



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

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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 be
my friend forever.
Easter •
Matthew 26:20-30,
27:1-2, 28:1-2**

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.

- **Come and Go**
- **1, 2, 3**
- **Dinner Party**

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.

- **I Am With You**
- **Easter**
- **Heart Times 3**
- **He Came Back**



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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COME AND GO

"Come and Go" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story while children use gross motor skills to lift the parachute up and over themselves.

WHAT YOU NEED: Parachute

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Spread out the parachute on an open area on the floor.

During the Activity: Tell kids to grab an edge and lift the parachute as high as they can three times. On the third time teach kids to go under and pull it down behind them. Introduce the phrases "went away" and "came back." 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! Come stand around the parachute."

During the Activity: "Grab an edge. (Pause.) Now we are going to try and lift it as high as we can three times. Will you count with me? (Pause.) Great! Lift it super high! One. Lift it super high again! Two. Lift it really high and go under. Three! Awesome job, friends! We went away! Now let's come back and do it again!" (Repeat as many times as desired.)

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! Today, we are going to hear an amazing Bible story about when Jesus went away and three days later He came back!"



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GAME

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

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1, 2, 3

"1, 2, 3" is a counting activity that utilizes fine motor skills while introducing the number three.

WHAT YOU NEED: A bucket of pom-poms in various colors

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place bucket on the table or floor. If you have a larger group, divide pom-poms into several buckets.

During the Activity: Call out a color and have the kids find three pom-poms of that color. When they find their three, have them shout out, "Three!" Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Everyone grabs a handful of pom-poms. At the count of three, kids will toss the pom-poms up in the air and then clean them up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to hear a super exciting, super special Bible story today! But before we do, we need to do some counting. Can you count with me? (Pause.) Great! Sit down and get your listening ears on."

During the Activity: "Now that you are sitting nicely and your listening ears are on, I want you to find one, two three, (*hold up fingers*) white pom-poms. When you've found your three pom-poms, shout, 'THREE!' Ready and go! (Pause.) Great job! Now let's find three pink pom-poms. (Pause.) Super duper! (*Repeat as many times as desired.*) Count with me: one, two three! Three is an important number in our story today. Let's count again: one, two, three! Super duper!"

After the Activity: "You all did such an amazing job counting to three! Grab a handful of pom-poms and let's do it one more time. This time, when we get to three, I want you to toss your pom-poms in the air. Are you ready? (Pause.) Get your pom-poms ready. One, two, three! (*Toss the pompoms in the air.*) Hooray! That was fun. Let's clean them up as we count to three. One, two, three, clean them up! One, two, three, clean them up. Thanks for helping me clean them up!"



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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DINNER PARTY

"Dinner Party" is an activity that introduces this week's Bible story focus through imaginative play in the kitchen area.

WHAT YOU NEED: Plates, cups, food, utensils, and tablecloth (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO: Let children set the table and prepare food for a very special guest.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Can you pretend with me today? (*Pause.*) Let's pretend we are going to have a party to celebrate someone super special! Can you help me get ready? (*Pause.*) Terrific! It's great to have friends!"

During the Activity: "Who can help me get the plates, cups, forks, and spoons? (*Pause.*) Great! We need to set the table really nice! Help me set the table. (*Pause.*) Super job! We need food! We can't have a party without food! What should we make? (*Pause.*) Oh! That sounds good, let's get cooking! (*Pause.*) Wow! What a wonderful dinner you've prepared! Great job!"

After the Activity: "You made everything look so nice! There is a special dinner—a lot like you've prepared today—and a celebration that we will hear more about in our Bible story."



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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PASS THE HEART

“Pass the Heart” is an activity that helps kids recite the words to this month’s Memory Verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: Red heart pillow

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Sit down in a close circle.

During the Activity: Pass the heart pillow as you say this month’s Verse. Repeat as many times as desired.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: “Come sit down in a circle with me. (Pause.) What is this that I’m holding? (Hold up the heart pillow.) It’s the heart pillow! When we say our Memory Verse we’ll pass the heart around.”

During the Activity: (Pass the heart on each word.) ““Come, and follow me,” Jesus said,” Matthew 4:19. Super job! Let’s do it again.” (Repeat as many times as desired.)

After the Activity: “Today we heard a very special story from the Bible about when Jesus went away and came back. **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.

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EASTER

“Easter” is an activity that retells the Bible story while the children help put the pictures in the correct order.

