



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 tell others about Jesus.
The Great Commission •
Matthew 28:19-20**

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.

- **Go and Stop**
- **Walk the Road**
- **Driving**

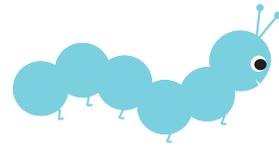
MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- **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.

- **Fill in the Verse**
- **Pass and Retell**
- **Going Down the Road**
- **Match the People**



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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GO AND STOP

"Go and Stop" is an activity that teaches following directions and color recognition while introducing today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: 1 piece of red construction paper and 1 piece of green construction paper

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children line up horizontally about 10 feet in front of you.

During the Activity: Hold up the green paper and tell the children it means GO. Have the children start to walk toward you. Then hold up the red paper and tell the children it means STOP. Have the children stop. Alternate the colors and have the children go and stop several times until they reach you.

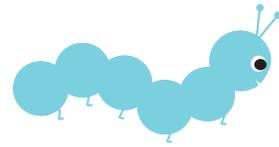
After the Activity: Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's see if you can walk to me. Watch very carefully to see when you can walk to me!"

During the Activity: "When you see the green paper (*hold up*), walk toward me. Green means GO. When you see the red paper (*hold up*) then stop walking. Red means STOP. Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! Our Bible story today is about people who were asked to GO and do something very important. I cannot wait for you to find out what it was!"



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GAME

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

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WALK THE ROAD

"Walk the Road" is an activity that teaches fine motor skills and imagination to introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Finger Puppets" and "Road" Activity Pages, white cardstock, scissors, and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Road" Activity Page onto the cardstock and set aside. (If you have a larger class, you may want to make several copies.) Copy the "Finger Puppets" Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. Fold the tabs on each puppet behind the graphic to form a ring. Secure with tape. Be sure the ring is small enough for little fingers. Each child will need one finger puppet.

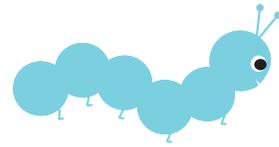
During the Activity: Lay the "Road" Activity Page on a table or the floor in the activity area. Give each child a finger puppet and encourage them to "walk" their puppets down the road. Encourage the children to go down the different paths and stop at the different places on the Activity Page.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's go on a walk, but not with our feet! Let's walk with our fingers!"

During the Activity: (Give each child a finger puppet.) "Place the ring on your finger. Now you have a person on your finger! Take the person for a walk down the road. (Point to the "Road.") You take your person down all of the different roads. Don't forget to stop at the park or to go to the grocery store!"

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about people who went different places too. They had a job to do! Let's get ready to hear our Bible story and find out what it was!"



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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DRIVING

"Driving" is an activity that encourages free play and teamwork to introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: Floormat with roads and toy cars (*NOTE: If you do not have access to a floormat, you may consider using floor tape to construct roads on the floor. Be sure to make many different turns and forks in the roads.*)

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Lay the floormat out in the activity area with the cars.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to use the cars to drive all over the mat.

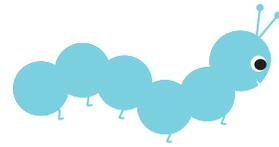
After the Activity: Be sure each child has a turn with all of the cars.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's go for a drive!"

During the Activity: "Use the cars to drive down the roads. See how far you can go!"

After the Activity: "Way to drive your cars! We drive to get places. Today in our Bible story we are going to hear about people who also went to different places. Let's get ready to find out what they did!"



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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FILL IN THE VERSE

"Fill in the Verse" is an activity that teaches shape recognition and matching while teaching this month's memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Shapes" and "Verse Base" Activity Pages, light blue and white cardstock, scissors, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Verse Base" onto the light blue cardstock. Copy "Verse Shapes" onto the white cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. Each child will need a triangle (*heart*), circle (*earth*), and a square (*Jesus*).

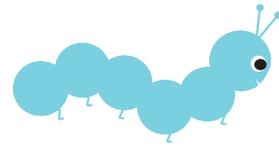
During the Activity: Give each child a "Verse Base" Activity Page and the three shapes. Help the children match the shapes with the shape outlines on their Activity Pages. Help the children glue each shape into the correct place.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Do you remember our memory verse for this month? (*Pause.*) Awesome! Let's say it together: God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, John 3:16. Way to go!"

