



# 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

**God sent Jesus to be my friend  
forever.**

**Easter**

- **Matthew 26:20-30; 27:45-50;  
28:1-7**



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

## 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.

- **Oh Happy Day**
- **Friend Match**
- **In and Out**

## 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 Verse**
- **Where Is Jesus?**
- **Move on 3**
- **Jesus Is Risen 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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## OH HAPPY DAY

"Oh Happy Day" is an activity that uses movement and excitement to create the atmosphere for today's very special Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bubble, a bubble wand, CD player, and the song "Oh So Happy Day" from the Whoooo Loves You CD

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Place the CD player in the activity area. Have the children stand in front of you. Play the song.

**During the Activity:** Blow bubbles and encourage the children to pop them. Tell the children it is a very happy day!

**After the Activity:** Introduce a VERY special Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** *(Play music.)* "OH HAPPY DAY! It is a very special day today! Let's do something super fun!"

**During the Activity:** *(Blow bubbles.)* "Pop the bubbles! *(Pause.)* Great job! Today is a VERY special day!"

**After the Activity:** "Great job popping the bubbles! That was so fun. Now it is time to hear a VERY special Bible story. Are you ready to know why today is an OH HAPPY DAY?"



**MAKE IT FUN**

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



**GAME**

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

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**FRIEND MATCH**

"Friend Match" is an activity that teaches matching and teamwork while introducing today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Friend Match" Activity Page, white cardstock, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Before the Activity:** Copy the "Friend Match" Activity Page onto the cardstock. Cut each pair in half along the dotted lines.

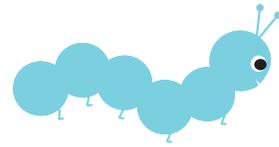
**During the Activity:** Place one piece of each pair on the table in the play area. Keep the other half of each pair with you. Show the children your half of the pair and ask them to look on the table and find its match or its friend. Continue with the activity until all of the pairs are matched.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**Before the Activity:** "I am so glad to see all of my friends here today!"

**During the Activity:** *(Hold up the bear half that you have.)* "Here is a bear. He has a friend that is a bear too. Can you look on the table and find his friend? *(Allow children to look for the other bear.)* YES! Great job! *(Hold up the giraffe.)* Here is a giraffe. Do you see his giraffe friend on the table?" *(Continue with the activity until all of the pairs are matched.)*

**After the Activity:** "Nice work! All of our animals have found their friends. In our Bible story today, we are going to learn about someone who wants to be our friend forever! I wonder who it is."



## 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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## IN AND OUT



"In and Out" is an activity that uses concentration and fine motor skills to complete a task while introducing today's 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, 2 medium-sized tubs, rice, and plastic cups

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on white cardstock and hang on the door. Fill one of the tubs half full of rice. Place the other tub next to it. Leave the second tub empty.

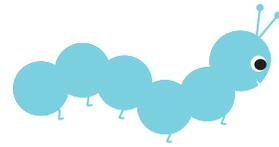
**During the Activity:** Give the children the cups and ask them to scoop the rice out of the first tub and into the second. Be sure to use the words "in" and "out" while they do the activity. Repeat several times.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "There is rice IN this tub. (Point.) Can you help get it OUT?"

**During the Activity:** "Use the cups to scoop the rice that is IN the tub (point to full tub) and pour it OUT into this tub. (Point to empty tub.) Work together to get all of the rice OUT of the first tub and IN the second tub." (Do activity.)

**After the Activity:** "Great job putting the rice IN the second tub and OUT of the first tub! Today in our Bible story we will talk about something going IN and then coming OUT! I am so excited for you to 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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## PARACHUTE VERSE

"Parachute Verse" is an activity that uses large motor skills and repetition to teach this month's memory verse.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Parachute or sheet

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Lay the parachute or sheet out on the floor in the activity area.

