



JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.



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BASIC TRUTH

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

KEY QUESTION

WHY IS JESUS SPECIAL?

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS IS GOD'S SON.

MEMORY VERSE

**"I bring you good news of great
joy." Luke 2:10, NLV**

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**The angel told Mary she would
have a special baby.
The Angel and Mary
• Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46**

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.

- Find That Bow
- That's a Wrap
- Delivering the Mail

MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- Worship
- Introductory Sketch
- 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.

- Memory Verse with Motions
- The Angel and Mary
- Countdown to Christmas
- Best News Ever Dance Off
- Christmas Card

MAKE IT REAL

Make It Real is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests. Divide kids into small groups of about five to eight children with each leader. Ideally, assign the same small group leader to the same group of preschoolers for the entire year.

- Small Group Time
- Prayer



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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FIND THAT BOW

"Find That Bow" is an activity that uses listening skills, gross motor movement, and color recognition to introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: A bag of small gift bows in a variety of colors

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Drop the bows in the center of an open area of the room. Gather the children around the bows on the floor.

During the Activity: Call out a color and encourage the children to find one bow in that color and raise it up above their heads. Then let the children put their bows down and repeat with a different color that you call out.

WHAT YOU SAY:

During the Activity: "What do you see on the floor? (Pause.) Bows! Great job! Do you see how many different colors there are? I'm going to call out a color and I want each of you to grab ONE bow in that color and hold it up over your head. Are you ready? Okay! Everyone find a RED bow!" (Repeat with several different colors.)

After the Activity: "You know your colors! Great job, everyone. What do we use these for? (Pause for responses.) That's right; we use them when we're wrapping a gift. Maybe you already have some gifts under your tree at home. This month we're going to hear about the best gift ever! I can't wait to go to Large Group and find out what it is!"



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GAME

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

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THAT'S A WRAP

"That's a Wrap" is an activity that teaches concentration, number recognition, and large motor skills.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Numbers 1-4" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white paper, 4 boxes of different sizes, Christmas wrapping paper, scissors, clear tape, and beanbags

(Note: You will need the wrapped boxes for next week. Be sure to save them if possible.)

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Numbers 1-4" onto the white paper. Cut each page in half along the dotted lines. Open the top of each box. Cut off any flaps so that the top of the box is completely open. Using the Christmas wrapping paper, wrap the outside of each box, leaving the top open. Tape the number "4" to the front of the largest box. Tape the number "3" to the front of the second to largest box and so on until the number "1" is taped to the smallest box. Place the boxes next to each other in reverse order in the activity area. Make sure the numbers are showing. Make sure the number "4" box is first, then the number "3" box, etc. Place the boxes about five feet apart.

During the Activity: Have the children stand in front of the number "4" box and encourage the child to try to toss the beanbag into the box. Give each child three tries. When the child is finished with the number "4" box, encourage the child to move the number "3" box and try to toss the beanbag into that box.

After the Activity: Continue the activity until each child has tossed the beanbag into all four of the boxes.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "What pretty paper! (Point to the boxes.) They look like Christmas presents! I also see numbers on these boxes. Let's see if we can read the numbers."

During the Activity: (Point to the number on the first box.) "This number has dots under it. Let's count the dots to see what number it is. (Point to the dots as you count them.) 'One, two, three, and FOUR!' This is the number FOUR! (Point.) Let's see if you



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can toss a beanbag in the box with the number four on it. Are you ready? (*Do activity.*) Great job! Now let's see if we can read the number on the next box. (*Point to the dots as you count.*) 'One, two, and THREE!' Yes! This is the number THREE! Can you toss the beanbag into box number three?" (*Continue and finish activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! The numbers on the boxes were backwards. It went four, three, two, and one. Hmm . . . oh, I know! Since the numbers were on Christmas boxes, it must be the COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS! I just love Christmas! Something AMAZING and WONDERFUL happened on the very first Christmas. This month in Large Group we're going to find out what it was through our Bible stories! Are you ready to hear our first story today?"



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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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DELIVERING THE MAIL

"Delivering the Mail" is an activity that uses gross motor movements and pretend play to introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Several envelopes in any color (*at least one per child*), and a small metal mailbox OR a cardboard box that's decorated to look like a mailbox

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the mailbox in the middle of the table.

