

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

**THREE**

FEBRUARY 2019

SMALL GROUP

**3-5**

YEAR-OLDS



## first look™

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



WEEK

**THREE**

FEBRUARY 2019

**3-5**

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.*  
Battle Ready  
How High?  
Bug Care

**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.*  
Stretchy Verse  
Shield Making  
How High Can a Butterfly Fly?  
Jesus Loves . . .  
Love Bug Craft  
Journal and Prayer

#### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants to help me.

**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**

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### 1. BATTLE READY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Aluminum foil

(NOTE: You might choose to purchase foil sheets like those they sell at dollar stores.)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Tear off multiple pieces of foil from the roll or place a box of foil sheets on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Have a Small Group Leader sit in a chair in an open area of the room. Give each child a foil sheet, and instruct children to work together to create a soldier outfit with the foil. Encourage the children to place the foil around the leader's arms and legs only (*avoid the torso*).

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** When finished, see if your "soldier" can walk around the room. Then remove his armor.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a soldier who had a very important job. Soldiers often wear armor to keep them protected. I have some tin foil here that looks a bit like armor. Our friend [SGL's name] has agreed to be our soldier today. (*To the SGL*) Come over here and have a seat in this chair, please."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I have a piece of tin foil for each of you. I want you to use this foil to make some armor for our soldier. Let's make sure we cover just the arms and legs."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's see if our soldier is ready for battle. Soldier, ATTENTION! Let's see if you can walk around the room. (*Pause as SGL complies.*) Great job, everyone! Now let's go hear about a soldier who was in charge of a large group of people."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by marching like soldiers.



first look™  
SMALL GROUP



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YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

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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. HOW HIGH?

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Cardboard or foam building blocks (*try to avoid blocks that fit together such as LEGO® or DUPLO® blocks*)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place the blocks in the activity area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to work together to stack the blocks as high as possible. When the block tower falls, encourage the children to try again. Repeat several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's build a super-duper HIGH tower together!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Stack the blocks on top of each other to make it super high. (*Do activity.*) WOW! That is awesome. Keep going!" (*Continue and finish the activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Your towers were really high, but today we are going to hear a Bible story about something that is EVEN HIGHER! I can't wait for you to hear it!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by walking on your tippy toes to the story area to make yourself "higher."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## 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

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## IMAGINE

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

### 3. BUG CARE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Two or three doctor's kits; and several plastic bugs OR "Bugs" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and scissors

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Bugs" on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines if you choose to use these instead of plastic bugs. Set out the bug cutouts or plastic bugs and doctor's kits in an open area of the room.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children and point out the bugs. Encourage the children to use the items found in the doctor's kits to help the bugs by taking care of them.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I think our bugs might need some help from us today. Let's use the items from these doctor's kits to take care of our bugs together."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Way to go, friends. You took such great care of our bugs. Thanks for helping them! In our true Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who always helps us. Let's go!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by calling out different bugs as the children mimic the sound or movement of that bug. Examples: "buzz" like a bee, spin a web like a spider, hop like a grasshopper, flit around like a butterfly, inch along with an inchworm, walk SLOWLY like a snail, 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 wants to help me.

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

**1. STRETCHY VERSE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several large plastic Slinky® toys  
(Optional: You may consider sending a small Slinky home with the children so they can demonstrate the memory verse with their families. If you choose to do this, you will need one per child.)

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place the Slinkys in the middle of the activity area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Say the memory verse with the children while holding a Slinky. Demonstrate the words wide, long, high, and deep by stretching the Slinky according to the word. Wide: pull the Slinky apart horizontally. Long: pull the Slinky apart vertically. High: hold the Slinky over your head and pull it apart. Deep: hold the Slinky low and pull it apart.

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Allow the children to play with the Slinkys.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We have a cool toy to play with. It is called a Slinky. (Hold up.) We are going to use it to help us say our memory verse."

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Hold Slinky) "How wide (pull horizontal) and long (pull vertical) and high (pull over your head) and deep (pull low) is the love of Christ, Ephesians 3:18. God loves us SO MUCH!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus loves us SO MUCH! Who loves you? Jesus loves me! YES! Now let's all play with the fun Slinkys."

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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 wants to help me.

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

**2. SHIELD MAKING**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Shield" Activity Page, white cardstock, and crayons

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Shield" Activity Page onto cardstock (one per child). Set the crayons and shields on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Point out the heart on the shield and ask the children to place their hand inside the heart. Walk around the tables and trace each child's handprint on their shields. Encourage the children to color them.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "One thing a soldier often carries into battle is a shield to protect himself. I thought we could make some shields today as we talk about our Bible story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Do you see the heart in the center of your shield? Tell me: **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!** That's right! To help us remember that, I want you to place your hand on top of your shield. Spread your fingers out a bit so that we can come around and trace your handprint onto your shield. Then you may color your shield any way you choose."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Your shields are beautiful. My favorite part is your handprint! I hope you'll take this home this week as you remember that Jesus wants to help you because Jesus loves you and **Jesus loves me!**"

**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

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 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. HOW HIGH CAN A BUTTERFLY FLY?**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Butterflies” Activity Page, white cardstock, scissors, and Unifix® cubes (*you may also use small pom-poms or foam pieces*)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock. Cut on the dotted lines. You will have six separate cards. Place the cards on a table or the floor in the activity area. Place the cubes in a pile near the cards.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Say the memory verse with the children. Point to each card and ask them to show how high each butterfly is flying with the blocks. Help the children place blocks on the line under the butterfly. If four blocks will fit on the line, then say, “This butterfly is flying four blocks high.” Repeat with the five remaining cards.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** “We have high flying butterflies! (*Hold up cards.*) Let’s see how high they can fly.”

