



# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.



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### BASIC TRUTH

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

### KEY QUESTION

**HOW CAN YOU LOVE LIKE JESUS?**

### BOTTOM LINE

**I CAN LOVE EVERYONE.**

### MEMORY VERSE

**"Love one another."  
John 13:34, NIV**

### BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**I can share when I have a lot.  
Bigger Barns  
• Luke 12:16-21**

## 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.

- Shake It Up
- Building with Shapes
- Overflow

## 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.

- Barn Hop
- Barn Retell
- I Can Share
- Bigger Barn



## 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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## SHAKE IT UP

"Shake It Up" is an activity that uses fine motor skills and critical thinking to introduce today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 5 clean empty water bottles with lids, popcorn kernels, hot glue, and a hot glue gun

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Place a different number of kernels in each bottle according the following: Bottle 1: 5-6 kernels, Bottle 2: 10-12 kernels, Bottle 3: 15-17 kernels, Bottle 4: 20-25 kernels, Bottle 5: 50-60 kernels. Use the hot glue gun to secure the tops onto the bottles.

**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 far away from the children.

**During the Activity:** Place the bottles in the activity area. Encourage the children to shake the bottles.

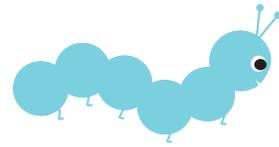
**After the Activity:** Discuss with the children how the bottles with different amounts of kernels make different sounds.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Let's SHAKE IT UP!"

**During the Activity:** "There are bottles with different amounts of popcorn kernels in them. (*Point.*) Let's shake them all and see what sounds they make. (*Do activity.*) Great job! I think the ones with more kernels are louder. What do you think?" (*Pause.*)

**After the Activity:** "Way to shake it up! The bottles with more kernels were a lot louder. Maybe next time we should take out some of the kernels from the bottle with A LOT and put them in the bottles with A LITTLE. Our story today is about someone who has A LOT. I cannot wait for you to hear it!"



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### GAME

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

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## BUILDING WITH SHAPES

"Building with Shapes" is an activity that teaches shape and size recognition while introducing this month's theme.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several shape sorters

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Place the shape sorters in the activity area.

**During the Activity:** Encourage the children to play with the shape sorters.

**After the Activity:** Introduce this month's theme and the Bible story.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Can you help me build today?"

**During the Activity:** "There are shapes that we need to put in the holes to build. We have to make sure the shape is the same as the hole that we put it in. Let's work together and get building with these shapes!"

**After the Activity:** "Awesome work! Our theme this month is all about building! We did a good job building. In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about someone who thought he needed to build something. I cannot wait to find out what it was!"



### 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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## OVERFLOW

"Overflow" is an activity that teaches teamwork and size differences while introducing a concept of today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large tub, extra large bag of pom-poms, small plastic cups, and several smaller containers (such as an empty oatmeal container, bowls, Tupperware® containers, etc.)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Place all of the pom-poms in the large tub. Place the smaller containers near the large tub in the activity area.

**During the Activity:** Encourage the children to use the cups to scoop some of the pom-poms out of the large tub and pour them into the smaller containers.

**After the Activity:** Challenge the children to try to scoop all of the pom-poms out of the large tub and fit them into the smaller containers. This should cause the smaller containers to overflow.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "WOW! We have A LOT of pom-poms in this tub." (*Point.*)

**During the Activity:** "Can you use these cups (*hold up*) and scoop out some of the pom-poms and put them in the smaller containers? (*Demonstrate.*) Great work! Hmm. There are still A LOT of pom-poms in this tub, though, (*point*) and A LITTLE in these containers (*point*). Can you scoop ALL of the pom-poms out of the large tub and put them into the small containers? (*Allow the children to work.*) UH-OH! It looks like we scooped too many! It is overflowing!"

**After the Activity:** "We are going to hear a TRUE story from the Bible today about someone who had A LOT—so much it was overflowing. Let's get ready to hear it!"



