

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

FOUR

FEBRUARY 2019

SMALL GROUP

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

TEAM

CEO

Reggie Joiner

DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL STRATEGY

Brittany Compton Robertson

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Kathy Hill

DESIGN AND BRAND MANAGER

Sharon van Rossum

CREATIVE TEAM

Brittany Compton Robertson

Kathy Hill

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

Donna High

Sharon van Rossum

Deb Springer

McKenzie Causey

WRITERS

Donna High

Emily Meredith

Autumn Ward

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me no matter what.

THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50

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.
Thankful and You Know It
Good Choice / Bad Choice
Bug Fossils 

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.
Memory Verse Caterpillars
Feet
Who Is It?
Bug Catchers
Love Bugs
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.

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. THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have children stand in front of you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Sing the following song and do the motions with the children.

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands
If you're thankful and you know it, then your heart will surely show it
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands

If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet
If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet
If you're thankful and you know it, then your heart will surely show it
If you're thankful and you know it, stomp your feet

If you're thankful and you know it, shout, "Jesus loves me!"
If you're thankful and you know it, shout, "Jesus loves me!"
If you're thankful and you know it, then your heart will surely show it
If you're thankful and you know it, shout, "Jesus loves me!"

If you're thankful and you know it, do all three (*clap, stomp, say "Jesus loves me"*)

If you're thankful and you know it, do all three
If you're thankful and you know it, then your heart will surely show it
If you're thankful and you know it, do all three

Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I am so thankful that Jesus loves me. I know you are, too!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's sing a song that shows how thankful we are! Everyone sing with me and do what I do." (*Sing song.*)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES



MOVE

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

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! Let's do it again! (*Repeat activity.*) Jesus loves us SO much! Let's get ready to hear a Bible story that tells us how much He loves us."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by singing the song again as you move to the story area.

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15 MINUTES

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PLAY

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

2. GOOD CHOICE / BAD CHOICE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Faces" and "Choices" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Faces" on cardstock (*one set per classroom*). Copy "Choices" on cardstock and cut apart. Set the happy and sad faces on the table, at least a foot apart.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children and point out the happy and sad faces on the table. Hold up and read each "choice" and let the children vote on whether it is a good choice or bad choice by pointing to the happy (*good choice*) or sad (*bad choice*) faces. Once all children have voted, place the card with the choice onto the appropriate face.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Sometimes we make good choices that make others happy. But sometimes we make bad choices that makes others sad. I want to read some choices to you. If you think it's a good choice, point to the happy face. If I read a bad choice, point to the sad face."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did an awesome job figuring out which good choices make others happy and which bad choices make others sad. But you know what? There is someone who loves you no matter what. He loves you if you make a good choice or a bad choice. Let's go find out who it is!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out some additional choices. If it's a good choice, children should smile to make a happy face. If it's a bad choice, children should frown to make a sad face. Choices: you clean up your toys, you yell at your sister, you listen to the teacher, you talk while the teacher is talking, you push a friend when you're angry, you play nicely with your friends, you take turns, you give someone a hug, you call someone a mean name, you disobey your mom, you whine about your dinner, you say "please" and "thank you," you leave your bike outside without putting it away, you are kind to others, etc.

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EXPLORE

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

3. BUG FOSSILS

Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," white cardstock, Play-Doh®, and several different kinds of plastic bugs

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on white cardstock and hang it on the door. Give each child some Play-Doh and a plastic bug.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Instruct the children to roll the Play-Doh into a ball and use their hand to squish the ball flat. Help the children press the bug into the Play-Doh and then remove it. The bug should leave an impression. Invite the children to show everyone the bug fossil. Allow the children to switch bugs, and repeat the activity.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We are going to make bug fossils. This is going to be SO COOL!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Give each child some Play-Doh.) "Everyone use your hands to make your Play-Doh into a ball. (Demonstrate.) Then lay the ball on the table and squish it flat with your hand. (Demonstrate.) Press the bug into the Play-Doh and then lift it up. (Demonstrate.) Look what happened! (Hold up fossil.) We made a bug fossil! Now you try! (Do activity.) That was awesome! Now you may switch bugs with your friends and try again."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Thank you so much for your help with making bug fossils. You are a big help! I am very thankful for you. Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a very thankful woman. I am so excited for our Bible story today!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to be a grasshopper 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

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THE THANKFUL WOMAN
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1. MEMORY VERSE CATERPILLARS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Leaves" Activity Pages, green cardstock, scissors, clothespins (*one per child*), white liquid glue, small paper plates, cotton swabs, small pom-poms (*four per child*), and small googly eyes (*two per child*)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Memory Verse Leaves" on green cardstock and cut out one leaf per child. Set a clothespin and four pom-poms at each child's seat at the table. Squeeze a small amount school glue onto several plates and place them in the center of the tables. Set a few cotton swabs next to each plate.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Hold up a leaf and read the verse aloud. Explain that children will be making caterpillars. Encourage the children to carefully dip each pom-pom into the glue and press it onto one flat side of the clothespin, starting on one end. They should be able to glue four pom-poms onto the clothespin. Be available to help if needed. Once they've glued on all four pom-poms, encourage the children to dab the cotton swab into the glue and then onto the back of a googly eye. Children will glue two googly eyes to the pom-pom at the "mouth" of the clothespin (*the end that clips*). Set aside the caterpillars to dry, with a "Memory Verse Leaf" next to each one. As the children leave at the end of the hour, the caterpillars should be dry enough to open the clothespin and place the leaf in its "mouth."

