

FIRST IMPRESSION OF A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER

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We want preschoolers to take a **first look** at who God is and understand...

God made me • God loves me

# FIRST LOOK™

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Jesus wants to be my friend for ever

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open my eyes so that i can see the **wonderful truths**...Psalm 119:18

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## Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Key Question:** Who is your friend?

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus is a good friend.*

**Memory Verse:** "A friend loves at all times."  
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**Bible Story Focus:** Jesus cares when I'm sad.  
The Lord's Supper • Matthew 26:20-30

April 2, 2006

Here's an overview of what you'll be teaching 3s-5s this week.

### Make It Fun

(Choose one or all of these activities)

- Toss 'n' Name
- I Spy
- Friendship Banner

### Make It True

- Introductory Sketch
- Bible Story
- Worship

### Make It Stick

(Choose as many of these activities as you like)

- Make a Face
- Circle of Friends
- A Place for Me (Bible story review)
- Disciple-Friend Pop-Up
- Decorate a Placemat

### Make It Real

- Small Group Time
- Prayer
- Dismiss: Small Talk cards

If you are choosing to lead the Bible story in Make It True or "A Place for Me" during Make It Stick, post the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site). Be sure to list the foods you will be serving today—particularly the walnuts in the charoseth. As parents bring their children to your room, call their attention to the sign.

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# Make it fun

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES  
10 MINUTES

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

## TOSS 'N' NAME

**Whatcha Do:** Introduce today's lesson by asking kids what a friend is. Gather everyone in a small circle and practice tossing the ball or beanbag to each other in the same order. Then guide kids to say their own names before tossing the ball to a friend. Vary the game for older kids by guiding them to call the name of the friend before they toss the ball to that friend. Also try other variations like speeding up the game or tossing under your leg.

**Whatcha Say:** "What is a friend? (Pause for responses.)

A friend is someone you like and care about. We're friends here at church. We care about each other. We care when our friends are happy, and we care when our friends are sad. Today we're going to hear about some of Jesus' friends who were sad. Jesus cares when I'm sad, and He cares when you're sad, too."

WHAT CHA NEED

- A Koosh® ball or a beanbag

I SPY

**Whatcha Do:** Introduce today's lesson by asking kids what a friend is. Use your hands as binoculars by forming circles around your eyes. Look through the "binoculars" to spy particular people such as a friend in blue pants, a friend in a striped shirt, a friend with brown hair, or a friend with a happy face. Let kids spy friends nearby or across the room. Extend this activity by asking older kids to look at each friend in the group and tell how they're alike and different.

**Whatcha Say:** "What is a friend? (Pause for responses.) A friend is someone you like and care about. Let's use binoculars (hold up your 'binoculars') to play 'I Spy.' I spy a friend who's wearing blue pants. Can you? (Pause for responses.) I spy a friend who has on a striped shirt. Can you? I spy a friend who looks happy. Can you? (Continue in this fashion.) Today we're going to hear about some of Jesus' friends who were sad. Jesus cares when I'm sad, and He cares when you're sad, too."

- No supplies needed.

God  
Loves  
me

God made me

Jesus wants to be  
my friend  
forever

## FRIENDSHIP BANNER

**Whatcha Do:** Introduce today's lesson by asking kids what a friend is. Tape a long strip of art paper to the wall or on the floor. At the top of the banner write "We Are Friends." Ask kids to line up in front of the paper if it's on the wall or on the paper if it's on the floor. Leave a blank space in the middle of the paper. Quickly draw around each child. (*Tip: Asking the kids to keep their legs together and their arms at their sides will help. It's also okay to only trace each child's head and torso.*) Then ask kids to fill in their outlines by adding personal details. If a child has red hair, let him draw that on his outline. If he's wearing a blue shirt, let him add that too. Print the children's names above or below their portraits. Older kids may want to write their own names. In the blank space in the middle, write "Jesus." Also include a simple outline of yourself labeled with your name.

**Whatcha Say:** "What is a friend? (*Pause for responses.*) A friend is someone you like and care about. Who are some of your friends? (*Pause.*) I'm so glad we're friends here at church. Friends care about each other. (*Point to your portrait and name.*) I'm your friend, and I care about you. (*Point to Jesus' name.*) Jesus is your friend, and He cares about you, too. Today we're going to hear about some of Jesus' friends who were sad. Jesus cares when I'm sad, and He cares when you're sad, too."