During the Activity: Pass out the envelopes to each child. Encourage the children to place their "special messages" (*envelopes*) into the mailbox to be mailed to friends. Then pretend to be the mailman by taking out all of the "mail" from the mailbox and passing it out to each of the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "One way we receive special messages is through a letter or card in the mail! Today, we're going to send special messages to our friends! First, I'll give you a message to send." (*Pass out an envelope to each child.*)

During the Activity: "To mail our special messages, we need to put them in our mailbox! (*Point.*) Let's open the door to the mailbox and place our messages inside. (*Pause while children follow directions.*) Great job! Now, I'll be the mailman and collect these special messages from the mailbox and pass them out! (*Do so.*) Would someone else like to be our mailman for the next round?" (*Repeat as long as time and interest allows.*)

After the Activity: "You did a great job sending your special messages to your friends! It's fun to receive letters and cards in the mail, isn't it? Today in Large Group we'll hear about a very special message that Mary received, but it wasn't in a letter. Mary received a special message from an angel. Can you believe that? I love to hear amazing, true stories like that from the Bible. Now let's go to Large Group!"



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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MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

"Memory Verse with Motions" is an activity that uses repetition and movement to teach the memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse with the children several times.

During the Activity: Teach the following motions to the children while saying the verse: I bring you (*start with hands up and bring them in to chest like catching a football*) good news (*right arm up with jazz hand*) of great joy (*left arm up with jazz hand*), Luke 2:10 (NLV). (*Open your hands like a book.*) Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We have a new memory verse this month. It says: I bring you good news of great joy, Luke 2:10. Now, let's say it together! (*Repeat several times.*) Nice job!"

During the Activity: "Now I am going to teach you some motions that we can do while we say our verse. Watch me and we can do them together. I bring you (*start with hands up and bring them in to chest like catching a football*) good news (*right arm up with jazz hand*) of great joy (*left arm up with jazz hand*), Luke 2:10 (NLV). (*Open your hands like a book.*) You are all doing so well! Let's do it again!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

After the Activity: "Way to go! WOW! Our memory verse tells us that God has some WONDERFUL news for us! And that is that His Son Jesus was born! He loves us SO MUCH that He gave us Jesus! That really is news of great joy! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"



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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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THE ANGEL AND MARY

"The Angel and Mary" is an activity that uses fine motor skills and shape recognition to review today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Angel/Mary Outline" and "Angel/Mary Figures" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, scissors, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Angel/Mary Outline" and the "Angel/Mary Figures" Activity Pages onto the cardstock. You will need one of each Activity Page per child.

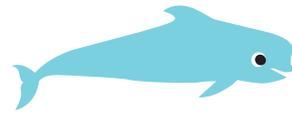
During the Activity: Pass out the "Angel/Mary Outline" page to each child. Point to each outline and ask the children to guess what the picture is that might fit into their outline. Now, pass out the "Angel/Mary Figures" page to each child. Help the children cut out the figures and then let them glue the figures to the outlines on their other page.

(Note: If the class is mostly younger threes, you may want to cut out the figures from the "Angel/Mary Figures" page ahead of time.)

WHAT YOU SAY:

During the Activity: "Today we learned about how Mary received a very special message from an angel! I have an outline page here of the angel and Mary. (Hold up.) Let's see if we can match our pictures to the outline. We'll use the glue to hold them in place. Are you ready? Let's get started!"

After the Activity: "I LOVE your pictures. You all did a great job! I'm so glad the angel told Mary that she would have a special baby. His name was Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"



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JUST FOR FIVES

An activity that calls on older preschoolers' more developed cognitive and fine motor skills while reviewing the Bible story, bottom line or memory verse.

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COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

"Countdown to Christmas" is an activity that allows the children to be creative and use critical thinking skills.

WHAT YOU NEED: 25-30 jumbo red craft sticks, 25-30 jumbo green craft sticks, and 2 small boxes

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the red craft sticks in one box and the green craft sticks in the other box. Place both boxes in the center of the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to take sticks from both boxes and use them to make shapes. Challenge them to make a square, triangle, rectangle, etc.

After the Activity: After the shapes are made, ask the children to try to make a house out of the sticks.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We have red and green sticks to play with today! (*Point.*) The colors red and green remind me of Christmas. This is perfect for our COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS!"

During Activity: "Let's use the red and green sticks to make shapes. Let's make a square. (*Pause.*) Great job! Now let's try to make a triangle. (*Pause.*) Perfect! You are so good at this! How about now we try to make a rectangle? (*Pause.*) WOW! Awesome job! Now I have a hard one. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Let's try to make a HOUSE! (*Pause.*) You did it! Way to go!"

After the Activity: "Great job! I love counting down to Christmas with you. Christmas is very special because it is Jesus' birthday! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"



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MOVEMENT

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BEST NEWS EVER DANCE OFF

"Best News Ever Dance Off" is an activity that uses gross motor skills and music to review today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: The song "Best News Ever" (*from AmberSkyRecords.com*) and a music player

WHAT YOU DO:

During the Activity: Gather the children in an open area of the room. Play the "Best News Ever" song and encourage the children to sing and dance along!

