

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

FOUR

FEBRUARY 2018

SMALL GROUP

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

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first lookTM
SMALL GROUP



WEEK
FOUR
FEBRUARY 2018

3-5
YEAR-OLDS

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.
Stop and Go
THREE Ring Toss
Rooster Bin 

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Always
Every Day

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.
Memory Verse Love
Three Times
Yes or No
A Different Parachute
Gumballs Galore
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

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15 MINUTES

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MOVE

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

MEMORY VERSE

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1. STOP AND GO

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Guide the children to stand on one side of the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask the children to walk toward the other side of the activity area. As they are walking, say, "STOP," and have the children stop and freeze. Then say, "GO," and encourage the children to continue walking. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We are going to play STOP and GO. You are going to walk to that side of the room. (*Point.*) When you hear me say, 'STOP,' everyone stop and freeze. Then when I say, 'GO,' you can walk again. Are you ready?" (*Pause.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Here we go! Start walking. (*Pause.*) STOP! Great job! Now GO! Wonderful!" (*Continue activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job stopping and going! Today we are going to talk about how Jesus never STOPS loving us no matter what. I am so excited about today's Bible story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to play stop and go as you walk to the story area. Start to walk and say, "STOP!" (*Pause.*) Then say, "GO," and continue walking to the story area.

PRELUDE

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15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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JOHN 15:12, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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2. THREE RING TOSS

WHAT YOU NEED: 3 small, solid-colored, circular water rings; a permanent marker; masking tape; and a laundry basket

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Inflate the water rings. Use the permanent marker to write the word "LIFESAVER" in large block letters around the edge of the water rings to make them look like Life Savers® candies. Use the masking tape to mark a starting line on the floor. Place the laundry basket about two feet away.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Line up the children behind the starting line. Give the first child three water rings. Ask the child to stay behind the taped line and toss the rings into the laundry basket. Make sure each child has three turns. If time allows for a second round, move the laundry basket a little further away from the starting line and let the children play again.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today I thought it would be fun to play a game called 'THREE Ring Toss'! I want each of you to stand right here behind the tapeline. (*Point.*) Then you will each have a chance to toss these three candy rings into the laundry basket! But you must stay behind the line. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Let's line up right here."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was super fun! Tell me: How many chances did you get to make it into the laundry basket? (*Pause.*) Yes! Three tries. I want you to remember that number, because we'll hear it again in our Bible story today. I can't wait!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by counting to three in different voices, such as: mouse voice, deep voice, high-pitched voice, whisper voice, opera voice, normal voice, fast voice, slow voice, monster voice, silly voice, etc.



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15 MINUTES

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EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have loved you."

JOHN 15:12, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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3. ROOSTER BIN

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, colored rice (try to color your rice to resemble dessert sprinkles), a medium-sized tub, and a plastic rooster figure or toy

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on white cardstock and hang on the door. Place the rice inside the tub and hide the rooster in the rice.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Challenge the children to use their hands to sift through the rice and to try to find the hidden rooster.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Re-hide the rooster and allow another child to have a turn. Continue the activity until all of the children have had a turn to find the rooster.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We have a bin FULL of SPRINKLES! That's so fun!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Hidden in the sprinkles is something that we are going to talk about in our Bible story today. Let's use our hands and find out what it is!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "WOW, a rooster! You know, there IS a rooster in our Bible story today. I cannot wait to find out what happens! It is so exciting!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to be a rooster and saying, "Cock-a-doodle-doo," all the way to the story area.

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

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1. MEMORY VERSE LOVE

WHAT YOU NEED: Small heart stickers (8 per child), "Verse Hearts" Activity Page, and white cardstock

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Verse Hearts" on cardstock. You need one per child. Place the heart stickers on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the words on the Activity Page and read the verse aloud to the children. Encourage them to place a heart sticker over the heart shapes above each word of the verse. Have the children point to each word of the verse on the page as you say it together. Repeat the verse several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Do you see the words on your page? This is our memory verse for this month! It says: Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12. I love this verse! It reminds me that **Jesus loves everyone**, and because He loves us, we can love others too."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's use these heart stickers (*hold up*) to cover the blank hearts on our page. (*Pause.*) Great job! Now let's point to each word as we say the verse together. Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The hearts on your page can remind you that you are LOVED! Jesus loves you and you and you (*point to the children as you say this*) and you and you! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!** Yes, He does. And because we know that for sure, we can love others too."



