

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

**TWO**

FEBRUARY 2018

LARGE GROUP  
RUG

**3-5**

YEAR-OLDS



# first look™

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**first look**<sup>TM</sup>  
LARGE GROUP



WEEK  
**TWO**  
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RUG  
**3-5**  
YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



## BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus  
**LUKE 19:1-10**

## 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.  
Climb the Tree  
More Counting  
Ice Cream

**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.  
Memory Verse Hopping  
Zacchaeus in the Tree  
Balancing the Scale  
Wee Little Man  
Sharing Your Sweets  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

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10 MINUTES

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Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

**WORSHIP**

Use the full mix of the monthly song provided with the curriculum to lead your preschoolers in worship. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at John 15:12. You will also need a CD player and this month's worship song, "Always," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves for this song are available on the "Everybody Sing" Dance Moves DVD.

**LEADER:** "Good morning, everyone! It's so good to see you today. I can't wait to sing with you. But first tell me: **Who does Jesus love?**"

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

**LEADER:** "Yes, that's right! Let's sing our awesome new song all about how Jesus loves us always.

(Lead children in singing "Always," this month's worship song.)

"Yay! What incredible singers you are. **Who does Jesus love?**"

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

**LEADER:** "That's right! **Jesus loves everyone.** Our memory verse tells us that He loves everyone. Let's practice it. Are you ready to do it with me? (Pause.) Let's do it! Love each other (give yourself a big hug) as I (point up with both fingers) have loved you, (bring fingers down and point all over the room at all the kids), John 15:12. (Open your hands like a book.) Let's do it again."

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "Love each other (give yourself a big hug) as I (point up with both fingers) have loved you, (bring fingers down and point all over the room at all the kids), John 15:12." (Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat several times.)

**LEADER:** "Way to go! Because Jesus loves us, we can love others.

PRELUDE

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10 MINUTES

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## STORY

*Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.*

First Look offers weekly introductory sketch and 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).

### WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

**LEADER:** "Hello, my friends. It's really great to see you today, because I have a crazy, TRUE Bible story to tell you. Now, in this TRUE story, there is a guy named Zacchaeus. That's kind of a crazy name. Can you say, 'Zacchaeus'?"

**CHILDREN:** "Zacchaeus."

**LEADER:** "Zacchaeus had a pretty important job. He was a tax collector. That meant he had to collect money for taxes from everyone in town. See? Super important job. Now, this worked great until Zacchaeus started to become greedy. You see, he wanted to keep some of the money for himself.

"Zacchaeus took more and more money from the people! In fact, he **STOLE** from them! And you tell me, is stealing the right thing to do or the wrong thing to do? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, it was the wrong thing to do. Do you think the people he stole from were happy? *(Pause.)* No! This made the people **SUPER** angry with Zacchaeus.

"One day, Jesus came to town and everyone rushed to see him. Now, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. Then he had an idea. Raise your hand if you think he stood on someone's shoulders. *(Pause.)*

"Nope. He didn't do that. Raise your hand if you think he jumped up on a pogo stick. *(Pause.)*

"Nope, he didn't do that either. Instead, he climbed a tree! And from the tree he could see Jesus over the crowd!

"Now here's the crazy, amazing part. When Jesus came by and looked up in that tree, he saw Zacchaeus. Now you tell me, do you think Jesus knew that Zacchaeus had done wrong things? *(Pause.)* Yep. Jesus knew. And when someone makes bad choices and hurts us, we can be mad at them. **OR** we can forgive them and still be their friend.



PRELUDE

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10 MINUTES

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"That's exactly what Jesus did! He said, 'Zacchaeus, please come down! I'm going to your house today.' Zacchaeus was so surprised! Even after all he had done, Jesus loved him and wanted to spend time with him.

"So Zacchaeus came down from the that tree and spent time with Jesus. And after spending time with Jesus, Zacchaeus' heart changed! He didn't want to be selfish and steal anymore. He even went and gave the people back the money he had stolen plus a little more!

"And you know what? Sometimes your friends will mess up too. They won't share, or they'll take the bigger snack, or they might say something mean and hurt your feelings. And that's when you will have two choices. You can either get mad OR you can do what Jesus did and forgive. Remember, that person is your friend and, just like Jesus, we should love and forgive them. Isn't that an awesome story? If you liked it, let me see a two thumbs up! (Pause as children respond.) So tell me: Who loves everyone?"

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

**LEADER:** "That's the truth, friends! Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong. **Jesus loves everyone.** I'm so glad that's true! Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus, His Son, to us."

### PRAYER

**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank You for the stories we read in our Bibles about people like Zacchaeus. He messed up, but You still chose to forgive him. Thank You, God, for always forgiving us when we mess up too. You sent Jesus, Your Son, to show us how much You love us. That's awesome. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."