

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

THREE

FEBRUARY 2018

SMALL GROUP

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

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first lookTM
SMALL GROUP

WEEK

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3-5

YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us when
no one else does.

The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11

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.
Friend to Friend
Good Choice/Bad Choice
Candy Makers

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Always
Amazing Things

10
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Introductory Sketch
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 Pass
Jesus Loves Everyone
Spread the Love
Dance Party
Cupcake Craft
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue



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

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move
to help them learn

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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1. FRIEND TO FRIEND

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in an open area of the room and ask them to put their arms out wide so they can spread out and then drop their arms to their sides. Explain that you will call out a body part for them to touch to another friend (*like elbow to elbow*). The children must quickly find a friend and put their elbow to their friend's elbow. Remind them not to push or to run during the game.

Body part pairs:

Elbow to elbow

Toes to toes

Knee to knee

Hand to hand

Foot to foot

Back to back

Linked arm to linked arm

Heel to heel (*you may need to point out where the heel is*)

Shoulder to shoulder

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's gather over here so we have some space! Now I want you to open your arms out wide so you are spread out a little. (*Pause as children follow direction.*) Great job! You can put your arms down. I will call out a body part pair like 'elbow to elbow' and when I do, I want you to find a friend and put those two things together. So you would find a friend and touch your elbows together. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Let's go!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Call out the body part pairs above.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was super fun! But you needed a friend to play that game, right? Most games are much more fun with friends. Today we're going to hear a story about a woman who didn't have any friends. I wonder what happened. Let's go find out!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out things that friends like to do together like kick the ball, run through the sprinkler, share a treat, play with LEGOs®, etc. As you call out these things, have the children say, "That's more fun with a friend!"

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SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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JOHN 8:2-11



PLAY

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

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have
loved you."

JOHN 15:12, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

2. GOOD CHOICE/BAD CHOICE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Faces" and "Choice Cards" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Choice Cards" onto cardstock and cut on dotted lines. You will have eight separate cards. Copy the "Faces" on cardstock and cut the page in half on the dotted line. Place the two faces on the table or floor.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the cards face up in front of the children. Ask the children to look at the pictures and decide if they are good choices or bad choices.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Ask the children to place the good choices on top of the happy face and the bad choices on top of the sad face.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We make choices every day. We make good choices and sometimes we make bad choices."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "These cards (*point*) have choices on them. Some are good choices and some are bad choices. If you see a good choice, place it on top of the happy face. (*Point.*) If you see a bad choice, place it on top of the sad face. (*Point.*) Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Great! The cards are: friends sharing sidewalk chalk, two friends sharing a doll, a boy making a bed, a girl dusting, not sharing a toy with a friend, toys left out on the floor, refusing to eat your food, and a temper tantrum. Can you show me all of the good choices? (*Pause.*) Great job! Let's place them on top of the happy face. Now it is time for the bad choices." (*Finish activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job picking out the good and bad choices! Today we are going to talk about someone who made some bad choices, but Jesus loved her anyway! I am so excited about our Bible story today!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting this month's Bottom Line, "Jesus loves everyone!" as they walk to the story area.

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15 MINUTES

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IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine,
and role play to enhance their learning

3. CANDY MAKERS

Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the “Allergy Alert Poster”
and post it at the door to your room.

WHAT YOU NEED: “Allergy Alert Poster,” white cardstock, homemade edible
modeling dough (see recipe below) or store bought Play-Doh®, small heart-
shaped cookie cutters, small dowel rods or rolling pins, play plastic knives, and
empty candy boxes

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Allergy Alert Poster” on white cardstock and
hang on the door. Make edible modeling dough following the recipe below.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup salt
- 3 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 package flavored drink mix (like Kool-Aid)
- 1 Tablespoon cooking oil

Pour water and oil into a small pourable container. Mix the dry ingredients
together in a large saucepan. Slowly add the water/oil and stir over medium
heat until mixture thickens to dough like consistency. Turn dough out onto
a heat resistance surface and knead until cool. Store in a tightly covered
container.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a lump of dough and a rolling pin
to roll it out. Show them the candy boxes. Point to the pictures of the candy
for reference. Encourage them to shape their dough into pieces of candy
(see suggestions below). They may also choose to use the small heart shaped
cookie cutters.