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today we're going to make some cute caterpillars out of these clothespins and pom-poms. Then we'll add a leaf to the caterpillar's mouth. Do you see the words here on the leaf? It says: How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, Ephesians 3:18. Can you say that with me? (*Repeat the verse.*) Great job! Let's glue on some pom-poms to our clothespin to make our caterpillar."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Your caterpillars are beautiful! Let's set them over here to dry until the adults come for pick up. Don't forget to show these off when you're picked up today and to say your verse! Jesus' love for you is so wide and long and high and deep. **Who loves you?** Say it with me: **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 no matter what.

THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50

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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2. FEET

WHAT YOU NEED: “Feet” Activity Page, white cardstock, red or pink Kool-Aid® packets, plastic bowls, water, paintbrushes, paint smocks, and wet wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock. You will need one page per child. Pour the Kool-Aid into a bowl and add water to create a paste-like consistency. *Note:* Kool-Aid may stain, so please be sure to protect tables, floors, and clothing.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place a smock on each child. Give children a paintbrush and an Activity Page. Help the children paint the feet on their page with the Kool-Aid mixture.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Lay the Activity Pages in a safe place to dry. Be sure to wash paintbrushes and bowls immediately to prevent staining.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “We heard an amazing story from the Bible today.”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “The woman in our Bible story was very thankful that Jesus loved her and forgave her. She did not make good choices, but Jesus loved her anyway! He loves us no matter what! She washed His feet and then put perfume on them. We are going to make a picture of Jesus’ feet with the perfume.” *(Do activity.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Great job! Now you can take your picture home and tell your families that Jesus loves ALL of us NO MATTER WHAT! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**”



first look™
SMALL GROUP



WEEK
FOUR
FEBRUARY 2019

3-5
YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

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THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50

MEMORY VERSE

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

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3. WHO IS IT?

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather all the children to sit in a circle in an open area of the room. Play a guessing game where you will give a specific description of one child, and the children will guess who it is. Make sure you select something that only applies to one individual child, like "wearing a snoopy shirt" or "has very curly blonde hair," etc. When the children guess correctly, say, "Yes, Jesus loves [child's name]."

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's play a guessing game! I'm going to say something that I see about one of our friends. I want you to look around the circle and then guess who you think I am describing. Are you ready?" (Remember to say, "Jesus loves [child's name]," after each child is named.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We've been learning all month long that **Jesus loves me**. Jesus loves me no matter what! Nothing you do or say—nothing can make Jesus stop loving you! He loves you because He's Jesus! **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 loves me no matter what.

**THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50**

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE

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4. BUG CATCHERS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bug Label" Activity Page, Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, plastic cups (*one per child*), and plastic bugs

(Options: The plastic cups are intended to be the bug catchers. If you would like to provide each child with a bug catcher from a dollar store to take home, then you may forego the cups. Just place a label onto the bug catcher instead. Also, instead of using plastic bugs, you may consider using the printed bugs on the "Bug Catchers" Activity Page. Copy the Activity Page onto white paper or cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. When making this decision, please keep in mind that the bugs will be going home with the children.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto the label paper and place the labels onto the cups or the bug catchers.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the bugs all over the activity area. Challenge the children to go around the area and collect the bugs into their bug catcher.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Be sure each child has at least two bugs in their catcher. Send the catcher and the bugs home with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We love bugs! Let's catch some bugs!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Here is your bug catcher. (*Give each child a catcher.*) We have bugs all over the room. Go and see how many we can catch!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! You caught a lot of bugs. We are talking about LOVE BUGS this month because Jesus LOVES us. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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