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

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MEMORY VERSE

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2. THREE TIMES

WHAT YOU NEED: "Peter," "Jesus," and "No and Yes" Activity Pages, white cardstock, red cardstock, scissors, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Pages "Peter" and "Jesus" onto the white cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Each child will need three cutouts from each page. Copy the Activity Page "No and Yes" onto the red cardstock.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a "No and Yes" Activity Page. Retell the Bible story. As you are telling the "three no's" have the children glue the three cutouts of Peter in the boxes that say NO.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: As you finish telling the story and you get to the "three yeses," encourage the children to glue the three cutouts of Jesus and the Peter in the boxes that say YES.

WHAT YOU SAY:

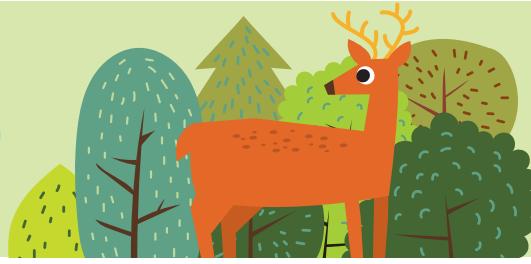
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We heard an amazing story today! It was a great reminder that Jesus loves us no matter what!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Give each child a "No and Yes" Activity Page.) "Peter and Jesus were good friends. Peter loved Jesus and he loved telling other people all about how he loved Jesus. One day, Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed, Peter would say three times that he was not Jesus' friend. Jesus was taken away by some bad men and Peter was left all alone. Then three people asked him if he was Jesus' friend. Do you remember what he said? (Pause.) Right! He said NO three times, just like Jesus said he would. On your page, the top three boxes say NO. (Point.) Glue the three pictures of Peter in those boxes. (Hold up.) Awesome!

"Peter felt bad. He was afraid that Jesus did not love him any more because of what he had done. Then he saw Jesus on the beach and Jesus asked him three times, 'Peter, do you love me?' Do you remember what he said? (Pause.) YES! He said YES three times! The bottom boxes on your pages say YES! (Point.)



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

Let's glue the pictures of Jesus and Peter in the YES boxes. Perfect!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "No matter what Peter did, Jesus still loved him. He always loves us too! No matter what we do Jesus will ALWAYS love us. **Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

Jesus never stops loving us.

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MATTHEW 26:31-35, 69-75;
JOHN 21:15-17

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have
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friend forever.

3. YES OR NO

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Teach the children the following sign language for yes and no. (*Images of these are available on our Pinterest page.*)

Yes – Make a fist and move it up and down.

No – Hold up your first two fingers and tap them to your thumb.

Review these several times with the children, calling out yes and no as you perform these signs. Then tell the children that you will ask some questions and you want them to answer yes or no using sign language.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today, I want to teach you some special signs for the words 'yes' and 'no.' Have you ever heard of sign language before? When a person cannot hear, they need a super special language called sign language, so they can talk to others. Would you like to learn these super awesome signs for yes and no?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Okay, for 'yes,' hold up your hand, put it in a fist, and move it up and down like you would move your head up and down for yes. (*Demonstrate.*) Great. That's yes.

"For 'no,' you hold up your first two fingers and tap them once to your thumb like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Okay, you show me no in sign language. (*Pause.*) Great!

"What's yes again? (*Pause.*) And what's no? (*Pause.*) Perfect. Now I'm going to ask some questions and I want you to answer with the cool new signs you learned. Ready?

Questions:

Do you like broccoli?

Do you like ice cream?

Do you like to go to the beach?

