

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 little.
Widow's Mite
• Mark 12:41-44

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.

- Bubbles
- In the Bottle
- Building Books

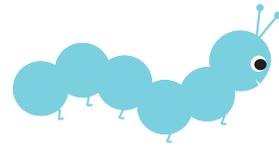
MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- 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.

- Coined Words
- In the Bank
- Love One Another
- Bank Craft



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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BUBBLES

"Bubbles" is an activity that utilizes movement and fun to introduce the concept of today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Bubble solution and a bubble wand

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand five feet in front of you.

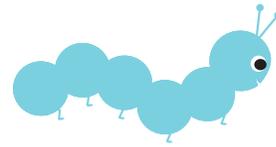
During the Activity: Blow one or two bubbles and allow the children to pop them. Tell them that there is A LITTLE amount of bubbles. Then blow many bubbles and encourage the children to pop those bubbles also. Explain that this is A LOT of bubbles. Repeat several times in the same order.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Yay! Bubbles!"

During the Activity: (*Blow a little bit of bubbles.*) "I blew a little amount of bubbles. Now let's see how many I can blow this time! (*Blow a lot of bubbles.*) WOW! I blew A LOT of bubbles that time!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: "Bubbles are so much fun! We blew A LITTLE and A LOT of bubbles. Today we are going to talk about a woman who had some coins. Let's find out if she had a little or a lot!"



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GAME

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

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IN THE BOTTLE

"In the Bottle" is an activity that teaches matching, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.

WHAT YOU NEED: 6 clean empty water bottles with lids, popcorn kernels, dried beans, water, hot glue, and a glue gun

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Select three water bottles and fill them $\frac{3}{4}$ full with each of the fillers. One bottle will be $\frac{3}{4}$ full of beans, one bottle will be $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water, and the other bottle will be $\frac{3}{4}$ full of popcorn kernels. Fill the other three bottles $\frac{1}{4}$ full of each filler. Replace the top to each bottle and secure with the glue gun.

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: Place the bottles in the activity area in random order. Ask the children to find the two bottles that contain water. Ask the children which bottle has a little water and which one has a lot of water. Repeat the activity with the other four bottles.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to talk about 'a little' and 'a lot.' Some of these bottles (*point*) have a little in them and some have a lot."

During the Activity: "Can you find the bottles with the water in them? (*Allow children to find the bottles of water.*) Great job! Which bottle has a little water in it? (*Pause.*) YES! Now can you find the bottle of water that has a lot of water in it? (*Pause.*) Perfect!" (*Continue the activity with the other four bottles.*)

After the Activity: "We are going to hear a story about someone who had a little of something. Let's get ready to hear our TRUE story from the Bible and find out what happened!"



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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BUILDING BOOKS

"Building Books" is an activity that teaches patience, early reading skills, and teamwork while introducing this month's theme.

WHAT YOU NEED: Several preschool appropriate books about construction and building, and several large pillows

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the books in the activity area. Place the pillows around the area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to lie on the pillows and to read the books with their friends.

After the Activity: Introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are talking about building things this month. Let's read with our friends about building!"

During the Activity: (*Point to the books.*) "There are many books about building. They look like so much fun! Lie on the pillows with your friends and have fun reading!"

After the Activity: "We've been learning a lot about building this month. Reading about building things and construction is so much fun! Now it is time for us to hear a TRUE story from the Bible! Bible stories are a lot of fun too!"



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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COINED WORDS

"Coined Words" is an activity that uses repetition and also creates a keepsake for the children to take home to practice this month's memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Coin" Activity Page, yellow cardstock, and coin stickers or a coin stamp

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Memory Coin" Activity Page onto the yellow cardstock.

During the Activity: Say the memory verse with the children. Give each child an Activity Page and four coin stickers or the stamp. Instruct the children to place a sticker or a stamp on the circles above the words.

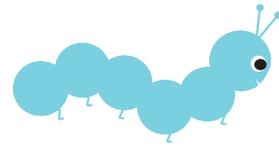
After the Activity: Say the memory verse again as a class.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's say our memory verse for this month. Are you ready? (Pause.) Love one another, John 13:34. Great job!"

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page and the coin stickers or stamp.) "This page has our memory verse on it. There are circles above the words. (Point.) You can place a coin sticker on top of each circle to help remind you of our Bible story today too! (Do activity.) Nice work! Now you can take it home and use it to practice the memory verse at home!"

After the Activity: "Let's say our memory verse together one more time. Love one another, John 13:34. Our memory verse tells us that Jesus wants us to help and love EVERYONE! **How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!**"



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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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IN THE BANK

"In the Bank" is an activity that gives the children an active role as today's Bible story is being retold.

WHAT YOU NEED: Empty baby wipes container and several clean milk jug lids

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the wipe container in the middle of the activity area.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story. Ask a child to come up to the wipe container. Give the child a milk lid. Tell the children that the lid is a coin and the container is a bank. Ask the child to place the coin into the bank. Repeat for each child.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Our story today was about a woman who had a little bit of money. Other people who had a lot of money were giving money. Even though the woman did not have a lot of money, she I gave all she had to help others. Even though she only had a little bit of money, she still shared!"

During the Activity: "Let's pretend that we are the woman in our Bible story today. (*Point to the bank and hold up coins.*) When it is your turn to come up you can take a coin and put it in the bank just like the woman did." (*Demonstrate.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! Jesus wants us to share even if we just have a little, just like the woman in our story today. And He wants us to love each other too. Tell me: **How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!**"



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LOVE ONE ANOTHER

"Love One Another" is an activity that reinforces the Bottom Line through song and movements.

WHAT YOU NEED: Heart stickers, preschool music CD, and a music player

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in front of you and spread out. Start the music.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to dance to the music. When the music has played for a bit, pause it, and tell the children to freeze. Have them yell, "Love one another," and give each child a heart sticker. Restart the music and have the children begin to dance again.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to dance to a fun song!"

During the Activity: (Start music.) "Start dancing! (Allow the children to dance.) Good job dancing! (Pause music.) Now everyone FREEZE! (Give each child a heart sticker.) These hearts make me think of love and how you should love one another! Now let's keep dancing!" (Restart music and repeat.)

After the Activity: "Nice job! Jesus wants us to love one another! He loves us SOOO much that He wants us to love each other like He loves us! **How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!**"



MAKE IT STICK

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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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BANK CRAFT

"Bank Craft" is an activity that creates a take-home craft for the children to use to retell the Bible story to their families.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bank" Activity Page, white cardstock, and coin stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

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

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page and two coin stickers. Encourage the children to place the two coin stickers onto the piggy bank.

After the Activity: Encourage the children to take home their craft and use it to tell the Bible story to their families.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to make a craft to remind us of our Bible story today!"

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page and two coin stickers.) "We are going to put coins in the bank just like the woman did in our Bible story. Place the coin stickers on your bank!" (Demonstrate. Do activity.)

After the Activity: "Great job! Now you can take home your project and tell your family all about our Bible story. Jesus wants us to share and love one another, just like the woman did in today's story. We can share even when we only have a little. One more time: **How can you love like Jesus? I can love everyone!**"