WHAT YOU NEED: “Dinner,” “Closed Tomb,” and “Open Tomb” from the Activity Pages found on the Website, and cardstock

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy “Dinner,” “Closed Tomb,” and “Open Tomb” on cardstock.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story as kids help put the pictures in order.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: “We heard an amazing, true story from the Bible about when Jesus went away and then came back.”

During the Activity: “Now remember, this true story from the Bible has some sad parts, but I want you to remember the story ends with a really happy ending. So our story begins with Jesus and His friends eating a special supper together. Can you find that picture? *(Pause.)* Great job! Jesus and His friends were eating a meal together and then Jesus stood up and said one day soon He was going away. That made Jesus’ friends sad. The disciples were going to miss their friend, but Jesus promised that He was coming back. That night, Jesus and His friends went to a garden to pray. Suddenly some mean men came to where they were and took Jesus away. Those mean men hurt Jesus so much that He died. Oh, no! Jesus’ friends put His body in a tomb and closed it with a big rock. It was kind of like a cave, and the rock was so heavy that nobody could move it by themselves. Do you see the picture of the tomb with the rock in front of it? *(Pause.)* There it is. Three days went by. *(Hold up three fingers.)* Did you hear that? Three days! Then Jesus’ friend Mary went to the tomb. When she got there, she saw that the big rock was moved and that Jesus was gone! Can you find the picture with the rock rolled away? *(Pause.)* Good job! Where did Jesus go? *(Pause.)* Mary began to cry when an angel appeared and told her: ‘Jesus is alive!’ He came back just like He said he would. Jesus kept His



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promise, He came back just like He said He would, He loves us more than we will ever understand, and He wants to be our friend forever.”

After the Activity: “There’s no other friend like Him. Jesus wants to be our friend forever, so we should follow Him! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**”



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MOVEMENT

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HEART TIMES 3

"Heart Times 3" is an activity that encourages kids to use their gross motor skills and balance.

WHAT YOU NEED: Painter's tape (or use the heart on the floor from previous weeks)

WHAT YOU DO:

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

During the Activity: Have the kids stand on the outside of the heart and when you ask who wants to be their friend forever, have them jump into the heart and yell, "Jesus!" Repeat as many times as desired.

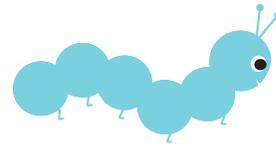
After the Activity: Find a seat in or on the heart and say the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hey friends, come over here and find a spot on the heart. (Pause.) We've been learning that Jesus wants to be my friend and your friend forever!"

During the Activity: "When I ask you who wants to be your friend forever, you shout, 'Jesus,' and jump in the heart. Ready? (Pause.) Here we go! Who wants to be your friend forever? (Pause.) Jesus! (Jump!) This time when I ask, you'll jump out. Who wants to be your friend forever? (Pause.) Jesus! (Jump!) Who wants to be your friend forever? (Pause.) Jesus! (Jump!) Awesome! (Repeat as many times as desired.) Find a seat on the heart."

After the Activity: "You guys know that Jesus is the one who wants to be your friend forever and 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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HE CAME BACK

“He Came Back” is an activity that reintroduces the Bible story while children use their fine motor skills to add the stone to their paper.

WHAT YOU NEED: “He Came Back” and “Stone” from the Activity Pages found on the Website, white and gray cardstock, scissors, glue sticks, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy “He Came Back” on white cardstock, one per child. Copy “Stone” on gray cardstock and cut out, one stone per child.

During the Activity: Talk about the Bible story as kids add the stones to their paper. Write children’s names on papers.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: “What a great Bible story we heard today! We learned that Jesus loves us so much that He went away and came back just like He said He would.”

During the Activity: “Look on your paper. What do you see? (Pause.) There’s the tomb where Jesus went. His friends put a great big rock (*hold up a stone*) in front of the opening to keep Jesus safe. (*Put the stone in front of the opening.*) This was a super heavy rock. Count with me. One, two, three days went by and Mary went to visit, and when she got there, the great big rock had been moved away and Jesus wasn’t there! Let’s glue the rock right here on the side of the opening. (Pause.) Mary was upset, but an angel told her that Jesus had come back! Jesus kept His promise and came back! Yay!” (*Write names on papers.*)

After the Activity: “Jesus said He had to go away but He would come back in three (*hold up three fingers*) days. Jesus kept His promise and He wants to be your friend, and your friend, and my friend forever! (*Point to all the kids.*) **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** Say it again. **I can follow Jesus.**”