



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 loves me no matter what.
The Thankful Woman
• Luke 7:36-50**

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.

- I Am Tall
- Heart Search
- Scratch and Sniff

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.

- Parachute
- Give a Heart
- Big Step, Little Step
- Heart Wreath



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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I AM TALL

"I Am Tall" is an activity that teaches size recognition and reinforces this month's theme.

WHAT YOU NEED: Large piece of butcher paper in any color, wall tape, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Hang the butcher paper on the wall vertically. One end of the paper should be at ground level.

During the Activity: Have each child stand against the paper. Draw a heart at the point of where the top of their head touches the paper.

After the Activity: Write the child's name inside their heart. Be sure to have a heart on the paper for each child.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's see how tall everyone is!"

During the Activity: "Stand against the paper and I will mark how tall you are with a heart. I cannot wait to find out how tall everyone is!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "WOW! (*Point to the finished height chart.*) We have some very tall friends in here! This month we are learning that Jesus loves us SO MUCH that we cannot even measure his love! It is TOO BIG! I cannot wait to hear another story about how much Jesus loves us!"



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GAME

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

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HEART SEARCH

"Heart Search" is an activity that teaches critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork skills.

WHAT YOU NEED: 15-20 large foam hearts

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the hearts in plain sight all over the activity area.

During the Activity: Sit in the middle of the activity area. Ask the children to go and search for the hearts and bring them back to you.

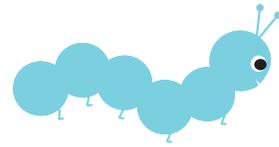
After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "There are hearts all over our room! (*Hold arms out wide looking around the room.*) Can you help me find them?"

During the Activity: "I am going to sit right here. (*Sit down.*) When you find a heart, please bring them to me! Let's see if you can find all of them."

After the Activity: "Great job! You found all of the hearts! These hearts remind me how much Jesus loves us! Today we are going to hear a story about a woman who made bad choices. Do you think that Jesus loves her too? (*Pause.*) I think so too! Let's go find out!"



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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SCRATCH AND SNIFF

"Scratch and Sniff" is an activity that teaches fine motor and sensory skills while introducing today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Scratch-and-sniff stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the stickers in the activity area.

During the Activity: Demonstrate to the children to how to scratch the stickers and smell them. Ask the children what they smell like.

After the Activity: Encourage the children to scratch and sniff them on their own.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to play with very special stickers today!"

During the Activity: "These stickers (*hold up*) are special because you can scratch them (*demonstrate*) and they smell (*sniff the sticker*). They have all different kinds of smells. Can you tell me what this smells like? (*Encourage a child to smell the sticker.*) That is really cool! Now scratch the other stickers and see what they smell like." (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: "Those were really cool stickers! We are going to hear a story today about something that smelled very good. Hmm. I wonder what it was! Let's hear our true story from the Bible and find out!"



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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PARACHUTE

"Parachute" is an activity that uses repetition and large motor skills to review the memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: Parachute or a large sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand around the parachute and each hold onto a piece of it.

During the Activity: Instruct the children to lift up the parachute and move their arms up and down while they are saying the memory verse.

After the Activity: Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Everyone gather around the parachute and hold onto it. Let's pick it up. (*Pick up parachute.*) Perfect! Now we can move the parachute by lifting our arms up and down. Let's practice. (*Move the parachute.*) Great job!"

During the Activity: "As we move our parachute, we are going to practice our memory verse for this month. Are you ready?" (*Do activity several times while saying the memory verse.*)

After the Activity: "Fantastic job! Our verse tells us that Jesus loves us SO much that it is longer and wider and higher and deeper than we can see! He loves us THAT MUCH! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



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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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GIVE A HEART

"Give a Heart" is an activity that reviews the Bible story while giving the children a visual aid of the main concept.

WHAT YOU NEED: Heart stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit around you.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story.

After the Activity: Give each child a heart sticker.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Everyone come and sit with me!"

During the Activity: "In our Bible story today, there was a woman who did not make very good choices. Everyone was mean to her and did not want to be her friend. But the woman was sad and she wanted a friend. She saw Jesus and she asked Him if she could wash His feet. Do you think He said no because of the bad choice she had made? (Pause.) No! He loved the woman anyway. Jesus loves everyone even if they make bad choices sometimes. The woman washed Jesus' feet and rubbed oil and perfume on them."

After the Activity: "God wants us to make good choices, but He will always love us, no matter what! (Pass out stickers.) Here are heart stickers. You can wear them on your shirt. These hearts remind us that Jesus loves all of us NO MATTER WHAT!"

Who loves you? Jesus loves me!"



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BIG STEP, LITTLE STEP

"Big Step, Little Step" is an activity that teaches listening skills and following directions while reinforcing this month's theme and the concept of today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Line the children up in a horizontal line facing you.

During the Activity: Stand about 10-15 feet in front of the children. Ask the children to take steps toward you only when you ask them to. Call out "big step" and have the children take a giant step towards you. Then call out "little step" and have the children take a baby step towards you. Say the steps in different sequences until the children reach you. Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Everyone line up next to each other and look at me!"

During the Activity: "I want you to all step towards me, BUT WAIT! You may only step when I tell you to. Listen very closely to see if I say to take a BIG (*demonstrate*) step or a LITTLE (*demonstrate*) step. Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "You are all such amazing listeners! You used your feet to come to me. In our story today, the woman washed Jesus' feet even though she had not made good choices. But He loved her anyway, just like He loves us! He loves us BIG! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



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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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HEART WREATH

"Heart Wreath" is an activity that creates a visual of the Bottom Line for the children to take home and display.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Middle" Activity Page, pink cardstock, scissors, glue sticks, small (6") paper plates, large heart stickers, hole punch, and yarn

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Middle" Activity Page onto the cardstock. Cut out each heart. Each child will need one heart. Punch a hole at the top of each plate. Cut the yarn into two-foot pieces. Tie one end of the yarn to the hole in the plate. The yarn will serve as a hanger. Each child will need one plate with a hanger.

During the Activity: Give each child a heart and a plate with a hanger. Help the children glue the heart into the middle of their plate. Encourage the children to place stickers all around the outside of the plate.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to make a special craft that you can hang up at your house. It will tell you and your family how much Jesus loves us."

During the Activity: (Give the children a heart and plate.) "Use your glue stick and glue the heart in the middle of the plate. (Allow the children to work.) Nice job! Now place the heart stickers all around the plate to make a beautiful wreath!"

After the Activity: "Perfect! Now you have a wreath that you can hang at home that says: 'Jesus loves me.' Jesus loves all of us so much no matter what! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"