



JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER



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BASIC TRUTH

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND
FOREVER.**

KEY QUESTION

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.

MEMORY VERSE

**"Love each other as I have loved
you." John 15:12, NIV**

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**Tell everyone Jesus loves them.
Disciples Tell Others**
• Matthew 28:16-20

MAKE IT FUN

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

- Heart Explosion
- Love Will Travel
- Tell Everyone

MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- Worship
- Bible Story

MAKE IT STICK

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 the kids to participate in each, then switch groups and repeat the activities.

- Repeat After Me
- Spread the Love
- Go and Tell Cheer
- Tell the World



MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



MOVEMENT

An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn and grow.

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HEART EXPLOSION

"Heart Explosion" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while children use their gross motor skills.

WHAT YOU NEED: Parachute and foam heart shapes

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the hearts in the middle of the parachute and fold the sides over to hide them.

During the Activity: Keeping the parachute close together, have kids grab an edge and slowly walk back a step or two and then on the count of three shake the parachute super fast. Keep shaking until all the hearts fly off the parachute. Collect the hearts, put them back on, and do it all again.

After the Activity: Pick up all the hearts and introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Come on over, friends! We're going to play with the parachute today."

During the Activity: "Grab an edge and take two steps back. *(Pause.)* When I count to three I want you to shake the parachute really fast. One, two, three, shake! Whoa! Look at all the hearts flying! There's love all over the place! Let's do it again! Go pick up the hearts and throw them back on the parachute." *(Repeat as many times as desired.)*

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! Let's pick up all the hearts and then come sit with me. We are going to hear another Bible story about love today and how we need to spread love around."



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GAME

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

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LOVE WILL TRAVEL

"Love Will Travel" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while encouraging kids to use their hand-eye coordination, balance, and gross motor skills while moving hearts from one place to another.

WHAT YOU NEED: Heart confetti, serving spoons, and 2 bowls

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place confetti in one bowl. Put the two bowls on opposite sides of the room.

During the Activity: Line kids up behind the full bowl and give them each a serving spoon. Say, 'Go,' and have them take turns scooping a spoonful of hearts, taking it to the other bowl, and dumping it in. Hearts will fly off and go in different directions. This is okay. Keep scooping and relaying until the full bowl is now empty. Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends! Come stand with me behind this bowl of hearts."

During the Activity: "We are going to scoop a spoonful of hearts from this bowl and carry it over to that bowl. (*Pass out the spoons and demonstrate if needed.*) Here we go! (*Encourage kids as they carry the spoonful of hearts.*) Super duper, friends!"

After the Activity: "Look at all the hearts on the floor! There are hearts everywhere! That's what our Bible story is all about—spreading love to everyone everywhere."



MAKE IT FUN

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INVESTIGATION/ROLE PLAY

An activity that channels either a preschooler's innate curiosity or desire to play dress up into a discussion of concepts crucial to the lesson.

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TELL EVERYONE

"Tell Everyone" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while encouraging kids to use their fine motor skills to find out who to tell.

WHAT YOU NEED: Sensory bin from "Box of Love" in Week 3 "Make it Fun," and Little People®

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Put the Little People® in the bin. Make sure they get covered up.

During the Activity: Let kids dig around and pull out what they find. Talk about the Little People® characters.

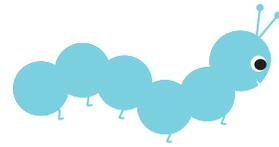
After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hey friends, come sit with me. Our 'Box of Love' is back, but there's something new inside!"

During the Activity: "Dig in and feel around. What did you find? (Pause.) A Little People®! It's a (say if it's a dad, brother, mom, sister, worker, etc.!) Who else is in there? (Continue digging in and pulling out all the Little People®.) Let's line all the people up. (Pause.) Great job!"

After the Activity: "Today's Bible story is about going and telling everyone—mommies, daddies, boys, and girls—something really super special and exciting!"



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

An activity that encourages preschoolers to learn the monthly memory verse.

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REPEAT AFTER ME

"Repeat After Me" is an activity that helps kids recite this month's Memory Verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: Heart stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Heart stickers, and floor heart from "In Love" from "Make It Stick" in Week 2

During the Activity: Have the kids stand on the heart. Go around the heart and say the Memory Verse one word at a time while the kids repeat after you. Repeat as many times as desired. Then say the Memory Verse together and give each child a heart sticker.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Come stand on the heart with me."

