



JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.



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BASIC TRUTH

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

KEY QUESTION

WHO LOVES YOU?

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS LOVES ME.

MEMORY VERSE

**"How wide and long and high
and deep is the love of Christ."
Ephesians 3:18, NIV**

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**Jesus wants to help me.
The Centurion
• Matthew 8:5-13**

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.

- Move Around
- Pillow Helper
- Gel Bag

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.

- Stick Hearts
- YES!
- My God Is So Big
- Heart Prints



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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MOVE AROUND

"Move Around" is an activity that teaches listening and following directions.

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in a circle.

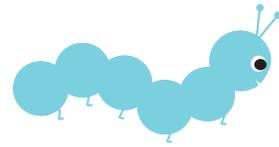
During the Activity: Call out different movements and ask the children to do each movement. Examples of movements: jump, stomp, clap, touch toes, march, spin, and twist. Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's get moving! I will say a movement and we can do it together. Are you ready?"

During the Activity: "JUMP! (Allow children to jump.) STOMP!" (Allow the children to stomp.) (Continue with the activity.)

After the Activity: "Great job moving around! You listened very well and did what I asked. In our story today, Jesus was asked to do something too. Let's get ready to hear our true story from the Bible and find out what it was!"



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GAME

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

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PILLOW HELPER

"Pillow Helper" is an activity that teaches the children teamwork and how to be a good helper.

WHAT YOU NEED: A large pillow and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place a small piece of tape on the floor of one end of the activity area and another piece directly in front of the first piece. The pieces need to be at least 10 feet apart.

During the Activity: Divide the children into pairs. Have the pairs line up behind one of the pieces of tape. Give the first pair of children the pillow. Encourage them to hold the pillow together. Challenge the children to work together and carry the pillow to the other piece of tape and then back to the original piece of tape. Then have the two children hand the pillow to the next two children in line and repeat. Be sure that every pair of children gets a turn.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's be helpers today!"

During the Activity: "Everyone choose a friend to help. (*Divide the children into pairs.*) Great job! Now everyone line up with your friend on this line. (*Point.*) (*Give the first two children in line the pillow.*) Help each other carry the pillow to this line (*point*) and then carry the pillow back to this line. (*Point.*) Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Awesome teamwork! I love how you helped your friends! We are going to hear about someone who also is a great helper in our Bible story today. I can't wait for you to hear it!"



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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GEL BAG

"Gel Bag" is an activity that invites the children to use their sense of touch while introducing today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Gallon-sized zip-top bags, blue shaving cream or hair gel, hot glue gun, hot glue, and foam hearts or heart confetti

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Fill the bag half full of gel. Place several hearts inside the bag. Squeeze the bag until all of the air is out of the bag and press the top to seal the bag. Use the glue gun to reinforce the seal. Make one bag per every three children in your class.

(NOTE: A hot glue gun should never be used near young children. Be sure to either use the glue gun before the children arrive or in an area away from the children.)

During the Activity: Lay the bags flat in the activity area. Invite the children to use their hands to touch, poke, and squeeze the bags in order to find the hearts inside the gel.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hearts remind me of love. Let's see if we can find some hearts!"

During the Activity: *(Point to the bags.)* "There are hearts inside the bags. Use your fingers to move the gel and see if you can find them." *(Demonstrate. Do activity.)*

After the Activity: "Nice job! You found all of the hearts! Hearts mean love. Our story today is about someone who loves us VERY much! Let's go find out who it is!"



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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STICK HEARTS

"Stick Hearts" is an activity that teaches the children listening skills and repetition while teaching this month's memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: 2 craft sticks, glue, and 2 medium-sized foam hearts

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Glue one heart to the top of each stick.

During the Activity: Say the memory verse with the children while you are holding the heart sticks. Ask the children to use their arms to copy what you do while you are holding the sticks. When you say the word "wide," hold the sticks out opposite each other horizontally. The children should hold their arms out wide. When you say the word "long," hold the sticks opposite of each other vertically. Have the children mimic with their arms. When you say the word "high," hold both sticks up high in the air. The children should do the same. When you say the word "deep," hold the sticks close to the floor. The children should touch the floor.

After the Activity: Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "I have hearts on these sticks, because our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us SO much! Watch what I do with the heart sticks and you do the same with your arms. Are you ready?"

During the Activity: (Hold the sticks.) "How wide (hold the sticks out opposite each other horizontally) and long (hold the sticks opposite of each other vertically) and high (hold the sticks up high in the air) and deep (hold the stick close to the floor) is the love of Christ, Ephesians 3:18. Nice job! Everyone look at me and let's try again! (Repeat activity.) Perfect!"

After the Activity: "Way to go! Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us SO much that it cannot even be measured! WOW! Tell me: **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



MAKE IT STICK

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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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YES!

"YES!" is an activity that gives the children an active role in the Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit around you.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story. When you say the word "HELP" have the children shout "YES."

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Jesus was a great helper in our story today. When I say, 'HELP,' I want you to say, 'YES,' because Jesus always says YES when we need help."

During the Activity: "Our story today was about the centurion. The centurion needed HELP. (*Children say YES.*) The centurion had a friend who really needed HELP. (*Children say YES.*) His friend was sick. He knew only one person that could HELP him. (*Children say YES.*) The centurion asked Jesus to HELP his friend. (*Children say YES.*) Did Jesus HELP? (*Children say YES.*) You got it!"

After the Activity: "Great job! You can stop saying YES now. Jesus did help the centurion and his friend. Jesus will always help us when we need Him too. Jesus loves us all very much! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!"**



MAKE IT STICK

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MY GOD IS SO BIG

"My God Is So Big" is an activity that teaches large motor skills and following directions.

WHAT YOU NEED: Music player and the song "My God Is So Big," and the motions from the Music Tab

WHAT YOU DO:

During the Activity: Turn on the song "My God is So Big" and review the motions.

After the Activity: Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Our God is SO Big! He loves us BIG too!"

During the Activity: "We are going to sing a special song today. Watch me and do what I do. Are you ready?" (*Play song and teach motions.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! God is SO BIG! He loves us BIG too! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



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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HEART PRINTS

"Heart Prints" is an activity that creates a keepsake for the children's families while reinforcing the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Dots" Activity Page, white cardstock, red or pink inkpads, and wet wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Dots" Activity Page onto the cardstock. You will need one page per child.

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page. Help the children place one finger onto the stamp pad. Help them make fingerprints on each of the dots on their Activity Page.

After the Activity: Wipe messy fingers with the wet wipes.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to make a heart with our fingers today!"

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page.) "Place your finger on the stamp pad, and wherever you see a dot, make a fingerprint on top of it." (Demonstrate. Do activity.)

After the Activity: "Great job! Your fingerprints have made a heart! (Point.) I love them. This heart can remind us that Jesus loves all of us! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"