

MAKE IT TRUE

After children have participated in Make It Fun, gather them on a rug or in the corner of the room.

Encourage the kids to have fun singing with you and then share the Bible Story.

Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's OK. They're still listening and learning!

FIRST LOOK OFFERS A WEEKLY BIBLE STORY ON OUR DVD TITLED "WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY," WHICH YOU MAY CHOOSE TO USE RATHER THAN A LIVE STORYTELLER THIS WEEK. THIS DVD IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT WWW.ORANGESTORE.ORG



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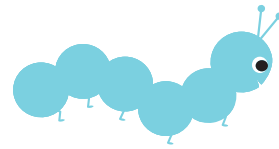
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MAKE IT TRUE

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**

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: CD player, this month’s worship song, “My Friend Forever,” downloaded from the Web site, and the motions for the song.

LEADER: “Good morning friends! This month is going to be amazing because we are talking all about our good friend, Jesus, all month long! Jesus came to teach us about God and to be our friend forever. Yes! He wants to be our friend forever, and He wants us to follow Him. Yes, **I can follow Jesus** because He came to be my friend forever. Let’s sing about that!

Lead children in singing “My Friend Forever.”

LEADER: “You all did a fabulous job with our new song. Jesus is AWESOME and and He loves you and He wants to be our friend forever. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**”

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

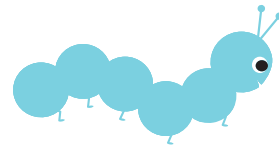
LEADER: *(Lay Bible down in front of you.)* “Come here, everyone, and sit with me! It’s story time! Yay for story time! Our story comes from this very special book—the Bible! *(Hold up Bible, give it a big hug, and lay it down.)*

“We love the Bible because it has God’s stories in it. And God’s stories are always TRUE! *(Thumbs up.)*

“The Bible story today begins with a boy named ... can you make a drumroll with your legs? *(Pause. Demonstrate patting on legs.)* JESUS! That’s right! Great job. Hands in your lap now.

“We don’t normally think of Jesus as a kid, but He was, just like you! *(Point to kids.)* Now, most kids like to play toys ... and eat ice cream ... and read stories! But even when Jesus was a kid, He 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.



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“And then Jesus grew up. And 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 followed Jesus everywhere to hear Him teach. He knew that everyone needed to know that they should love God and love people. Jesus came because He wants to be our friend forever. He wants us to follow Him. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**”

“You guys try it with me. I’ll ask: **‘Who can you follow?’** And you guys say, **‘I can follow Jesus!’** Ready?! **Who can you follow?’**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “I can follow Jesus!”

LEADER: “Great job! But I think you guys could say it a tad louder. Ready? **Who can you follow?’**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “I can follow Jesus!”

LEADER: “Excellent! It’s true, friends! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You for this amazing story in the Bible to teach us that we can follow Jesus. We love You, God! Amen.

“Great listening today, friends!”