



# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER



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### BASIC TRUTH

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

### KEY QUESTION

**WHO CAN YOU FOLLOW?**

### BOTTOM LINE

**I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.**

### MEMORY VERSE

**“Come, and follow me,” Jesus  
said.” Matthew 4:19, NIV**

### BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**God sent Jesus to teach us to love  
God and love people.  
Jesus Teaches • Luke 2:41-50;  
Matthew 5, 22:34-39**

## 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.

- **Show and Tell**
- **How Many People?**
- **Be the Teacher**

## 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.

- **Words and Motions**
- **Jesus Teaches**
- **Love God, Love People**
- **Love ...**



Check out an example or inspiration for this activity at [Pinterest.com/firstlookcurr](https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr)



## 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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## SHOW AND TELL

"Show and Tell" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while children search the room for items to show and tell their friends about.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Regular items from the room

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Sit in a circle together in an open area in the room. Ask two or three children at a time to go and find something they like to play with in the room and bring it back to the circle. Once they are back with an item, have them put the items in their laps.

**During the Activity:** Introduce the child and let him show and tell about the item he brought back to the circle. Repeat as many times as desired.

**After the Activity:** Put away all the items. Come back, sit in the circle, and introduce the Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Hello, boys and girls! Come sit in a circle with me. I'm going to call a few friends at a time and when you hear your name, I want you to go find something you like to play with in the room and bring it back to the circle. Ready?" *(Call two or three kids at a time until all the kids have had a chance. You could give them a count down from five to hurry their choosing process.)*

**During the Activity:** "This is my friend (*say child's name*), and he/she is going to tell us about something he/she likes to play with in the room. Remember to use your listening ears and quiet lips. *(Pause.)* Great job, (*child's name*). Next up is ... *(repeat until all the children have had a turn)*. You guys taught me a lot today! Everybody go put your toys back and then meet me over here in our circle."

**After the Activity:** "That was so much fun! Thank you for teaching us all about the things you love in our class. I love to learn more about you, because you are my friends! Today in our Bible story we are going to hear how Jesus taught others, even as a boy!"



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## GAME

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

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## HOW MANY PEOPLE?

"How Many People?" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while encouraging kids to use their bodies to fill the heart.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Painter's tape

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Make a medium- to large-sized heart on the floor with the tape.

**During the Activity:** Encourage a couple of kids to stand in the heart and count how many friends are in the heart. Ask if there's room for more. Invite more to join you in the heart. Count how many fit now. Sit down in the heart.

**After the Activity:** Introduce the Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Hey, friends! What do you see on the floor? (Pause.) A heart! That's right!"

**During the Activity:** "Let's see how many friends can fit in the heart. (Ask two or three kids to stand in the heart with you.) Wow! Let's count how many friends are in the heart. (Count out loud.) Do we have room to add some more friends? (Pause.) Great! Hey friends! (Call the rest of the kids by name.) Come over and stand in the heart with us. (Pause.) How many friends are in the heart now? (Count out loud.) Wow! We have (number) in the heart! That's fantastic! Now sit down right where you are."

**After the Activity:** "Super job! There was room in the heart for all of you and even more friends! Hearts make me think of love. Today we are going to learn about loving just like Jesus!"



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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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## BE THE TEACHER

"Be the Teacher" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while children pretend to be teachers as they show off their talents.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Dress-up clothes and books

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Help kids get into their dress-up clothes, if needed.

**During the Activity:** Let kids take turns being teachers and students.

**After the Activity:** Introduce the Bible story.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Let's play teacher! We'll take turns being the teacher and the students."

**During the Activity:** "Let's sit down and let (say child's name) be the teacher. (Pause.) You were a great teacher! Now let's let (say child's name) be the teacher." (Continue until all children have a chance to play the teacher.)

**After the Activity:** "Today we are going to hear a Bible story about when Jesus was a teacher!"



### 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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## WORDS AND MOTIONS

"Words and Motions" is an activity that helps kids learn the words and motions to this month's Memory Verse.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Spread out in an open area in the room.

**During the Activity:** Teach the kids the words and motions for this month's Memory Verse. Repeat as many times as desired.

**After the Activity:** Say the Bottom Line together.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Come spread out in a circle around me. (Pause.) We have a new Memory Verse and motions to learn today!"