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Do you like bedtime?
Do you like to take a bath?
Do you like scrambled eggs?
Do you like your friends?
Do you like the sunshine?
Do you like the rain?
Do you like it when you get a boo-boo?
Do you like to come to church?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I hope everyone answered yes (*perform the sign*) to that last question, because I sure love coming to church to see all of you! This is where we learn all about Jesus and just how much He loves everyone! In our Bible story today, Peter said NO about knowing Jesus three times! We should always be careful to answer with the truth when someone asks us a question. But even when Peter messed up, Jesus never stopped loving him. Would Jesus ever stop loving you? (*Pause.*) No way! Because **Jesus loves everyone!**"



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MOVE

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

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**MATTHEW 26:31-35, 69-75;
JOHN 21:15-17**

MEMORY VERSE

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4. A DIFFERENT PARACHUTE

WHAT YOU NEED: Parachute or large sheet, and large pom-poms in different colors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children to stand around the parachute. Encourage the children to each take hold of the parachute and lift it off the ground. Place the pom-poms onto the parachute.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Instruct the children to move their arms up and down to move the parachute to bounce the pom-poms. Point out that the pom-poms are different colors. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's bounce all of the different pom-poms up and down!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "The pom-poms are different because everyone is different, and Jesus loves everyone! Everyone pick up the parachute. (Pause.) Let's see how high we can get the different pom-poms! (Do activity.) Way to go!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "WOW! We really sent the different pom-poms super high! Everyone is different and Jesus loves us ALL! No matter what! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**"



PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

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CREATE

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5. GUMBALLS GALORE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Gumball Machine" Activity Page, white cardstock, and different colored circle dot stickers (5-6 per child)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Gumball Machine" Activity Page onto cardstock. You need one per child. Set out the circle stickers.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have loved you."

JOHN 15:12, NIV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Explain that children will be filling up the empty gumball machines on their pages with gumballs (*stickers*). Encourage the children to use all the colors of stickers you've provided.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Oh no! It looks like our gumball machines are empty! Let's fill them up with some yummy treats."

KEY QUESTION

Who does Jesus love?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's use these stickers (*hold up*) as our gumballs. Try to use at least one of every color."

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Your gumball machines look fabulous! There are so many different colors, just like there are different kinds of people in the world. Does Jesus only love certain people? (*Pause.*) No way! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** That's right! I want you to take this home and every time you look at all these different colors, I want you to remember that Jesus loves all different kinds of people. **Jesus loves everyone!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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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, a fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or a hand stamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Follow me, friends! Don't stop until we get to our spot!"

(Lead them around the room and then finally arrive to your spot.)

"Okay, STOP! We made it! Now let's sit down so we can talk about our story today. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

"We have talked a lot about how **Jesus loves everyone**. Today we heard a story about how Jesus NEVER stops loving us. His love just doesn't stop! Peter wasn't a great friend to Jesus when he told people he didn't know who Jesus was. Did that make Jesus stop loving Peter? (Pause.) No way! **Jesus loves everyone** and His love never stops. **Who does Jesus love?**"

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

SGL: "This time say it in a whisper. Who loves everyone?"

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

SGL: "That means we should never stop loving others since the Bible verse we've been learning says we should love others the way Jesus loves us. Listen to this.

(Open Bible to verse.)

"Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

"It's right there! Jesus wants us to love others the way He loves us. And because Jesus never stops loving us, we should never stop loving others.

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25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD
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REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

Let's stand up and say our Bible verse together with the motions and then anyone who wants to try and say it for a sticker/hand stamp can try. 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.*)

SGL: "You sound so ready to say this verse! (*Give each child a high-five.*)

"Okay, I want everyone to sit down. When it's your turn to say the verse you can stand up. Who wants to try and say the verse first?
(*Give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his own. Have your stickers/hand stamp ready to give when they say it.*)

"I am so proud of each of you! I'm proud of (*name each child*)! Now it's time to write in our journal and pray.
(*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Have you ever done anything that made you feel like someone would stop being your friend? Maybe you made a mess, broke something, or said something mean to someone. I have. We all have. When we do or say something wrong, I want us to remember that Jesus never stops loving us, and He will always want to be our friend forever no matter what. Got it?

"I want us to make a list of things we think could make someone stop loving us. It can be anything. When we pray, I want to use our list to thank God that Jesus is the kind of friend that will never stop loving us. When I say your name, tell me one thing you think could make someone stop loving you."

(*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.*)

"That was kind of hard to think about because so many people love us. I want us to always remember how much we are loved! Let's pray and thank God for Jesus and that He will never, ever, EVER stop loving us. 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 so good to know that no matter what we say or do, Jesus will never stop loving us. We are that special to Him! Sometimes we do things that make us feel like people can stop loving us, like when we (*read the list the children made*). But that is so not true! Jesus will always love us no matter what. Please help us remember how much Jesus loves us. We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."