

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

**FOUR**

FEBRUARY 2018

LARGE GROUP

**2**

YEAR-OLDS



# first look™

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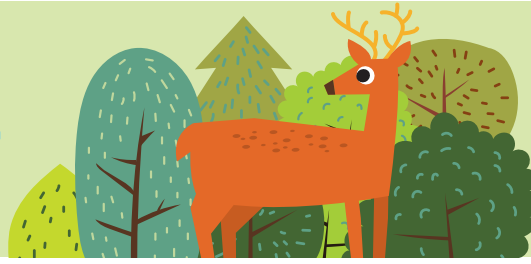
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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus never stops loving us.

Peter's Denial and Restoration

**MATTHEW 26:31-35, 69-75;**

**JOHN 21:15-17**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Love each other as I have loved you."

**JOHN 15:12, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who does Jesus love?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves everyone.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience**

For Leaders Only  
Monthly Overview  
Create the Environment

**15**  
MIN

**SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.  
Set of Three  
Animal Sounds  
Heart Cookies 🚫

**10**  
MIN

**WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Always

**10**  
MIN

**STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

Bible Story  
Prayer

**25**  
MIN

**GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.  
Heart Run  
Dotted Heart  
Freeze Dance  
Gumball

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

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15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

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Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. Some kids (*especially the younger ones*) may wander. That's OK. They're still listening and learning!

*First Look offers weekly Bible story videos on the DVD titled "Wonder! Look at God's Story. This DVD is available for purchase at [OrangeStore.org](http://OrangeStore.org).*

## MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have  
loved you."

**JOHN 15:12, NIV**

## WORSHIP

**WHAT YOU NEED:** CD player and this month's worship song, "Always," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video of this song is available on the "Everybody Sing!" Dance Moves DVD.

**LEADER:** "Hi, everyone! It's great to see you today! We have one more day to sing our song about how Jesus loves us always. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** Yes! Let's sing!

*(Lead children in singing "Always.")*

## KEY QUESTION

Who does Jesus love?

"Way to go! You are all such amazing singers. Now remind me: **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** That's right, friends. You better believe it!"

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "1, 2, 3 Signs" Activity Pages, white cardstock, 4 paint stirrers (*like those from the paint section of a home improvement store*), masking tape, and a box to place all the props in

**BEFORE THE STORY:** Copy the "1, 2, 3 Signs" onto cardstock, cut out, and tape a paint stick to the back of each one.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

**LEADER:** *(Place the signs on the floor next to you.)* "Hello, everyone. Come sit with me! In our TRUE Bible story today, I'm going to show you how I know for sure that **Jesus loves everyone.**

"This true story begins with Jesus and His friend, Peter. Peter and Jesus were really good friends. And Peter wanted everyone to know about Jesus.

"But Jesus told him that before the rooster crowed, Peter would say he wasn't Jesus' friend. And he would say this not one (*hold up the '1' sign*), not two (*hold up the '2' sign*), but THREE times (*hold up the '3' sign*).

"Soon after, Jesus was arrested by guards. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, they took Him away. Peter was all alone. And he was scared. He

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thought he might get in trouble too.

"Just then a young girl came by. 'Aren't you one of Jesus' friends?' she asked.

"'No!' Peter said. Remember what Jesus said to Peter? That he would say he wasn't Jesus' friend? *(Hold up the '1' sign.)* Uh-oh, that's one time.

"Then another girl came by saying, 'This guy was with Jesus!'

"Instead of telling the truth, Peter said, 'No, I wasn't with Jesus. I don't know Him!'

*(Hold up the "2" sign.)* "Yes, that's TWO times. Man, this isn't looking good for Peter.

"Then someone else said, 'Yes you do! You DO know Jesus!'

"Peter shouted, 'NO! I promise, He's not my friend.' So how many times did Peter say he didn't know Jesus? *(Pause, then hold up the '3' sign.)* Yep. Three times!

"Peter felt SO bad. He thought that Jesus would never be his friend again. But then Jesus showed up on the beach for breakfast. He asked Peter if he still loved him. *(Hold up the '1' sign and one finger.)* That was the first time Jesus asked. And Peter said, 'Yes! Of course I love you!'

"Then Jesus asked again. *(Hold up the '2' sign and two fingers.)* 'Peter, do you love me?'

"'Yes!' Peter said.

"And ONE more time *(Hold up the '3' sign, hold up three fingers.)* 'Peter, do YOU love ME?' For the third time, Peter said, 'Yes, Lord!'

"Jesus wanted Peter to know that there was never, ever, ever, ever, EVER anything he could do to make Jesus stop loving him. And there is never ever, ever, ever, EVER anything you could do to make Jesus stop loving you. He loves you to the moon and back, and He always, always will because **Jesus loves everyone.** He will never stop loving us—ever. **Who does Jesus love?"**

**CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus loves everyone."**

**LEADER:** "Yes, and He will never stop! Let's pray and thank God for that BIG truth today."

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## PRAYER

**LEADER:** "Dear God, You are the BEST! Thank You for always loving us with a never stopping, never fading, never failing, always kind of love. We believe that You love us no matter what and that You sent Jesus to show us that in a real way. Help us to remember this week that we are loved by You. In Jesus' name, amen."

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