During the Activity: "We are going to say the Memory Verse one word at a time. You repeat after me. Ready? (Say a word and then repeat it with the kids.) 'Love each other as I have loved you,' John 15:12. Let's do it again. (Repeat as many times as desired.) Super job! This time, we are going to say the whole thing together. 'Love each other as I have loved you,' John 15:12. Sit down on the heart right where you are. (Pause.) Great job saying the Memory Verse today! Jesus loves everyone! Jesus loves (say child's name and put a heart sticker on his/her shirt)." (Continue with each child's name.)

After the Activity: "Jesus told His friends, the disciples, to tell everyone about Him. That's what we're supposed to do too. Jesus loves you and Jesus loves me. **Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love?** (Pause.) **Jesus loves everyone!**"



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



BIBLE STORY REVIEW

An activity that reviews the entire Bible story in a fun and interactive way allowing preschoolers that repetition they crave.

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SPREAD THE LOVE

"Spread the Love" is an activity that retells the Bible story and shows how love can spread.

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper towel, red marker, cookie sheet, small cup, water, and an eye dropper

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Using the red marker, draw a heart on the center of a paper towel. Place the paper towel on a cookie sheet. Fill a cup with a little bit of water and place the eye dropper in the cup.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story and show what happens when we tell others about Jesus. His loves spreads like the marker on the paper towel as the water hits it.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We heard an amazing Bible story today that started on a huge mountain!"

During the Activity: "It was on the huge mountain that Jesus brought His friends the disciples so they could have a big huge talk. Jesus told them that they were all getting new jobs. Many of them were fishermen, but now Jesus wanted them to do something different. He wanted them to go from place to place, telling everyone everywhere that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. What a cool job, huh? (Pause.) Jesus wanted the whole WORLD to know He loves them and He wanted His friends to start it off. He wanted them to tell their friends, who would then tell their friends, who would tell their friends, and so on and so on and so on until everyone everywhere knew that Jesus loved them. Do you think that everyone everywhere knows that Jesus loves them now? (Pause.) No! It's OUR job to tell others. That's right! So what do we tell people about Jesus? **Jesus loves everyone.** Great job!"

After the Activity: "Jesus wants US to tell other people about Him too because **Jesus loves everyone.** It doesn't matter who you are or where you live. **Jesus loves everyone.**"



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Disciples Tell Others
• Matthew 28:16-20**

GO AND TELL CHEER

"Go and Tell Cheer" is an activity that encourages kids move and groove as they learn this fun cheer that tells them who their forever friend is.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cheer" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Cheer" on cardstock and cut out.

During the Activity: Teach the cheer. Channel your peppiest cheerleader.

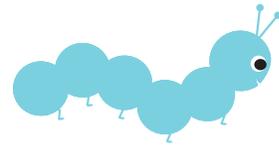
After the Activity: Put hands in for a "Go team!" Send home the "Cheer" card for the parents.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Our Bible story today told us that we are to go and tell everyone about Jesus. I have a super fun cheer for us to learn! Spread out and get ready!"

During the Activity: "Watch me and follow along. (*Bend over and put elbows out; roll fists over each other as you move your body side to side.*) Who wants to be your friend, your friend? Who wants to be your friend? (*Pause.*) Jesus! (*Pump right fist in the air.*) Again! (*Continue as long as interest holds.*)"

After the Activity: "That was such a fun cheer! The Bible tells us we are to go and tell everyone that Jesus loves them. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** Super! Say it again! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.**"



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



CRAFT

An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line or memory verse by creating a fun craft to take home.

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BIBLE STORY FOCUS

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TELL THE WORLD

"Tell the World" is an activity that reintroduces the Bible story and Bottom Line while children use their fine motor skills to complete their paper.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Tell" and "World Love" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, white cardstock, red cardstock, blue and green dot markers, scissors, glue sticks, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Tell" on white cardstock, one per child. Copy "World Love" on red cardstock and cut out, one per child.

During the Activity: Talk about the Bible story as kids fill in the world with blue and green dot markers and then glue the heart to it. Write kids' names on the papers.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together and put papers aside to dry.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "I loved our Bible story today and how Jesus wants us to tell everyone everywhere about Him."

During the Activity: "Look on your paper. Let's fill the circle on your paper with these green and blue markers. (Pause.) Great job! That's a picture of the world. Now take a heart and let's glue it to the world. (Pause.) Super! Jesus loves everyone and He wants us to tell the whole world about Him." (Write names on papers and take up.)

After the Activity: "I'm so glad that Jesus wants to be my friend and your friend forever. Jesus loves everyone and wants us to tell the whole world about Him. (Point to all the kids.) **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** Say it again. **Jesus loves everyone.**"