**During the Activity:** "I'm going to say the new verse and do the motions and then we'll do it together. Watch and listen. "'Come (motion toward yourself with hand), and follow me' (march), Jesus said" (put hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19. (Open your hands like a book.) Okay, this time let's do it together. (Repeat slowly.) Super job! Sit down on the floor right where you are."

**After the Activity:** "Today we heard a story from the Bible about how Jesus taught us to love God and love people, so we should follow Him. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"



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### 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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## JESUS TEACHES

"Jesus Teaches" is an activity that retells the Bible story while the children use fine motor skills to fill in the hearts on their papers.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Love God and People" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, red dot markers, and a marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy "Love God and People" on cardstock, one per child.

**During the Activity:** Retell the Bible story as kids fill in the hearts on their paper with a red dot marker. Write children's names on their papers.

**After the Activity:** Say the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Today's Bible story started when Jesus was a boy."

**During the Activity:** "Jesus was a kid just like you! (*Point to kids.*) Most kids like to play with toys, eat ice cream, and read stories. But even when He was a kid, Jesus knew He had a special job to do. One day, when His mom and dad took Him to the temple, which is like a church, Jesus stayed for a long time and talked to His teachers about God. He told them about how we should all love God and love people. Look at your paper. That's what your paper says. Love God. Love people. See the hearts on your paper? Fill those in with your dot marker. When Jesus grew up, He became a teacher—the best teacher EVER. Everyone wanted to hear what He had to say. Everywhere He went, people followed Him. They followed Him here. They followed Him there. They went everywhere Jesus went to hear Him teach. He knew that everyone needed to know that they should love God and love people." (*Write children's names on their papers.*)

**After the Activity:** "Jesus came because He wants to be our friend forever. Jesus taught us to love God and love people. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"



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## LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

"Love God, Love People" is an activity that encourages kids to use their gross motor skills and balance.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Painter's tape (if the large heart from "How Many People" in Make It Fun wasn't used)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Make a large heart on the floor with painter's tape.

**During the Activity:** Stand on the heart outline and shout, "Love God!" Jump inside the heart and shout, "Love people!" Jump back to the outline and shout, "Love God!" Jump to the inside and shout, "Love people!" (Repeat as many times as desired.)

**After the Activity:** Find a seat in or on the heart and say the Bottom Line together.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Hey friends, come over here and stand on this great big heart. Today in our Bible story we learned that even when Jesus was a little boy, He knew He was going to be a teacher. He taught us to love God and love people."

**During the Activity:** "On the count of three, shout with me: Love God! One, two three: Love God! Awesome, friends! Now, jump inside the heart and shout with me: Love people! Love people!" (Repeat as many times as desired.)

**After the Activity:** "That was fantastic! Sit down where you are. (Pause.) God sent Jesus to be our friend and He taught us to love God and love people. Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever so we should follow Him! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"



## 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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## LOVE ...

"Love ..." is an activity that reintroduces the Bible story while children use their fine motor skills to make a heart with their hands.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Love ..." from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, a large red washable ink pad, wet wipes, and a marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy "Love ..." on cardstock, one per child.

**During the Activity:** Talk about the Bible story as you help the kids make a heart with their hands and then stamp the hand heart on the paper. Wipe hands off. Write children's names on their papers and set them aside to dry.

**After the Activity:** Say the Bottom Line together.

*You can see a sample of this craft on the March 2016 Pinterest board found on the First Look Curriculum's Pinterest page. <https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/>*

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "In our Bible story we learned that even when Jesus was a little boy He knew He was meant to be a teacher!"

**During the Activity:** "He taught the people then and you and me now that we are supposed to love God and love people. Say that with me. Love God, and love people. (Repeat.) We are going to make a heart using your hands today! Hold your hands up like this. (Demonstrate.) Now look through your heart. I see ... (name all the children and leaders at the table with you) and I love you too! Now let's take those hearts of yours and put them on your paper. (Ink the outer edge of the children's hands and stamp them, one at a time. Help clean hands. Write names on papers and put them aside.) Look at all the love in this room! We are doing what Jesus said! Love God, and love people!"

**After the Activity:** "Jesus wants to be our friend forever, so we should follow Him. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"