



JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER



Editor in Chief: Kathy Hill

Copy Editor: Dana Wilkerson

Curriculum Writer: Ashley Hiers

Illustrator: Jodi Blackwell

Graphic Designers: Sharon van Rossum, David Hill

FL Creative Team: Sue Miller, Lois Pallansch, Kathy Hill, Kendra Fleming, Autumn Ward, Ashley Hiers, Donna High, Danielle Schneller, Mary Beth Brannan

Chief Executive Officer: Reggie Joiner

Chief Operating Officer: Reggie Goodin

Executive Director: Sue Miller

Technical and Web Support: Hadley Brandt

Partner Support: Deb Springer

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. These resources are intended to be downloaded and printed for use by the subscribing entity only and may not be electronically transferred to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. Any unauthorized reproduction of this material or incorporation into a new work is a direct violation of US copyright laws. ©2016 Orange. All rights reserved. First Look® and the First Look® logo are trademarks of Orange.

“STATEMENT OF FAITH” USER AGREEMENT

Orange gladly grants permission to churches, schools, and other licensees to tailor First Look® materials to fit their unique leadership requirements, locale and format preferences, and physical environment needs. However, if you wish to edit the content substantively, including Bible stories, learning activities, scripts, and any other content in which biblical principles and concepts are presented, you are obligated to do so within the doctrinal guidelines we’ve expressed in our Statement of Faith.



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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels**

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.

- Catch the Fish
- Who Does What?
- Read About It

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.

- Love All Around
- Follow Me
- Follow the Love
- Spread the 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.

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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels**

CATCH THE FISH

"Catch the Fish" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while children use gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination to catch the fish.

WHAT YOU NEED: Ball pit balls, bucket, and aquarium fishnets

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Scatter balls in an open area on the floor.

During the Activity: Give kids fishnets and have them try and catch the fish. Once fish are caught, put them in the bucket. Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Sit down and introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hello, boys and girls! Let's pretend these balls are fish."

During the Activity: "Let's go fishing! (*Hand out nets.*) When you catch a fish, go put it in the bucket. (*Pause.*) Keep fishing! (*Pause.*) Great job! Let's do it again!" (*Repeat as many times as desired.*)

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! You are great fishermen! We're going to hear about some fishermen today in our Bible story."



MAKE IT FUN

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



GAME

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

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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels**

WHO DOES WHAT?

“Who Does What?” is an activity that introduces this week’s Bible story while encouraging kids to use their cognitive thinking skills and fine motor skills to match the person to the activity.

WHAT YOU NEED: “Occupations” from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy “Occupations” on cardstock and cut out. Spread out on the table.

During the Activity: Encourage kids to match the cards—the fish to the fisherman, etc. Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: “Hey, friends! Look at these cards. What do you see? (Pause.) Let’s sit down and see if we can match them.”

During the Activity: “What about this picture? What do you see? (Pick up the fish picture.) Who or what would be a match for the fish? (Pause.) The fisherman! Super job! Who can find another match? (Help as needed.) Wow! Great job! You matched them! Keep going! (Continue with all matches.) Super job! You matched all the cards!”

After the Activity: “All of these cards are jobs people do. There is a fisherman, fireman, doctor, and teacher. All these jobs are important! Today we’ll hear about some fishermen and a teacher!”



MAKE IT FUN

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



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.

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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels**

READ ABOUT IT

"Read About It" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while kids investigate books about different occupations.

WHAT YOU NEED: Books about different community helpers (*make sure to include an appropriate book or two about fishermen*)

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place all the books out at a table, standing up.

During the Activity: Have kids come and investigate the books.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Come to the table and look at all these fun books!"

During the Activity: "Look at this book. What do you think it's about? (*Pause.*) Let's look at it. What about this one?" (*Continue as long as there is interest.*)

After the Activity: "Today we are going to hear about different jobs people do."



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.

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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels

LOVE ALL AROUND

“Love All Around” is an activity that helps kids recite this month’s Memory Verse as they follow the leader around the heart.

WHAT YOU NEED: Painter’s tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Make a large heart on the floor with the tape. (You can use the heart from Week 1 if it’s still intact.)

During the Activity: Follow the leader around the heart as you say 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 stand on this great big heart with me. (Pause.) Today you are going to follow me around the heart as we say our Memory Verse!”

During the Activity: “Ready to follow? (Start walking around the heart.) Here we go! “Come, and follow me,” Jesus said,’ Matthew 4:19. (Repeat until you get back to where you started.) Let’s do it again, but this time I’m going to lead from this end. (The end of the line will now become the beginning. Say the verse until you get back to where you started.) Fantastic job, friends! Find a seat right where you are on the heart.”