### WHAT CHA NEED

- A long strip of art paper
- Masking tape
- Markers

## Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**Bible Story Focus:** Jesus cares when I'm sad.

The Lord's Supper • Matthew 26:20-30

# Make it true

LARGE GROUP

15 MINUTES

After children have participated in Make It Fun, gather them for a large group time that includes an introductory sketch, a Bible story, and interactive worship.

Choose an adult who relates well to preschoolers to tell the Introductory Sketch. If possible, use the same adult all year. To add variety, consider videotaping the sketch and playing the video during Make It True.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended. Encourage children to be active during worship by providing suggested materials and/or incorporating appropriate hand motions as described in the teaching instructions that follow.

## INTRODUCTORY SKETCH

**HOST:** (*Enter carrying the wrapped box. Sit on the edge of the chair and speak excitedly.*) "Today is going to be so much fun! I get to go to a friend's birthday party later today! I have her present right here. Do you like to go to parties? (*Pause.*) They're so much fun!"

"I can remember one of the very first birthday parties I ever went to. It was for one of my really good friends named Ashley. The first thing we did at her party was play games. We were all laughing and having a great time. All of my friends from school were there. It was perfect!"

WHAT CHA NEED

- Place a chair on stage.
- Provide a box wrapped like a birthday present.



"open my eyes so that i can see the wonderful truths" Psalm 119:18



APRIL / WEEK 1 / 3s-5s

"Then Ashley's mom said it was time to sit at the table for cake and ice cream. I love birthday cake! I couldn't wait to get some. I ran to the table, but when I got there all the chairs were taken. I was the only person without a chair. (*Sit back in the chair with a sad look on your face.*)

(*Speak slowly as you remember the sadness.*) "I took another look at the chairs. There had to be a chair for me. I looked up one side of the table and down the other, but there was no place for me. (*Start speaking faster.*) All of a sudden I felt very sad. I could feel my lips begin to quiver and my eyes fill with tears. I didn't know what to do. Then I heard someone say (*speak calmly*), '(Say your name), would you like to sit with me?'

"I quickly wiped the tears from my eyes and saw Tommy patting his seat with his hand. (*Sit to the side of your seat and pat the space next to you.*) Tommy was another one of my friends from school. He had made room on his seat just for me.

"I walked over to where Tommy was sitting and sat next to him in the place he had made for me. We were scrunched up a little, but it felt a lot better than standing by myself without a seat. He told me that he could tell I was sad. What a good friend. He cared that I was sad and gave me part of his seat to make me feel better.

"We all have a very special friend who cares about us. His name is Jesus. ★ **Jesus is a good friend. Who is your friend?** ★ **Jesus is a good friend.** Let's say that together. **Who is your friend?"**

KIDS and HOST: ★ **"Jesus is a good friend."**

HOST: "Now when I feel sad inside, I try to remember that ★ **Jesus is a good friend** and He cares when I'm sad. Let's listen to our Bible story and see how Jesus helped His friends, the disciples, when they were sad."

A FIRST  
IMPRESSION  
OF A LOVING  
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Be sure to list the foods you will be serving today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) and post it at the door to your room.



**BIBLE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** "When God tells us something in the Bible, is it always true? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes. What God says is true. Our story today is from the Bible. It's about a very special meal Jesus had with His friends, the disciples. Jesus knew He was about to tell them something that would make them sad, so He wanted to help them. Jesus was a friend to the disciples and He cared about them the way He cares about you. **Who is your friend?**

★ **Jesus is a good friend.**

"The disciples got everything ready for the special meal with Jesus. *(Spread the tablecloth out on the floor.)* They did everything Jesus told them to do. When it was time to eat, Jesus sat at the table with His 12 friends, the disciples. *(Ask the children to recline around the tablecloth like Jesus and the disciples would have reclined for a meal during Bible times.)* The disciples' names were *(place the 'Disciples' Place Settings' on the tablecloth as you call out the disciples' names)* Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, a second disciple named James, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas.

