



JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.



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BASIC TRUTH

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

KEY QUESTION

WHO IS THE BEST?

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS IS THE BEST!

MEMORY VERSE

**"God loved the world so much that
He gave His only Son."
John 3:16, GNT**

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**We can praise Jesus.
Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16**

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.

- Cheer
- Leaves with Numbers
-  • Wax Leaves

MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- Worship
- Bible Story

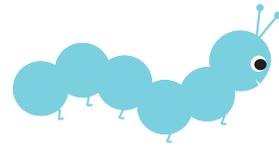
MAKE IT STICK

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.

- Walk the Path
- Act It Out
- Hosanna
- Leaf Craft



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



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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CHEER

"Cheer" is an activity that teaches the children a fun cheer about this month's Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

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

During the Activity: Teach the following cheer to the **CHILDREN:** "J-E-S-U-S, we love Jesus. He's the BEST!"

After the Activity: Say the cheer with children several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Jesus is the BEST!"

During the Activity: "Let's say a cheer for Jesus! Everyone listen to me say it first and then we can say it together. Are you ready? (Pause.) 'J-E-S-U-S, we love Jesus. He's the BEST!' Now say it all together! (Repeat several times.) Way to go!"

After the Activity: "Jesus IS the best! Today in our story, people do special things for Jesus to show Him that He is the best. It is time to hear our Bible story and find out what they did!"



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GAME

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

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LEAVES WITH NUMBERS

"Leaves with Numbers" is an activity that teaches number recognition and counting while introducing today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Number Leaves" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and 10 medium-sized pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Number Leaves" Activity Pages onto the cardstock. Lay the Activity Pages in order in the activity area. Place the pom-poms in a pile nearby.

During the Activity: Have the children sit around the activity area and pom-poms. Ask the children to count the leaf on the first page. Point to the number one. Say: "There is one leaf on this page." Ask the children to place one pom-pom on the one leaf. Then count the second page with the children. Say: "There are two leaves on this page." Ask the children to place two pom-poms on the two leaves. Continue with the activity with pages three and four.

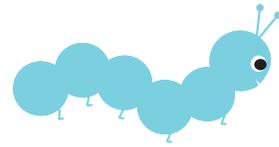
After the Activity: Count all of the leaves together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Look at these pictures of leaves! (*Point.*) Let's count the leaves together."

During the Activity: "Let's count the first page first. (*Point and count with the children.*) One. There is one leaf on this page. Great job! Can you pick up one pom-pom and place it on the one leaf? (*Pause.*) Perfect! Now let's count the second page. One, two. There are two leaves on this page. Awesome! Now we can place two pom-poms on the two leaves. (*Pause.*) Way to go!" (*Do activity.*) Great job! Now let's count all of the leaves together!" (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: "You did such a great job counting the leaves! Way to go! We are going to hear a Bible story about leaves today. I am so excited for you to hear a true story from the Bible!"



MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



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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WAX LEAVES



"Wax Leaves" is an activity that allows the children to use their sense of touch and curiosity to explore a key concept of the upcoming Bible story.

Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from "Other Resources" on the Website) and post it at the door to your room.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," white cardstock, 10-15 colorful and dry tree leaves, wax paper, 2 towels, and a hot iron

*Visit First Look's April 2017 Pinterest Board to see the inspiration for this activity:
<https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/april-2017-jesus-is-1/>*

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on white cardstock and hang on the door. Place all of the leaves flat in a warm area for 24 hours to make sure they are dry. Tear the wax paper into 1-1½ foot sections. Place a towel flat onto a hard surface. Place one piece of wax paper on top of the towel. Arrange three or four leaves face up on top of the wax paper. Place a second piece of wax paper on top of the leaves. Lay a second towel flat over the second piece of wax paper. Be sure that all of the wax paper is covered. Using a hot iron, press on top of the second towel in a gentle back and forth motion for 30-45 seconds or until the two pieces of wax paper are fused together. Repeat to make several wax leaves for each classroom. You will need one leaf for every four children.

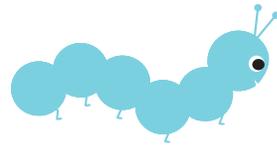
During the Activity: Place the wax leaves on the table or floor of the activity area. Encourage the children to touch, pick up, and examine the leaves.

After the Activity: Be sure that each child is able to examine all of the wax leaves in the classroom.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Look at all of the pretty leaves!" (*Point.*)

During the Activity: "You can pick up the leaves and look at them. They are all different colors. Do you see the lines in the leaves? (*Pause.*) Look at all of the different



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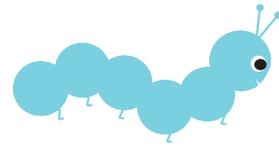


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shapes." (Continue the activity.)