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “Use the blocks to see how high the butterfly can fly. (*Do activity.*) This butterfly can fly [five] blocks high. WOW!” (*Continue and finish activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Our memory verse says: How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, Ephesians 3:18. These butterflies are flying super high, but nothing is wider, longer, higher, and deeper than Jesus’ love.

**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**

**4. JESUS LOVES ...**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** A parachute or large sheet

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Spread the parachute out flat in an open area of the room.

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children around the parachute and instruct them to grab it with both hands. Call out each child's name and instruct that child to walk under the parachute as the group lifts it overhead. Lead the children to say, "Jesus loves [child's name]," as he walks under the parachute. Repeat, allowing each child to have a turn.

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone grab the parachute with both your hands and stand up tall. (Pause as children follow directions.) Great job! Now, I will call out a friend's name. Once I call out that name, we will lift the parachute over our heads so that friend can walk underneath. When he starts to walk, I want us all to say, 'Jesus loves,' and then our friend's name. Are you ready?"

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "That was very fun. Jesus DOES love each one of us very much. He wants to help us too. **Who loves you?** Say it with confidence! **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**



**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**

**5. LOVE BUG CRAFT**

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:** "Love Bug Craft 1," "Love Bug Craft 2," and "Love Bug Craft 3" Activity Pages; white cardstock; black cardstock; red cardstock; glue sticks; wet wipes; googly eyes or googly eye stickers; black marker; and a black inkpad

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Love Bug Craft 1" Activity Page onto the white cardstock (*one per child*) and set aside. Copy the "Love Bug Craft 2" Activity Page onto the red cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Each child will need one red heart. Copy the "Love Bug Craft 3" Activity Page onto the white cardstock and cut out. Each child will need one heart face.

**KEY QUESTION**

Who loves you?

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a "Love Bug Craft 1" Activity Page and a red heart. Help the children glue the red heart upside down on the middle of the page. Help the children glue the black heart face in the middle of the point of the red heart. The black face heart will be right side up and the red heart will be upside down.

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves me.

Help children put googly eyes on the black heart face. Then, draw antennae coming from the bumps of the black heart

Help the children press their index finger into the inkpad and onto the red heart. Repeat several times. These will be the love bug's spots.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Wipe messy fingers with the wet wipes.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's make a LOVE BUG!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We will use these hearts to make a bug. (*Do activity.*) Awesome! Now all we need is to make spots on our bugs." (*Finish activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Your love bugs look amazing! You can take them home and tell your family that JESUS LOVES US! **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 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**

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**BOTTOM LINE**

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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.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to march like soldiers to our small group spot. Attention!"

*(Stand straight and tall with arms by your side.)*

"Follow me! March two, three, four, march, two, three four . . .

*(March as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*

"Halt!"

*(Stop and face the children and then relax.)*

"Here we are! You make some great soldiers! Now let's sit down and talk about the Bible story. 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 centurion. He was a leader of the soldiers, and he needed help. Who did the centurion go to and ask for help?"

*(Pause for response.)*

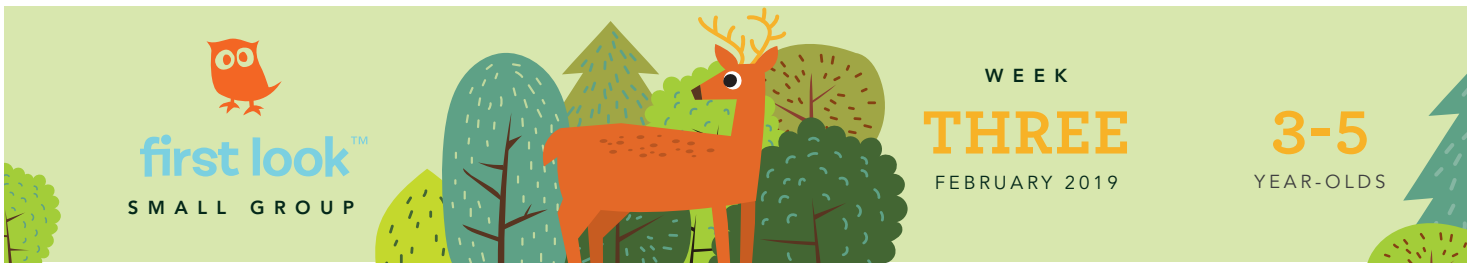
"That's right! The centurion asked Jesus for help. Did Jesus help the centurion?"

*(Pause for response.)*

"He sure did! Jesus healed the centurion's servant. Jesus made him all better!

"Jesus helped the centurion because He loved him. Jesus loves you too, and He wants you to ask Him for help when you need it. **Who loves you?**"

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "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

**SGL:** "Yes, Jesus loves you! And who wants to help you? (Pause.) Jesus wants to help you! Because Jesus' love for you is SO big! The Bible verse we're learning says 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.)*

"There is nothing wider, longer, higher, or deeper than Jesus' love for you! 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.)*

**SGL:** "You sound awesome! (*Give each child a fist bump.*) Let's sit down now and write in our prayer journal.

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

"Today we are going to make a list of things we need help with. It can be anything! When we pray, we will ask Jesus to help us. Sound good? Okay, when I say your name, tell me one thing you need help with, 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.)*

"Thank you for making this list with me. I need to write down what I need help with too. I need help with . . . (*say out loud what you write down*). 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 help us. He is such a good friend! [Child's name] needs help with (*read what is listed*). (*Repeat for each child.*) And I need help with (*read what you listed*). This is a lot, but we know You are a big God and Jesus can do anything. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."