WHAT YOU SAY:

During the Activity: "Let's dance and sing about the 'BEST NEWS EVER!' God sent a special baby: Jesus! Are you ready? Let's dance!"

After the Activity: "That was super fun! I LOVE to dance and sing with you, friends. The news the angel gave to Mary really was the best news ever! Mary was scared at first when the angel appeared, until she heard his big news that she would have a baby! What was the name of the baby? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"



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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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CHRISTMAS CARD

"Christmas Card" is an activity that teaches the children about giving and telling others about Jesus.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Christmas Card" and "Card Note" from the Activity Pages on the Website, red cardstock, green paper, 4x6 envelopes, crayons, and Christmas stickers.

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Card Note" Activity Page onto the green paper and cut apart. Each child needs one card. Copy the "Christmas Card" Activity Page onto the red cardstock. Fold the card along the solid lines. Provide one for each child.

During the Activity: Give each child a card, stickers, and the crayons. Encourage the children to decorate the cover and the inside of the card with the stickers and the crayons. Give each child an envelope and help the child place the finished card inside.

After the Activity: Send the card in the envelope and a "Card Note" home with each child.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Christmas is a time to give! Let's make a Christmas card to give to someone special to us!"

During the Activity: (Give each child a card, stickers, and crayons.) "Use the stickers and the crayons to decorate your card on the front and on the inside. Make it BEAUTIFUL! While you are decorating, think of who you can give it to! It can be someone who lives with you, or you and your family can mail it to someone. Let's put your card in an envelope and get it ready to give it to someone."

After the Activity: "Your cards are BEAUTIFUL! It's so much fun to give something to someone, especially at Christmas time! I am so thankful that we were given Jesus. Our card tells about how Jesus was born and Jesus is God's Son! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"



MAKE IT REAL

A time for preschoolers to meet with a consistent small group leader, apply the lesson to their lives and pray together.

lead small.

Investing in a few to encourage their authentic faith.

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SMALL GROUP TIME

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" (from the Week One Activity Pages on the Website) in your Bible at Luke 2:10. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "This is my favorite time of the year! Want to guess why it's my favorite? (Pause for guesses.) It's Christmas time! There are lots of pretty decorations and fun music and yummy food, and of course there's PRESENTS! But better than all of that, Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday!

"The true story of Christmas is about when baby Jesus was born. Today we got to hear the beginning of the Christmas story. Do remember what happened at the very beginning? (Pause for response.) Right! God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have a special baby named Jesus. **Why is Jesus special?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus is God's Son!"

SGL: "Yes! **Jesus is God's Son!** So every time I ask you: '**Why is Jesus special?**' I want you to say: '**Jesus is God's Son.**' Got it? Okay, let me hear you. **Why is Jesus special?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus is God's Son!"

SGL: "Again! **Why is Jesus special?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus is God's Son!"

SGL: "I love hearing you say that! Do you know what I else I love hearing you say? Our new Bible verse!"

(Open Bible to memory verse card.)

SGL: "Our verse this month says (read verse from the Bible): I bring you good news of great joy, Luke 2:10. The good news is Jesus is born! Yay for good news! Yay for Jesus!"



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(Lay Bible down.)

SGL: "Let's say this verse together with the motions. Here we go!"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "I bring you *(start with hands up and bring them in to chest like catching a football)* good news *(right arm up with jazz hand)* of great joy *(left arm up with jazz hand)*, Luke 2:10." *(Open your hands like a book.)*
(Repeat the verse with the motions several times together.)

SGL: "And there's more good news! Ready for this? *(Dramatic pause.)* Jesus wants to be your friend forever! It's true! God's Son, JESUS, wants to be YOUR friend forever! Who wants to be your friend forever?"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

SGL: "That gives me an idea for our prayer journal. Today let's make a list of our friends, and when we pray we can ask God to help all of our friends hear the good news about Jesus this Christmas."
(Open prayer journal and hold your fun pen.)

SGL: "I have my pen ready. When I say your name, tell me some of your friends and I'll write their names in our prayer journal."

(Write each child's name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

SGL: "Would anyone like to pray for their friends before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

SGL: "Now I will pray."

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that He wants to be our friend forever. Thank You for a church where we can hear the true story of Christmas. Please help [child's name]'s friend, [friend's name], and . . . *(repeat for each child)* to all hear the true story of Christmas this year. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."