

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

ONE

MARCH 2018

LARGE GROUP

2

YEAR-OLDS



## first look™

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



**BIBLE STORY**

John told people that Jesus is special.

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**MATTHEW 3:3-4, 11, 13-15**

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Come and follow me,  
Jesus said.”

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can follow Jesus.

**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.  
Follow Actions  
Where Is Jesus?  
Follow Pop

**10**  
MIN

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

Friend Forever

**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 with Motions  
Jesus Is Special  
Tunnel Vision  
Big Fish, Little Fish

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

John told people that Jesus is special.

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**MATTHEW 3:3-4, 11, 13-15**

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

"Come and follow me,'  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

## WORSHIP

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

**LEADER:** "Good morning, friends! It's so great to see you today. This month we're going to talk some more about Jesus. Remember, last month, we learned that Jesus loves each and every one of us. This month, we're going to learn that we can follow Jesus. All month long, when I ask you, '**Who can you follow?**' I want you to say, '**I can follow Jesus.**' Yes, you can. You can follow Jesus, and He wants to be your friend forever. Let's learn our new song together.

## KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

Lead children in singing "Friend Forever."

"You all did a fabulous job with our new song. I love it! Now tell me: **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"

## BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** A Bible

**LEADER:** "It's story time! I want (*name each child if you can*) to come sit with me.

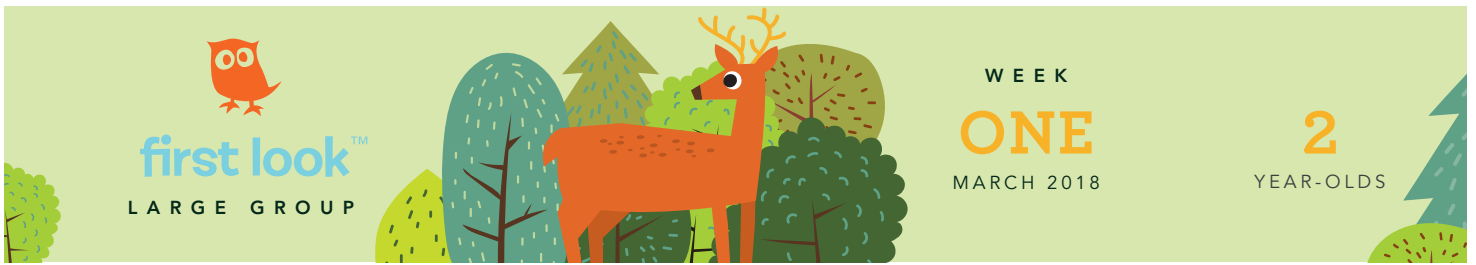
"This is the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) It has God's true stories in it. God gave us the Bible because He loves us. We love the Bible.

(*Give Bible a hug and lay it open in front of you.*)

"Today's Bible story is about a man named John. Can you say, 'John'? (*Pause.*) Good job!

"God gave John a special job. God told John to go and tell all the people that Jesus was coming. John did what God said because He loved God.

"John told all the people, 'Jesus is coming and He's the greatest!' Say that with me."



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

15 MINUTES

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "Jesus is coming and He's the greatest! Jesus is coming and He's the greatest! Jesus is coming and He's the greatest!"

**LEADER:** "Every day John told the people, say it with me, . . ."

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "Jesus is coming and He's the greatest! Jesus is coming and He's the greatest! Jesus is coming and He's the greatest!"

**LEADER:** "One day, while John was telling the people that Jesus is coming and He's the greatest, guess who walked up. (Pause.) JESUS! Jesus came, just like God said He would! John said, 'Look! Jesus is here and He's the greatest!' Say that with me."

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "Jesus is here and He's the greatest! Jesus is here and He's the greatest! Jesus is here and He's the greatest!"

**LEADER:** "The people started following Jesus because He is the greatest! We can follow Jesus too! **Who can you follow?**"

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "**I can follow Jesus!**"

**LEADER:** "**Who can you follow?**"

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "**I can follow Jesus!**"

**LEADER:** "Yes, you can follow Jesus because Jesus is God's Son, Jesus loves you, and **Jesus wants to be your friend forever**. He's the greatest!"

"Now let's close our eyes and put our hands in our lap so we can talk to God."

### PRAYER

**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank You for (*name each child*). I pray each of them will one day follow Jesus because He is the greatest! Thank You for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever and for making a way for us to know YOU forever. You are the best, God. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."