Candy suggestions:

- Jelly beans – shape into curved ovals
- Gumballs – roll in their hands to create a ball
- Wrapped candy – roll into a ball for the center, then use the plastic knife
to cut out two small triangles; press the triangles into opposite sides of the

PRELUDE

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WORSHIP

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HOME

15 MINUTES



IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine,
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ball to create the wrapper effect

Licorice – roll dough into a “worm” and then use the knife to make small indentions along the side

Starburst® – cut dough into squares with the plastic knife

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather all the dough and return it to the air-tight container. Edible dough will keep in a sealed container for up to six months.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Raise your hand if you like candy. (Pause.) Me too! My favorite candy is [candy]. Today I thought it would be fun to see what kind of candy makers you are! Let’s use our dough to create some candies of our own. We can use the pictures on these boxes (*point*) and I’ll give you some suggestions too.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Your ‘candies’ look so yummy! They look just like the real thing. Great job, everyone! You know, everyone loves different kinds of candy. Some love chocolate. Some love sour candy. Different people like different things. But today we’ll hear a story about someone who loves everyone!”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by naming different kinds of candy and asking the children to give a thumbs up or thumbs down if they like it!

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
REVIEW



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us when
no one else does.

The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11

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.

1. HEART PASS

WHAT YOU NEED: Heart pillow

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Guide the children to sit in a circle.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse together as a group while you pass the pillow around the circle. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone come and sit in a circle with me. (*Hold up the heart pillow.*) Our story today has me thinking about my how much Jesus loves us. There is no end to His love for us!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's practice our memory verse. We can pass the heart around the circle while we say it, because hearts are a symbol of love. Are you ready? (*Start passing the pillow.*) Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12." (*Repeat several times.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Awesome job! Jesus loves us so much and will always love us no matter what! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us when no one else does.

The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11

MEMORY VERSE

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

JOHN 15:12, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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2. JESUS LOVES EVERYONE

WHAT YOU NEED: “Thumbprint Bubble Page” Activity Page, white cardstock, 3-4 different colored washable inkpads, and baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the “Thumbprint Bubble Page” onto cardstock. Provide one per child. Set the inkpads in the center of the table. Place the pages around the edges of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the words on the page and read them aloud, “Jesus loves everyone.” Have the children stand behind one of the pages. Then encourage the children to press their thumbs onto the inkpad and then onto the word “everyone” on the page in front of them. Then instruct the children to step to the right (so that everyone rotates to the next page) and place their thumbprint on the page in front of them. Continue rotating around the table to the right until every child has stamped their thumbprint on every page to represent everyone!

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Set the pages aside to dry.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Do you see the words on the page in front of you? (Point.) Your page says, ‘Jesus loves everyone.’ Does Jesus love everyone? (Pause.) YES! Does Jesus love us when we mess up? (Pause.) You bet!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s press your thumb onto the inkpad and then press your thumb on the word ‘everyone’ with your thumbprint. When finished, we’ll take one step to the right and put our thumbprints on that page. We’ll continue going around the table until you have each placed your thumbprint onto everyone’s page!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Your thumbprint pictures look awesome! Look at everyone’s thumbprints. They are all so different. But **Jesus loves everyone.** He loves all kinds of people. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**”



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HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us when
no one else does.

The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11

MEMORY VERSE

“Love each other as I have
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KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

3. SPREAD THE LOVE

WHAT YOU NEED: Clear cups (1 per child), toilet paper rolls with some paper still attached (1 per child), eye dropper, red washable marker, and water

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Unroll some of the paper on each roll and draw a heart on the paper. Place the cups on a table and lay the rolls horizontally across the top of the cups with the paper inside the cup. You should have a cup and roll per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Use the dropper to place water over the cup and onto the heart on the paper. Point out that the ink spreads just like Jesus’ love. Allow each child to drop water on a heart in a cup to watch it spread.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Jesus loves everyone! He loves us even if we make bad choices.”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “There are red hearts on this paper. (Point.) Let’s see what happens when we put water on the paper. (Do activity.) WOW! The ink spreads, just like Jesus’ love spreads to EVERYONE! Now it is your turn to watch Jesus’ love spread!” (Finish activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “That was so cool watching the ink spread on the heart. Hearts remind me of love, and Jesus loves everyone no matter what choices we make. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**”



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**LIVE
FOR GOD**
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ACTIVITY



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us when no one else does.

The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11

4. DANCE PARTY

WHAT YOU NEED: Monthly song and a CD player

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in an open area of the room. Play the music and encourage the children to have a dance party.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I thought it would be SUPER fun to have a dance party! Let's dance to the music and, as you dance, let's sing about how Jesus wants to be our friend forever."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Whew! That was SUPER fun dancing. I think I learned some new dance moves today. I'm so glad to know that Jesus wants to be my friend forever, because **Jesus loves everyone**. Tell me: **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**"

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

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us when no one else does.

The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11

5. CUPCAKE CRAFT

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cupcake" Activity Page, yellow cardstock, pink construction paper, glue sticks, white paper, scissors, sequin stickers, and a heart stamp

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto the yellow cardstock. Cut the pink paper in thirds horizontally. Fold the paper accordion style.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have loved you."