"As Jesus and the disciples were eating, Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it. *(Hold the bread so all the children can see it and say, 'Thank You, God.')* He gave each one of His friends a piece of bread and they ate it. Jesus then took a cup of some drink and thanked God for it. *(Hold the drink so all the children can see it and say, 'Thank You, God.')* He gave each of His friends a drink.

"Jesus wanted this meal to be special for His friends because He knew they were soon going to be sad. He wanted His friends to have a way of remembering how much He loved them.

Let's have a snack with our friends, just like Jesus did when He ate with His friends. We'll eat bread, just like Jesus did. We'll have something to drink, too. Jesus loved being with His friends. He loved them very much.

**WHAT CHA NEED**

- A Bible marked at Matthew 26:20-30
- Matzo bread
- Water
- "Disciples' Place Cards" *(from the Activity Pages on the Web site)* cut apart and each card folded in half
- Tablecloth
- Napkins
- Small paper cups
- Paper plates







"Jesus wants you to remember how much He loves you, too. He wants to be your good friend. Who is your friend? ✨ Jesus is a good friend. Can you say that with me? Who is your friend?"

KIDS and STORYTELLER: ✨ "Jesus is a good friend."

STORYTELLER: "That's right. 🤝 Jesus wants to be my friend forever. He loves me, and because He loves me, I can love others. Let's say it one more time. Who is your friend?"

KIDS and STORYTELLER: ✨ "Jesus is a good friend."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Let's close our eyes and pray. Dear God, thank You that Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Thank You that Jesus cares when I'm sad. When anyone asks me, 'Who is your friend?' I can say ✨ Jesus is a good friend. Amen."

"A friend loves at all times." PROVERBS 17:17

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER: "Do you know what Jesus and His disciples did after they finished their special meal? They sang a song together. God had been so good to them that they couldn't help but sing. God is so good to us, too. Let's sing about it."

Lead children in singing "So Good to Me," track 2, from the CD *Shout to the Lord Kids!* Encourage children to dance, shout, leap, and spin as each is mentioned in the song.

- A New International Reader's Version Bible marked at Proverbs 17:17
- A CD player
- The CDs *KidStuf Classics: Get Down and Shout to the Lord Kids!*
- Also, use this month's original worship song, which you can download from the Web site, during this segment or whenever you like this month.

WHAT CHA NEED



WORSHIP LEADER: "Wow! That was awesome. (Open Bible to Proverbs 17:17.) Proverbs 17:17 says, 'A friend loves at all times.' Let's say the Bible verse together. I'll do some motions to help you remember it."

KIDS and WORSHIP LEADER: "'A friend (shake someone's hand) loves (hug yourself) at all times' (move hands up and around to the sides in a big circular motion and then point to your wrist where a watch goes), Proverbs 17:17 (open your hands as if reading from a book)." (Repeat once more.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Who is your friend?"

KIDS and WORSHIP LEADER: ★ "Jesus is a good friend."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, ★ Jesus is a good friend. 🤝 Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS and WORSHIP LEADER: 🤝 "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

WORSHIP LEADER: (Allow the excitement to build as you say the following statements.) "Think with me for a moment about how special you must be to God. He loves you. He cares about you. Jesus wants to be your friend forever. You are somebody because you are important to God!"

Lead the kids to sing "I Am Somebody," track 10, from the CD *KidStuf Classics: Get Down*. Use the following motions:

I am somebody (point your thumbs to your chest)  
Because God loves me (give yourself a hug)  
Just the way that I am (hold arms wide and sway)  
His love is higher (reach to the sky)  
It's deeper and wider (do motions for deep and wide)  
Than you and I will (point out with both index fingers, then to your chest)  
Ever understand (nod your head)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you for worshipping God with me today! Let's listen to find out where (say teacher's name) wants us to go next."

Jesus wants to be  
my friend  
forever

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Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**Bible Story Focus:** Jesus cares when I'm sad.

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# Make it stick

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

35 MINUTES

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today's Bible story and Bottom Line. Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half of the kids to participate in each, then switch groups and repeat the activities.

