



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

**Jesus made the church to
do great things.
Peter the Rock
• Matthew 16:17-18**

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.

- **Circle of Friends**
- **Spoon It In**
- **Build a Church**

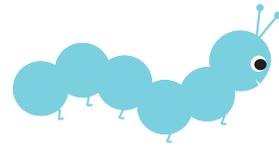
MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- **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.

- **Picture It**
- **Tell About Jesus**
- **Love Train**
- **Tell Everyone**



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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CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

"Circle of Friends" is an activity that teaches patience and taking turns while introducing today's Bible Story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Make a large circle on the floor with the tape.

During the Activity: Have the children stand around the outside of the circle while you stand inside the circle. Walk up to one child and say, "Jesus is the best!" and gently pull that child into the circle.

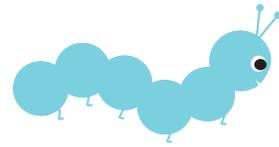
After the Activity: Repeat the activity until you have all of the children inside the circle.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Everyone stand outside the circle on the floor." (*Point.*)

During the Activity: (*Walk up to one child.*) "Jesus is the best! (*Pull that child into the circle. Walk up to another child.*) Jesus is the best." (*Repeat until all of the children are in the circle.*)

After the Activity: "Now we all know that **Jesus is the best!** It is important that we tell everyone about Jesus. In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about how someone told everyone about Jesus! I can't 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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SPOON IT IN

"Spoon It In" is an activity that uses fine motor skills and concentration to complete a task.

WHAT YOU NEED: Large empty snack jar with the lid removed, medium-sized pom-poms, and large plastic mixing spoons

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place a few pom-poms in the jar and place it in the middle of the activity area. Place all of the other pom-poms in a pile near the jar.

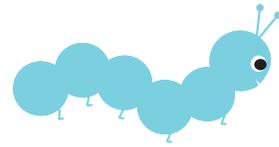
During the Activity: Give the children the spoons and challenge them to use them to scoop up the pom-poms and pour them into the jar.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "There are a few pom-poms in the jar. (*Point.*) Can you help me put MORE in the jar?"

During the Activity: "Use the spoons to scoop up the pom-poms and pour them into the jar. (*Pause.*) Great job! Now let's work together to put MORE in the jar!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! We put more in the jar. Today we are going to hear a story about a man who told MORE and MORE people about Jesus. I cannot wait to hear a TRUE story from the Bible!"



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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BUILD A CHURCH

"Build a Church" is an activity that promotes teamwork, concentration, and fine motor skills while creating a visual of today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Building blocks

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Lay the blocks in the middle of the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to work together and build a church with the blocks.

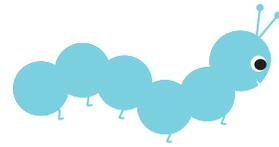
After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's build a church together!"

During the Activity: "Work together with your friends and place the blocks on top of each other to make a church!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Your block church looks amazing! Today we will hear a Bible story about a man who built the first church, but it wasn't a building. I am so excited!"



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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PICTURE IT

"Picture It" is an activity that uses pictures and repetition to teach this month's memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Pictures" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Verse Pictures" onto the cardstock. Tape the Activity Pages in a vertical path in order, according to the numbers in the corner of each page.

During the Activity: Have each children walk the path one at a time and say each word as they step on it. The pages will read as follows: "God (GOD) loved (HEART) the world (EARTH) so much (SO MUCH) that He gave (THAT HE GAVE) His only Son (Jesus)," John 3:16. (JOHN 3:16) Repeat with each child.

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: "Our memory verse is right here on the floor in pictures. (Point.) Now watch me say the memory verse while I walk on the pictures. (Demonstrate walking on the pictures while saying the verse.) God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, John 3:16. Now it is your turn!" (Do activity until all children have walked on the pictures while saying the verse.)

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



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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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TELL ABOUT JESUS

"Tell About Jesus" is an activity that retells today's Bible story by using a visual that the children can relate to.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Tell People" Activity Page, white cardstock, scissors, brown butcher paper, and wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Tell People" Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. You should have 12 individual people. Tape the butcher paper on a wall in the activity area.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story. Hold up a person cutout and say, "Peter told him/her that Jesus is the best!" Then tape the person to the paper. Pick up another person and say, "Peter told him/her that Jesus is the best!" and tape that person onto the paper. Repeat until you have tape all 12 people to the paper.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We heard an amazing Bible story today! Jesus told His friend Peter that He was going to do something amazing! Peter was going to build a church by telling everyone about Him! Jesus wanted Peter to tell EVERYONE about Him and that is exactly what Peter did. He told many, many people that Jesus is the BEST!"

During the Activity: (Hold a person.) "Peter told him that **Jesus is the best.** (Tape that person to the paper. Hold up next person.) And Peter told her that **Jesus is the best.**" (Tape that person to the paper. Continue until all of the people are taped to the paper.)

After the Activity: "Peter told everyone about Jesus! God wants us to tell everyone about Jesus too! Because **Jesus is the best! Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



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LOVE TRAIN

"Love Train" is an activity that uses movement and visuals to reinforce the concept of today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Shoebox without a lid, heart stickers, and 20-30 Little People® figures (*If you do not have access to Little People figures, you may consider using pom-poms instead.*)

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the heart stickers all over the box. Place the Little People around the activity area.

During the Activity: Push the box around the Little People and say: "**Jesus is the best.**" Encourage the children to place the Little People inside the box as you go past them. Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: (*Push box.*) "Choo-choo! Here comes the love train! This train will tell everyone that **Jesus is the best! Jesus is the best! Jesus is the best!**"

During the Activity: "Look at all of the people! (*Point to the Little People.*) We are going to tell them that **Jesus is the best** and they can get on the love train. When the train goes by the people and tells them that **Jesus is the best**, then you can put them on the train."

After the Activity: "YAY! That was so fun telling the Little People that **Jesus is the best**. I love telling everyone about Jesus! We should tell everyone that **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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TELL EVERYONE

"Tell Everyone" is an activity that creates a visual of today's Bible story for the children to take home.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Tell Craft" Activity Page, white cardstock, and smiley face stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

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

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page and some stickers. Encourage the children to place the stickers inside the heart.

After the Activity: Reinforce the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We should tell everyone that Jesus is the best!"

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page and the stickers.) "Place the stickers inside the heart with Jesus. We need to tell everyone about Jesus!"

After the Activity: "Great job! Now you can take your craft home and tell your family all about our Bible story today. And you can tell everyone that **Jesus is the best**, just like Peter did! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"