JOHN 15:12, NIV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child an Activity Page and the folded paper. Help the child glue the folded paper on the bottom section of the cupcake on the Activity Page. This will be the cupcake liner. Give the child the white paper and help them tear the paper into little pieces. Encourage the child to glue the pieces onto the top of the cupcake as icing.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Give each child some stickers and explain that they are cupcake sprinkles. Help the children place them on top of the icing. Help the children place a heart stamp on top of the cupcake as a cherry.

KEY QUESTION

Who does Jesus love?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We are going to make a yummy pretend cupcake!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Give each child an Activity Page.) "First, we need to give the cupcake a bottom. (Hold up pink paper.) This is the cupcake liner. Glue it on the bottom of the cupcake. (Pause.) AWESOME! Now we need to put icing on our cupcake. (Give each child some white paper.) Tear the paper into small pieces. (Pause.) Great! Now, let's glue on the icing! (Pause.) Perfect!"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Now we need to add sprinkles and a cherry on top! (Finish activity.) Perfect! I love that the cherry is a heart! It reminds me that Jesus loves EVERYONE—even the woman in our story today. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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The Unloved Woman
JOHN 8:2-11

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" paper clipped in your Bible at John 15:12, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen for each small group

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Since we're all friends, let's make a chain by holding hands and walk to our Small Group spot. Grab a friend by the hand and follow me!

(Assist the children in making a chain holding hands as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

"That was fun! It's nice having friends. Now let's sit down so we can talk about our Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

"What do you think it would be like to have no friends? No friends to play with. No friends to share a snack with. No friends to come to your birthday party. No friends to go to school with. No friends to give you a hug when you're hurt or sad. No friends for anything! What would that be like? *(Pause for responses.)* Having no friends would feel very sad and lonely.

"The woman in our Bible story today didn't have any friends. No one in her town loved her. And the people that did talk to her wanted to hurt her because of some wrong things she had done. But guess who was her friend and loved her anyway? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus! Jesus was her friend, because **Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love?**"

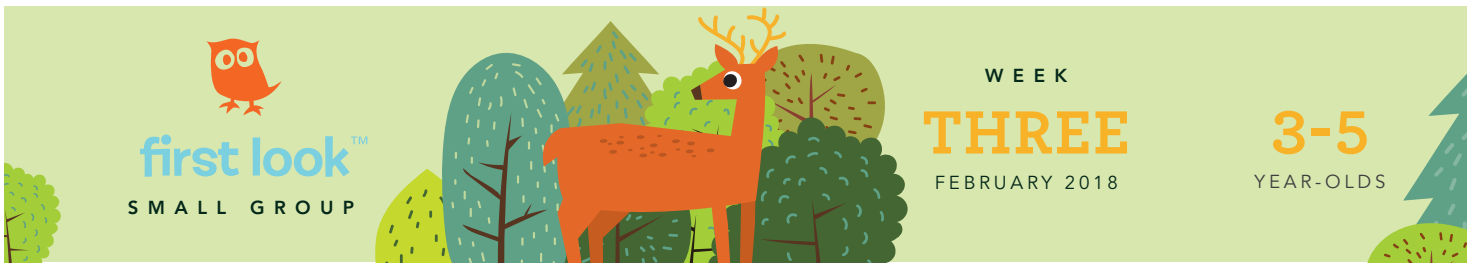
CHILDREN AND SGL: "**Jesus loves everyone!**"

SGL: "Look to the friend beside you. *(Pause.)* **Who does Jesus love?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**Jesus loves everyone!**"

SGL: "That means Jesus will always be your friend no matter what, and Jesus loves us, A LOT!

(Open Bible to verse.)



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

"And since the Bible verse we're learning says we should love others the way Jesus loves us, we should love others A LOT too! Our verse says: Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

"Let's stand up and say this verse together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "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.*)

SGL: "I am so proud of you for learning that verse! You sound great! Tell a friend beside you, 'Good job,' and give them two thumbs up like this. (*Demonstrate two thumbs up.*)

"Okay, now it's time to write in our journal and pray. Let's sit down.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Jesus is the BEST friend we could ever ask for, because **Jesus loves everyone!** Since Jesus is such a good friend to us, it helps us be a good friend to others. Today we're going to make a list of people we need to be a good friend to, and when we pray, we can ask God to help us be a good friend to them. When I say your name, tell me one person you need to be a good friend to."

(Write each child's name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

SGL: "Now that we have our list of people, let's pray and ask God to help us be a good friend to them. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, it feels good to have friends. We want everyone to know that Jesus loves them and that He wants to be their friend forever. We want to love people like Jesus and be their friend too. Help [child's name] be a good friend to (*name listed*). (*Repeat for each child.*) We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."