**During the Activity:** Say the memory verse with the children. Have the children stand around the parachute and encourage them to each pick it up off of the ground. Have the children say the verse as they lift the parachute up and down. Repeat several times.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Let's say our memory verse together: God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, John 3:16. Great job!"

**During the Activity:** "Everyone pick up some of the parachute. (*Demonstrate.*) Raise your hands high in the air! Now bring your arms back down. Good job! Now let's do it again and say the memory verse while we do it." (*Do activity and repeat several times.*)

**After the Activity:** "Way to go! Our memory verse tells us that God sent us Jesus because He loves us so much! **Jesus is the best! Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



## 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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## WHERE IS JESUS?

"Where Is Jesus?" is an activity that uses song and hand motions to retell today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Have the children sit in front of you. Retell the Bible story.

**During the Activity:** Do the following chant and hand motions with the children. Chant to the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin." (*Left hand held out front horizontally slightly curved with right hand behind the left hand with thumb up.*) "Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus? He went away. He went away. (*Move the right thumb from behind the left hand.*) Jesus is back again. Jesus is back again. He loves me. He loves me. (*Make a heart with your hands.*) Repeat several times with the children.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "We heard an AMAZING story today! Jesus ate a special dinner with His friends and He told them He was going to away. His friends were sad. But He told them that He would be back! Mean men came and took Jesus away and they hurt Him. They hurt Him so much that He died. His friends were so sad! They put Him in a tomb and closed it with a rock. Do you remember what Jesus told His friends? (*Pause.*) Yes! That He would be back. And after ONE, TWO, and THREE days, Jesus came BACK!"

**During the Activity:** "Jesus came BACK! Let's sing a song about how Jesus came back! (*Do chant with motions several times.*) Great job!"

**After the Activity:** "Jesus came BACK! **Jesus is the best!** He loves us so much! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



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Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



## MOVEMENT

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

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## MOVE ON 3

"Move on 3" is an activity that uses large motor and counting skills to reinforce today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Guide the children to stand in front of you.

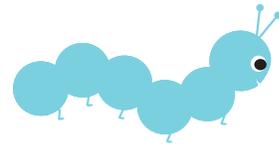
**During the Activity:** Count to three, then say a movement, and then have the children do that movement. For example: "One, two, three, jump!" Repeat with other movements such as: touch toes, twist, touch head, touch nose, and stomp your feet.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Let's get moving!"

**During the Activity:** "When I say, 'One, two, three, JUMP!' then everyone JUMP! Are you ready? (Pause.) One, two, three, JUMP! (*Jump with the children.*) Now I am going to do it again and this time we can do something else. Listen closely! One, two, three, touch your toes!" (*Touch toes with children. Continue with activity as long as interest holds.*)

**After the Activity:** "Great job doing the movements after we counted to three! Jesus came back after one, two, three days! He came BACK. **Jesus is the best! Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



## 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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## JESUS IS RISEN CRAFT

"Jesus Is Risen Craft" is an activity that creates a visual of today's Bible story for the children to take home.

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 NEED:** "Jesus Is Risen" and "Tomb Label" Activity Page, white cardstock, Avery® Labels 5160 or equivalent, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, and paper plates

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy the "Jesus Is Risen" Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. Each child will need one picture of Jesus. Copy "Tomb Label" on the Avery labels. Use the scissors to cut the paper plates in half. Then cut a two-inch semi-circle in each plate with the bottom of the semi-circle toward one side of the plate.

**During the Activity:** Give each child a paper plate and some crayons. Encourage the children to color the paper plate and explain it is the tomb.

**After the Activity:** Help the children glue the picture of Jesus next to the semi-circle on the bottom of their plates.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Our story was AMAZING today! Jesus loves us so much that He came back!"

**During the Activity:** "We are going to make a craft to show our families that Jesus CAME BACK!" (Do activity.)

**After the Activity:** "Awesome work! Now you can tell everyone that Jesus loves us so much that HE CAME BACK after three days! **Jesus is the best! Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"