

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

THREE

MARCH 2018

LARGE GROUP

2

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

TEAM

CEO

Reggie Joiner

DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL STRATEGY

Brittany Compton Robertson

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Kathy Hill

DESIGN AND BRAND MANAGER

Sharon van Rossum

CREATIVE TEAM

Brittany Compton Robertson

Kathy Hill

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

Donna High

Sharon van Rossum

Deb Springer

McKenzie Causey

WRITERS

Emily Meredith

Kathy Hill

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

Anyone can follow Jesus.

MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)
MATTHEW 9:9-10

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.
Celebrate
Bubble Path
All of the People

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.
Ball Path
Who Can Follow Jesus?
Follow My Lead
Happy People

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Anyone can follow Jesus.

MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)
MATTHEW 9:9-10

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.

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: "Hello, friends. What a wonderful day. I can't wait to sing with you. I love singing with you every week. But first, tell me: **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.** That's right! **I can follow Jesus.** We can follow Him, and He wants to be our friend forever. Let's sing about that.

KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

Lead children in singing "Friend Forever."

"So good! I'm so proud of how well you're learning this song. Great job, everyone. Now tell me one more time: **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus.**"

BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: A Bible, "Happy Face" and "Sad Face" Activity Pages, yellow cardstock, scissors, ruler, and tape

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE STORY: Make one copy of "Happy Face" and one copy of "Sad Face" on yellow cardstock and cut out. Tape the happy face to one side of the ruler and the sad face to the other side.

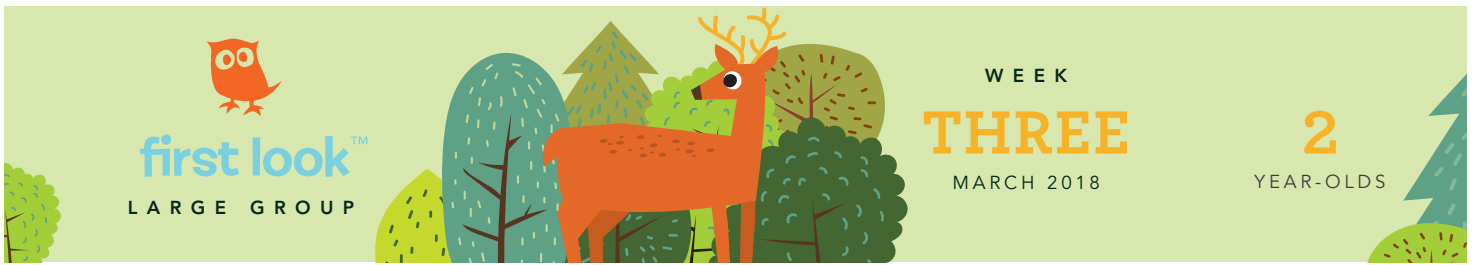
WHAT YOU SAY:

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 Matthew. Can you say, 'Matthew'?" (*Pause.*) Good job!



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

15 MINUTES

"Matthew's job was to take money from people to help the city. People didn't like it when he would take their money, because he would take too much and keep it. Matthew didn't have a lot of friends.

(Hold up sad face.)

"One day, Jesus saw Matthew and He said, 'Come, follow me!' This made Matthew happy!

(Turn and show the happy face to the children.)

"Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to follow Him.

"Remember the fishermen? They weren't very fancy, and some people didn't think they were special."

(Hold up sad face.)

"But Jesus told them to follow me, . . .

(Turn and show the happy face to the children.)

". . . because Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to follow Him.

"What about a little boy who does something wrong?

(Hold up sad face.)

"Jesus wants him to follow too, because Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to follow Him.

(Turn and show the happy face to the children.)

"What about a little girl who does something wrong?

(Hold up sad face.)

"Jesus wants her to follow too, because Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to follow Him.

(Turn and show the happy face to the children.)

"That means Jesus wants YOU to follow Him! **Who can you follow?"**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "I can follow Jesus!"

LEADER: "Who can you follow?"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

15 MINUTES

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "I can follow Jesus!"

LEADER: "Yes, you can follow Jesus!"

LEADER: "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*). Thank You that You love everyone and You want everyone to follow Jesus. I pray that each person here will choose to follow Jesus one day. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."