During the Activity: (*Give each child an Activity Page and shapes.*) "Look on your page. Do you see a triangle? (*Point.*) Yes! Now let's see if we have a triangle in our pile of shapes. (*Point*) I see one! It has a heart on it. Let's put it on top of the triangle on our page. (*Pause.*) Great! Now let's look at the next shape on our page. It's a circle. Can you find the circle shape in our pile of shapes? (*Pause.*) Yes! It has the world on it. Place it on top of the circle on the page. (*Pause.*) Now do you see a square on the page? (*Pause.*) Perfect! Let's look at our last shape here. (*Hold up.*) It is a square too! It has a picture of Jesus on it. Now you may place it on top of the square on your page. Use your glue stick to glue on all of the shapes!"

After the Activity: "Nice work! Now we have our memory verse on our page. (*Point to words and pictures as you say the verse.*) God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, John 3:16. Our memory verse tells us that God loves us SO much that He sent Jesus to us. **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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PASS AND RETELL

"Pass and Retell" is an activity that engages the children in a task while today's Bible story is being retold.

WHAT YOU NEED: Inflatable globe

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit in a circle.

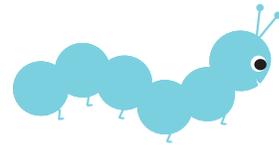
During the Activity: Encourage the children to pass the globe around the circle while you retell the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Everyone please sit in a circle."

During the Activity: "This is a globe. (*Hold up.*) It is a picture of our world. There are people ALL over the world. Pass the globe to the friend next you and we can pass it around our entire circle! (*Pass globe.*) Nice job! Our Bible story today told us that Jesus met His best friends on top of a mountain. He asked His friends to go and tell EVERYONE EVERYWHERE about Jesus! He wanted them to tell EVERYONE that **Jesus is the best!** His friends DID go tell everyone about Jesus. They told everyone that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever! They went all over the world to tell EVERYONE!"

After the Activity: "Jesus wants us to tell everyone about Him too! We should tell EVERYONE that **Jesus is the best!** We can tell anyone anywhere in the WORLD. **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



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MOVEMENT

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GOING DOWN THE ROAD

"Going Down the Road" is an activity that teaches fine motor skills and teamwork while reinforcing today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: A long piece of black butcher paper, floor tape, and a sheet of bright colored heart stickers for each child

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Tape the butcher paper to the floor.

During the Activity: Give the children the heart stickers and encourage them to place them all over the "road."

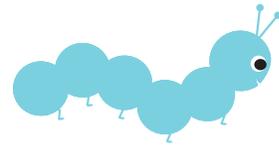
After the Activity: Encourage the children to say "Jesus is the best!" when placing a sticker on the road.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Jesus is the BEST! Jesus' friends told everyone about Jesus in our story today."

During the Activity: "Let's pretend that we are going down the road (*point to butcher paper*) and telling everyone about Jesus too! (*Pass out heart stickers.*) Let's put stickers all over the road, and remember to say, '**Jesus is the best!**' when you put on a sticker!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job telling everyone about Jesus, just like we heard about in our story today! **Jesus is the best!** We should tell EVERYONE! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"



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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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MATCH THE PEOPLE

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

WHAT YOU NEED: "Happy World" Activity Page, white cardstock, and happy face stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Happy World" Activity Page onto the cardstock.

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page and four happy face stickers. Show the children where the happy faces are printed on the page. Encourage the children to place the stickers on top of the happy faces on their page.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Our Bible story today told us that Jesus wants us to tell everyone about Him."

During the Activity: (Give each child an Activity Page and four stickers.) "This is a picture of the world. Do you see happy people all over the world? (Pause and point.) Yes! These people know that **Jesus is the best!** Now put a sticker on top of each happy face on your page. Happy people know that **Jesus is the best!**"

After the Activity: "Nice job! Jesus wants us to tell EVERYONE that He is the BEST, just like the people in our story today did! **Who is the best? Jesus is the best!**"