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LUKE 7:36-50**

MEMORY VERSE

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5. LOVE BUGS

WHAT YOU NEED: “Love Bugs Label” Activity Page, Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, green colored cardstock cut into strips (*several per child*), red colored cardstock cut into strips (*one per child*), clear tape, googly eyes (*two per child*), white liquid glue, a black crayon or marker, and heart stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the “Love Bugs Label” onto the label paper (*one label per child*). Cut the cardstock into strips. Tear off three or four one-inch pieces of tape and stick one end to the table for each child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Show the children how to roll up the paper to create a circle that will make a link in a chain. Walk around the tables to show them how to secure the ends with tape. When finished, help each child glue on two googly eyes and then draw a small circle underneath to create the mouth. Let the children add two or three more “links” to their love bugs by running the paper strips through the circle, rolling to make another circle, and securing with a piece of tape. Encourage the children to add heart stickers to their “love bugs.” Finish by adding a label to the bug.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Send the children home with extra strips of paper to add to their love bugs.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “We’re going to make some love bugs! Have you ever made a paper chain before? We’re going to roll up each strip of paper like this (*demonstrate*) and then add a piece of tape to secure it in place. We will help you glue two googly eyes to the front and then you can draw a small circle underneath for the mouth. Let’s add three or four more paper strips to your love bug and use these heart stickers to decorate them.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “I LOVE your love bugs! I have extra paper strips that you can take home with you to add more rings to make your love bug even longer. When you look at your love bug, I want you to remember: **Jesus loves me. 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 no matter what.

**THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50**

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. You will also need your reward stickers/hand stamp.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend to cry all the way to our Small Group spot. Show me your pretend cry face. Boo-hoo-hoo!"

(Wipe your eyes like you're crying.)

"Follow me, crying friends."

("Cry" as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

"We're here! We can stop crying now. Everyone put on your smiley faces, because today's Bible story was awesome! Let's sit and talk about it. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

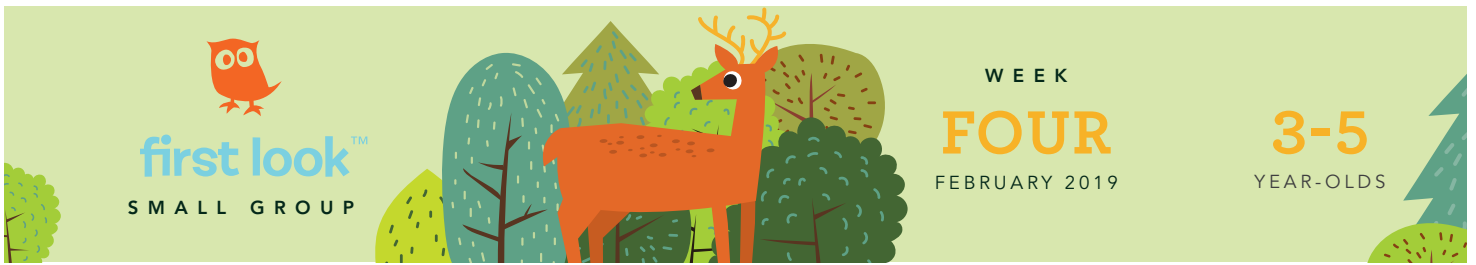
(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

SGL: "Our Bible story today was about a woman who didn't have any friends because of the bad things she had done. Was Jesus still her friend? *(Pause.)* He sure was! Jesus still loved her and was her friend."

"When the woman heard Jesus was in town, she ran to see Him. She was so happy that Jesus loved her and was still her friend. When she saw Jesus, she started crying. She cried so much that her tears fell on His feet and she used them to wash His feet. Then she took her long hair and dried His feet. THEN she used some special perfume to pour on His head. All of these things showed Jesus how thankful she was because He still loved her and was her friend."

"Do you know what the best part of this story is? Jesus loves you and you and you *(point to each child)* no matter what, just like He loved that woman. Nothing will ever make Jesus stop loving you. **Who loves you?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus loves me!"



PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

SGL: "Yep! Jesus loves you with the biggest love EVER!"

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

"We've been learning a Bible verse that talks about Jesus' big love. Who's ready to say it? I brought my stickers/hand stamp *(hold them up)* for anyone who tries.

"First, we will say the verse together one last time. Then, anyone who wants to try and say it can have a turn. Everyone stand up and let's say it 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.)*

SGL: "Yay! Good job! *(Give two thumbs up.)* I want everyone to sit back down. When it's your turn to say the verse, you can stand up. Who wants to try and say the verse first?"

(Give each child the opportunity to say the verse on their own. Have your stickers/hand stamp ready to give when they say it.)

"I am so, so, SO proud of you!"

(Clap for the children.)

"Now it's time to sit down and write in our prayer journal."

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Today we are going to make a list of things we are sorry for, like maybe we didn't do what mommy and daddy told us to do or we had a bad attitude. Just like the woman in the story was sorry for the bad things she did, we can tell Jesus we are sorry, too. Jesus loves us and will always forgive us!"

"When I say your name, tell me just one thing you might need to say sorry for, 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.)

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TO GOD
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an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

"Sometimes it's hard to think about what we're sorry for, so thank you for trying. I'm going to write down what I need to say sorry for too. I'm sorry for . . . (say out loud what you write down). There. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

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

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, we all make bad choices. Thank You for sending Jesus so we can be forgiven. Today we just want to say we're sorry for (read the list) and that we want to make better choices. We also want to say thank You for loving us no matter what. You're the best, and we love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."