## Make a Face

**Whatcha Do:** Cut out the shapes on the "Faces" page. Tape each face cutout to a block and place the blocks in a basket. Guide kids to take turns selecting a block from the basket, secretly showing it to you, and mimicking the face on the block for the other kids to guess what the expression is. *Note: Keep the face cutouts to use next week.*

**Whatcha Say:** "We have a lot of different feelings, don't we? Sometimes our friends may feel the same as we do, but sometimes they may feel differently than we do. The Bible says, 'A friend loves at all times.' Even when friends feel sad or mad, they still love us. **Who is your friend?** (Pause for responses.) That's right, Jesus.

★ **Jesus is a good friend**, and He loves you and me whether we're feeling happy, sad, or any other way."

### WHAT CHA NEED

- A copy of "Faces" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site)
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Blocks
- A basket

## Circle of Friends

**Whatcha Do:** Tape the numbered pieces of paper on the floor in a circle like the face of a clock. The piece of paper numbered 12 should be at the top of the circle, and the piece of paper numbered six should be at the bottom of the circle. Stand in the middle of the circle with the kids. Explain that you are going to make a statement that describes feelings or friends. If the statement describes them, they are to run to a numbered spot. If the statement does not describe them, they are to stay in the middle of the circle. Make some statements such as, "Right now I'm feeling happy," "Right now I'm feeling hungry," "I have some friends who are boys," "I have some friends who are older than me." After each statement, ask the kids who are standing on a number to come back to the middle so you can call out another statement. End with a statement that sends everyone to a number. *(Note: If the numbered pieces of paper aren't too wrinkled at the end of the activity, save them to use again next week.)*

**Whatcha Say:** "Look at these numbers on the floor. They remind me of something. Can you guess what? *(Pause for responses.)* They remind me of the 12 disciples, the 12 special friends who helped Jesus. The numbers also remind me of a clock *(point to the clock)*. There are 12 numbers on this clock. A clock reminds me of time, and that reminds me of our memory verse. Let's open the Bible and read it. *(Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to the marked page. Read the verse aloud, including the reference. Lead the children to repeat the verse.)* What do you think this verse means? *(Pause.)* God wants us to love our friends all the time—at breakfast time, at lunchtime, at suppertime, at bedtime, and all the times in between. 📖 **Jesus is a good friend.** He loves us all the time. 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17."

WHAT CHA NEED

- Twelve different colored pieces of paper numbered 1 to 12
- Masking tape
- A clock
- A NIV Bible marked at Proverbs 17:17

Be sure to list the foods you will be serving today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) and post it at the door to your room.



## A Place for Me

Lead this activity in your snack area.

**Whatcha Do:** Prepare the charoseth, a traditional Passover dish, beforehand. Use the cardstock, markers, and copy of "Place Cards" to help children make a place card for themselves. Make one for yourself too. Then wash your hands and help kids wash their hands. Spread the tablecloth out on the floor and set the pillows around the outer edge of the cloth. Set a place for each child using the paper plates, napkins, plastic spoons, and paper cups. Be sure to put each child's place card at a setting. Ask kids to find their place cards and sit down. Break the matzo bread into pieces and invite each child to sample it. Serve the charoseth and the grape juice, explaining that these were some of the foods Jesus and His disciples ate during the special meal. Demonstrate how to recline with your elbow on a pillow and your legs stretched out to the side, as people in Jesus' time did while they ate. Talk about the Bible story as you eat.

**Whatcha Say:** "Jesus had a special meal with His friends. There were 12 friends, or disciples, who ate this special meal with Jesus. How many friends are eating this special meal with us? *(Pause while kids count.)* Right! Jesus told His friends that He wouldn't be with them very much longer because He was going back to heaven soon. His friends were sad about that because

- ★ Jesus is a good friend and they would miss Him.
- ★ Jesus is a good friend to you, too. That's happy news, not sad news. So, **who is your friend?** *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, ★ Jesus is a good friend!"