After the Activity: “Today we heard in our Bible story that Jesus had a job for the fishermen, and He has a job for us too. We are to follow what Jesus did and tell people that God loves them. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**”



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.

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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels**

FOLLOW ME



"Follow Me" is an activity that retells the Bible story while the children use fine motor skills to add people to their paper.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Follow Me" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, gingerbread people cutouts, glue sticks, and a marker (*Option: "Gingerbread people" Activity Page is provided if you choose to copy rather than buy from store.*)

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Follow Me" on cardstock, one per child.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story as kids glue people to their paper. Write children's names on their papers and set them aside.

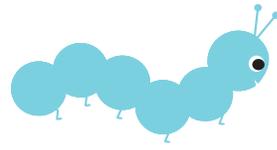
After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line.

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: "We heard a great Bible story today about when Jesus called out to some of His friends that were fishing."

During the Activity: "Every morning they'd go out to fish. And every night, they'd go home and sell the fish they caught. They were hard workers, BUT they were not teachers. A teacher's job is to teach! The fishermen were SO SURPRISED that one day Jesus called to them. 'Come, follow me!' Jesus said. The fishermen thought Jesus must be talking to someone else. They knew how to catch fish. Remember, that was their job. They didn't know how to teach people like Jesus. Do you think Jesus was talking to the fishermen? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus said, 'We have an important job to do! God sent me to tell everyone that He loves them, and I want you to help me!' So the fishermen came to the shore where Jesus was and put down their nets and they followed Jesus. They knew that Jesus came to be their friend forever, so they followed Him! Jesus wants to be your friend forever too! (*Hand out Activity Pages.*) Look at your papers. See the big heart and Jesus walking to it? (*Pause.*) Let's



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.

add these people (*hold up gingerbread person*) to your paper so they can follow Jesus. (*Pause.*) Fantastic!" (*Write names on their papers and put aside to dry.*)

After the Activity: "God sent Jesus to do an important job. Jesus came because He wants to be our friend forever. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"



MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



MOVEMENT

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

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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels

FOLLOW THE LOVE

"Follow the Love" is an activity that encourages kids to copy what the leader does.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Follow the Love" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, red cardstock, sentence strip, scissors, and stapler

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Follow the Love" on red cardstock and cut out. Attach to the center of the sentence strip. Measure the sentence strip around leader's head and staple.

During the Activity: Have the kids spread out in an open area of the room and have them follow you as you move around the room and do different actions while saying, "Follow me."

After the Activity: Sit down and 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/>

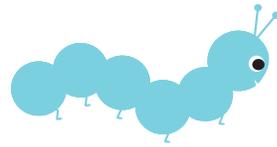
WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends, come stand with me over here. See my fun hat? This is my love hat. I want you to follow me and do what I do. Are you ready?"

During the Activity: "Watch me and follow what I do. (Clap hands.) Follow me! (Jump up and down.) Follow me! (March around room.) Follow me! (Turn around.) Follow me! (Give a hug.) Follow me!" (Continue with different fun actions for as long as desired.)

After the Activity: "You guys did a great job following! In our Bible story Jesus asked His friends, the fishermen, to follow Him and tell others that God loves them.

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.

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 do an important job.
Follow Me • The Gospels**

SPREAD THE LOVE

"Spread the Love" is an activity that reintroduces the Bible story while children use their fine motor skills to squish and spread paint on their paper.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Spread" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, red tempera paint, wet wipes, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Spread" on cardstock, one per child. Fold papers in half.

During the Activity: Squirt a small amount of paint on the inside of the paper. Talk about the Bible story as kids squish and spread the paint around. Open up the papers and show the kids what their paper looks like. Write children's names on their papers and set 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: "What a great Bible story we heard today! We learned that God sent Jesus to tell everyone that He loves them."

During the Activity: "Look on your paper. (*Unfold the paper.*) What do you see? (*Pause.*) A heart! That's right! Everybody put your hands up high in the air. I'm going to put a little bit of paint on your paper and fold it back. Now rub your hand over your paper. (*Pause.*) God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. Jesus told the fishermen that He had a job for them. Jesus wanted them to help Him tell others that God loves them. We are to spread the love. Open up the papers and show the kids what spreading God's love looks like. (*Pause.*) Isn't that neat?! We can spread the news to everybody that God loves them!" (*Write names on papers and set them aside.*)

After the Activity: "Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus. Say it again. I can follow Jesus."