## 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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## BARN HOP

"Barn Hop" is an activity that uses movement and repetition to teach this month's memory verse.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Barn Hop" Activity Page, brown cardstock, and floor tape

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy "Barn Hop" on the brown cardstock. You will need four copies per small group. Tape each Activity Page onto the floor in a single file line about two feet from each other.

**During the Activity:** Say the memory verse with the class. Ask the children to line up in front of the first picture. Encourage the children to hop from picture to picture while saying the memory verse. Repeat several times.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "We have barns on the floor, just like in our Bible story today. Let's hop from barn to barn!"

**During the Activity:** "First, let's say our memory verse together. Love one another, John 13:34. Great job! Now let's say our memory verse as we hop from barn to barn!" (Say verse while hopping.)

**After the Activity:** "Way to hop! Our memory verse tells us that Jesus wants us to love EVERYONE and to always help each other. We can love like Jesus! Tell me:

**How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!"**



### 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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## BARN RETELL

"Barn Retell" is an activity that allows the children to work together to create a visual of today's Bible story while it is being retold.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Brown butcher paper, black marker, yellow tissue paper, glue, and wall tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Use the marker to draw a large barn on the butcher paper. Tape the paper to a wall. Tear the tissue paper into many small pieces and have the children glue the pieces to the barn as you retell the story.

**During the Activity:** Retell the Bible story.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** (Point to the barn.) "We have a barn and a lot of grain, just like in our story today."

**During the Activity:** "There was a man who had a lot grain. We can make food from grain. He tried to fit all his grain into his barn. Can you help me put this grain in the barn? (Lead children to fill barn with tissue until it overflows.) Oh no! There is too much grain. It won't fit in the barn. The man had two choices. He could build a BIGGER barn to put it all in. He really had A LOT of grain! Or he could share that grain with people. Jesus said that the right thing to do was to share the grain."

**After the Activity:** "Jesus wants us to share with others when we have a lot like the man in our story today, and He wants us to love everyone! **How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!**"



## MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



## MOVEMENT

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## I CAN SHARE

"I Can Share" is an activity that teaches children the concept of sharing.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large tub, large pom-poms, small bowls, and a small cup

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Fill the tub with the pom-poms. Pick a child to hold the tub. Place a bowl in front of each of the other children. Place one pom-pom in each bowl.

**During the Activity:** Tell the child who has the tub of many pom-poms that they have A LOT. Point to their friend's bowls and say they have A LITTLE. Ask the child to use the cup to share their pom-poms with their friends. Be sure that all of the children have a turn filling the bowls. If you have a large group, you may need to empty the bowls so that they can be filled again.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "WOW! Look at all of the pom-poms. (*Point. Pick a child to hold the tub.*) You have A LOT! I see we have some friends (*point to other children*) who have A LITTLE."

**During the Activity:** "Can you share some of your pom-poms with your friends? (*Do activity.*) Awesome job! It is so nice to share when you have A LOT!"

**After the Activity:** "Our story today told us that Jesus wants us to share with other people. He wants us to love and help everyone! **How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!**"



### 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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## BIGGER BARN

"Bigger Barn" is an activity that creates a visual of today's Bible story that the children can take home.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Barn Stylized" Activity Page, white cardstock, crayons, yellow tissue paper, and glue sticks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Before the Activity:** Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock. Tear the tissue paper into small pieces.

**During the Activity:** Encourage the children to color the barn.

**After the Activity:** After the barn is colored, help the children glue the tissue paper onto the barn. This represents the grain.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**Before the Activity:** "We heard a wonderful Bible story today!"

**During the Activity:** (Give each child an Activity Page and crayons.) "Use the crayons to color the barn. This barn reminds me of the barn in our story today. It is only missing grain!"

**After the Activity:** "Nice coloring! Now let's add the grain. (Hand out the tissue paper.) Use the glue stick to glue on the grain. (Allow the children to work.) Nice work! Our story tells us that Jesus wants us to share and love each other. **How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!**"