- Apples, walnuts, cinnamon, grape juice, and sugar prepared according to the directions on "Charoseth Recipe" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site)
- A piece of cardstock for each child
- Markers
- A copy of "Place Cards" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site)
- Tablecloth
- Pillows
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic spoons
- Paper cups
- Matzo bread or crackers
- Grape juice

WHAT CHA NEED



## Disciple-Friend Pop-Up

**Whatcha Do:** Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Give each child a place card. If you have young children, play with only six children and six place cards. Help kids read their cards, pointing to the names on the cards as you do so. Remind them that these are the names of the 12 disciples, the 12 special friends who helped Jesus and had a special meal with Him. Then lead the kids to play a pop-up game. Explain that every time you say the name of a disciple, the child holding that card should pop up from a sitting position then sit back down quickly. Make it fun and suspenseful by varying how you call out the names. You can whisper a name, say a name slowly, or say a name quickly. Change the game for older children so that, when a child pops up from a seated position, he says the name of the disciple whose card he has.

**Whatcha Say:** "Jesus has many friends. John and Matthew were Jesus' friends. Who else is Jesus' friend? (Pause while children name some disciples.) Jesus is your friend, too. **Who is your friend?** 🌟 **Jesus is a good friend.**"

### WHAT CHA NEED

- "Disciples' Place Cards" used during Make It True

## Decorate a Placemat

**Whatcha Do:** Place newspaper on a table or other flat surface. Pour paint into the paper plates. Place the plates of paint on the newspaper. Give each child an 11x17-inch piece of paper. Working on the newspaper-covered surface and using cotton swabs as paintbrushes, let them decorate a placemat by painting their friends. Encourage them to be as creative as they like.

**Whatcha Say:** "You have so many friends! Who are some of your friends? (Pause for responses.) Who else is your friend? (Pause.) Yes, Jesus is your friend, too.

🌟 **Jesus is a good friend.**"

### WHAT CHA NEED

- An 11x17-inch piece of paper for each child
- Tempera paints
- Paper plates
- Cotton swabs
- Smocks
- Newspaper

## Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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# Make it real

SMALL GROUP

5 MINUTES

Make It Real is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests.

Divide kids into small groups of about five to eight children with each leader. Ideally, assign the same small group leader to the same group of preschoolers for the entire year.

## small group time

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** *(Ask one of the children to open the Bible to the marked verse and read it.)*

"Our Bible verse this month is Proverbs 17:17. It says, 'A friend loves at all times.' Jesus loved His friends, the disciples, very much. Jesus was a good friend to the disciples. We learned today that Jesus wants to be our friend, too. **Who is your friend?** ★ *Jesus is a good friend.*

*(Show kids the copy of "Alarm Clock.")* "Look at the new picture for our prayer journal this month. Who can tell me what this is? *(Pause.)* That's right, it's a clock. *(Glue the clock picture in the journal.)* The clock reminds me that ★ *Jesus is a good friend.* He wants to be my friend all the time. He wants to be my friend in the morning when I wake up, at night when I go to bed, when I'm afraid, and when I'm happy. ★ *Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Who is your friend?* ★ *Jesus is a good friend."*

- WHAT CHA NEED**
- Use a bookmark or sticky note to mark Proverbs 17:17 in a NIV Bible.
  - Highlight or underline the verse.
  - Provide a journal, a fun-shaped pen, and tape or a glue stick for each small group.
  - Make a copy of "Alarm Clock" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) and cut out the shape so it will fit in the journal.



## prayer

SGL: "Today we're going to thank God for being our friend and for giving us all our other friends."

Ask kids to tell you the names of friends they are thankful for. Write the names in the prayer journal. If kids need help thinking of friends, suggest their moms, dads, grandparents, sisters, brothers, neighbors, or classmates. After kids have named their friends, remind them that Jesus is their friend too. Write the name "Jesus" in the journal as well. Lead the children in praying for one another by name.

## get ready to dismiss

Set any take-home creations where you or

parents can get them easily. Greet parents at the door and give them a copy of Small Talk and an "April Magnet." Tell parents that this month preschoolers are learning that  **Jesus is a good friend**. Point out this month's memory verse and symbol on the magnet. Encourage parents to put it on their refrigerator so they can see it often and reinforce their child's learning at home during the month. Encourage parents to use Small Talk throughout the week as they continue helping their child understand that  **Jesus is a good friend**.

### WHAT CHA NEED

- Copy this week's Small Talk onto cardstock and cut the cards apart.
- Prepare one copy of "April Magnet" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) for each child.
- Print the symbol on a magnet or copy the item on cardstock and attach a magnet to the back.