After the Activity: "These leaves are so cool! You know, we're going to hear a Bible story about leaves today. I can't wait for you 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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WALK THE PATH

"Walk the Path" is an activity that uses the concepts from today's Bible story and repetition to teach this month's memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Leaves" Activity Pages, green cardstock, brown butcher paper, scissors, pencil, floor tape, and wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Memory Leaves" onto the green cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. You will need one leaf per child. Use the pencil to draw a large tree trunk onto the brown butcher paper. Cut out the tree trunk. Tape the trunk onto the wall close to the floor. Tape the leaves to the tree. Place rolled up tape in a path on the floor in an area away from the tree.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to take a leaf off of the tree and place it on a piece of tape on the floor. This will create a path of leaves. Invite the children to walk on the path while saying the memory verse. Walk the path and say the memory verse several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Look at all of the leaves on the tree! (*Point.*) Let's make a path with the leaves. We can pretend to walk through the city just like Jesus did in our story today!"

During the Activity: "Everyone take one leaf off of the tree. (*Pause.*) Good job! Now find a piece of tape on the floor. Place your leaf on the tape. (*Pause.*) Awesome! Now we have our path! Let's walk on the path and say our memory verse together. Are you ready? (*Pause. Begin to walk path.*) God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, John 3:16. Nice job!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: "Great job walking our path of leaves. **Jesus is the best!** God sent Him to us because He loves us SOOO much! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



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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ACT IT OUT

"Act It Out" is an activity that allows the children to re-enact today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Donkey Head" Activity Page, gray cardstock, pool noodle, brown butcher paper, floor tape, packing tape, scissors, and green tissue paper

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Donkey Head" Activity Page onto the gray cardstock. Cut out along the dotted lines. There will be two mirror image heads. Place one of the heads on one end of the pool noodle. Be sure the head is on the side of the noodle and it is facing up. Secure the head with the packing tape. Place the other head the exact same way on the other side of the noodle. Secure the second head with packing tape. Next, make a path with the butcher paper and secure it to the floor with the floor tape. Tear the tissue paper into strips.

During the Activity: Choose one child to ride the donkey by placing the pool noodle between their legs with the head out front. Have them ride the donkey on the brown paper path as you retell the story. As they are riding, give the other children the strips of green tissue paper and encourage them to wave them as the each child rides the donkey.

After the Activity: Make sure each child has a turn to ride the donkey.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "The people had a praise party for Jesus in our story today. I think we should have one too!"

During the Activity: (Choose a child to ride the donkey and give other children the green tissue paper.) "We're going to pretend to ride the donkey (hold up pool noodle donkey) on the dirt path and everyone else can wave their palm branches and say, 'Hosanna.' It will be just like we heard in our story today! Jesus was coming to town and everyone wanted to see Him. (Let first child start riding donkey and everyone else wave their tissue branches.) People lined the streets and pulled off palm branches from the trees and said 'Hosanna' to praise Jesus, just like we are doing now. Now let's have someone else have a turn riding the donkey." (Allow each child to have a turn.)



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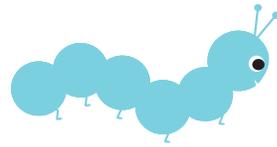
Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



BIBLE STORY REVIEW

An activity that reviews the entire Bible story in a fun and interactive way allowing preschoolers that repetition they crave.

After the Activity: "That was so much fun riding the donkey and waving our palm branches. It is so much fun to praise Jesus because He is the BEST! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



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MOVEMENT

An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn and grow.

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HOSANNA

"Hosanna" is an activity that uses large motor skills and movement to teach the children to praise Jesus.

WHAT YOU NEED: Green crepe paper

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Tear the crepe paper into three-foot sections.

During the Activity: Give each child a section of crepe paper and encourage them to wave it in the air. Challenge them to move it up and down and side to side.

After the Activity: Encourage the children to shout, "HOSANNA," while waving their paper.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's praise Jesus!"

During the Activity: (Give each child a piece of crepe paper.) "Let's pretend that this (point to crepe paper) is a palm leaf. Wave it high in the air and yell, 'Hosanna.' (Demonstrate.) Can you move it up and down? (Demonstrate.) How about side-to-side? (Demonstrate.) Great job!"

After the Activity: "We can praise Jesus in so many different ways! We praise Jesus because He is the BEST! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



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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LEAF CRAFT

"Leaf Craft" is an activity that uses fine motor skills to create a take-home visual of today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Leaf Craft" Activity Page, white cardstock, and green dot markers

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Leaf Craft" Activity Page onto the cardstock.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to color the leaf with the dot markers.

After the Activity: Set the leaves aside to dry before parents arrive.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We are going to make a palm leaf just like we heard about in the Bible story today!"

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page and a dot marker.) "Use your marker to color the leaf."

After the Activity: "Great job! Your leaves look awesome. The people used the palm leaves to praise Jesus because He is the best! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"