA**  
**LUKE 10:38-42**

## MEMORY VERSE

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## 1. MEASURE IT MEMORY VERSE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several measuring tapes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children to review this month's memory verse along with motions:

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.*)

Then hand out the measuring tapes. Encourage the children to measure themselves to see how high, wide, long, etc., they are. Repeat the verse as they measure. Make sure all children get an opportunity to measure themselves.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Collect the measuring tapes.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's do some measuring!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Do you know how wide or long or high or deep Jesus' love is for you? Do you think we could measure Jesus' love with one of these? (*Hold up the measuring tape.*) No way! Jesus' love for us is WAY bigger than this. Tell me: **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.** He sure does! His love is wider and longer and higher and deeper than we could ever imagine!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

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 spend time  
with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA**  
**LUKE 10:38-42**

**2. SIT AND BE BUSY**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Divide the children into two groups. Have each group sit on opposite sides of the activity area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Challenge the children on one side of the room to pretend to be busy with housework. They could: pretend to sweep, wipe things down, wash dishes, etc. Instruct the children on the other side to sit and listen to you as you retell the Bible story. The children who are cleaning will be Martha and the children who are sitting will be Mary.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children switch roles and retell the Bible story again while the first group of children who cleaned are sitting while the other children are now cleaning.

**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:** "We heard a fantastic Bible story today!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to act like Mary and Martha! (*Divide children.*) This side of the room (*point*) will be Martha and you will pretend to clean. This side of the room (*point*) will be Mary and you will sit and listen and talk to me. (*Address cleaning side.*) Okay, start cleaning! (*Encourage the children to clean and talk to the other side of the room.*) Mary and Martha were having a very special guest! Jesus was coming to their house. Martha wanted everything to be perfect, so she cooked and cleaned even while Jesus was there. Martha was not very happy with Mary because she did not cook and clean. She just sat with Jesus and talked to Him. Jesus did not care if things were clean. He only wanted to spend time with Mary and Martha. (*Address cleaning side of the room.*) Martha, come sit down. (*Have all of the children sit.*) Great job! Now let's switch! If you were Mary, now you may be Martha and get up and clean. Marthas may sit down and listen." (*Repeat activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Nice job pretending to be Mary and Martha! Jesus just wants to spend time with us because He loves us SO MUCH! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**BOTTOM LINE**

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**



**THINK**

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus wants to spend time with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA  
LUKE 10:38-42**

**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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**3. SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Clock” and “Time Pictures” Activity Pages, white cardstock, scissors, and glue sticks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the “Clock” Activity Page onto cardstock (*one per child*). Copy the “Time Pictures” Activity Pages onto cardstock and cut apart (*one set of pictures per child*).

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Pass out a “Clock” page to each child and point out the times on the clock that are missing. Then give each child a set of “Time Pictures.” Hold up each picture and identify it—walking, praying, going to church, and reading your Bible. Encourage the children to use the glue sticks to glue the time pictures onto the empty spots on the clock. The pictures can go in any order the child chooses.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Make sure each child’s name is on his/her clock, and set them aside for pick up.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “Can you tell me what this is? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, a clock. But it looks like something is missing. There are four empty spots. So I have these pictures. (*Hold up the pictures as you identify them.*) This one is a Bible. This is someone walking, and someone praying, and a church. You can spend time with Jesus when you’re reading your Bible, when you pray, when you walk, and when you’re at church! Let’s glue each of these pictures to an open space on our clocks to remind us that all of these are times when we can spend time with Jesus.”

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “We’ve learned today that Jesus wants to spend time with me. Isn’t that awesome? I hope these clocks will remind you of that amazing truth. **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 spend time with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA  
LUKE 10:38-42**

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

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**KEY QUESTION**

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**BOTTOM LINE**

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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**4. FOUR CORNERS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Four Corners" Activity Pages, white paper, and wall tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Four Corners" onto the white paper. You will have four separate pages. Hang one page in each corner of the activity area at preschool level.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children stand in the middle of the activity area. Say, "Jesus wants to spend time with me when I am [insert one of the pictures on the Activity Pages]." They are walking, going to church, reading the Bible, and praying. Have the children go to the corner with the picture of the phrase you used. Repeat for each picture. Repeat the entire activity as desired.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We have pictures around our room. There is a picture of someone walking (*point*), praying hands (*point*), the Bible (*point*), and a church (*point*)."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone, stand in the middle. (*Point.*) Listen very carefully to what I say, and go to the picture that I am talking about. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Jesus wants to spend time with me when I am walking. Everyone, go to the corner that has the picture of someone walking. (*Pause.*) Great job! Let's do it again!" (*Continue activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "That was so much fun! Jesus wants to spend time with us no matter where we are or what we are doing. Jesus **LOVES YOU! 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 wants to spend time with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA  
LUKE 10:38-42**

**5. TIME WITH ME BOOKMARKS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Time with Me Bookmarks" Activity Page, white cardstock, heart stickers, and heart stamps

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Time with Me Bookmarks" onto cardstock and cut apart (*one per child*). Set the stickers and heart stamps out on the tables.

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Hand out a bookmark to each child and read what it says on the front. Encourage the children to decorate them with the heart stickers and stamps.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone hold up your bookmark for me. (*Pause.*) On the front it reads: 'Jesus wants to spend time with me!' Why? Because **Jesus loves me!** To help us remember that, let's place some heart stickers and stamps on our bookmarks."

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "I'm so happy to know that Jesus wants to spend time with me and that **Jesus loves me.** You can take these home to help you remember that Jesus wants to spend time with you because He loves you so much. Tell me: **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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 wants to spend time with me.

**MARY AND MARTHA  
LUKE 10:38-42**

**MEMORY VERSE**

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**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.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time. Today we are going to pretend we are sweeping the floor like Martha while we walk to our Small Group spot. Grab a broom and follow me!

*(Pretend you are sweeping as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)*

"Here we are! No more sweeping. Now we're going to spend time with Jesus like Mary did in the Bible story today. 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 a time when Jesus went to visit His friends Mary and Martha. But when He got there, Martha was too busy to spend time with Jesus. And she got upset with her sister, Mary, when Mary stopped to spend time with Jesus.

"What did Jesus tell Martha when she got upset? *(Pause.)* Jesus told Martha that Mary had made a good choice to spend time with Him. He wants all of us to spend time with Him because He loves us. **Who loves you?**"

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

**SGL:** "And do you remember what our Bible verse says about how BIG Jesus' love is for us?"

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

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

*(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

"Nothing is wider, longer, higher, or deeper than Jesus' love for you! That's really BIG! Let's stand up and say that verse together with the motions."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY**  
**TO GOD**  
PRAYER  
ACTIVITY



**REFLECT**

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**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.*)

**SGL:** "Great job! (*High five each child.*) Let's sit down now and write in our prayer journal.

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

"I want us to make a list of some of our favorite places. It can be a playground, our bedroom, or even our favorite place to eat. When we pray, I want us to remember that we can spend time with Jesus anywhere. The important thing is that we spend time with Him! Now, when I say your name, tell me one of your favorite places, and I'll write it beside your name in our journal.

(*Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

"These are some great places! I love it that we can spend time with Jesus anywhere. Let's pray and ask God to help us remember to spend time with Jesus. 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 today's Bible story. I hope we always remember how much Jesus loves us and that He wants to spend time with us. No matter where we are or what we're doing, all we have to do is stop, and Jesus is ready to be with us. We can spend time with Jesus at (*read the list the children made*). We can spend time with Jesus anywhere! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."