

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

ONE

MARCH 2018

SMALL 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

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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

1. FOLLOW ACTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand behind you in a single file line.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children around the room and do movements of different animals for them to mimic as you walk. First, be a chicken by tucking your hands under your arms and flapping them like wings while saying, “Cluck, cluck.” Then be a giraffe by stretching your neck up high and pretending to eat leaves from trees. Next, be a bunny by hopping and placing your index fingers on top of your head as ears. Lastly, pretend to be a fish by making a fish face and moving your arms in a swimming motion. Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Follow me!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Everyone line up behind me and do what I do! We are going to be different animals as we walk around the room. Are you ready? (Pause.) Great! First we are going to pretend to be CHICKENS!” (Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “I loved how you all followed me! Today in our Bible story we are going to hear about someone we should ALL follow!”

TRANSITION: Move to Bible story time by continuing the activity and pretending to be fish as you walk to the story area. Say, “Follow me, little fish!”

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GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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EXPLORE

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

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2. WHERE IS JESUS?

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus Figure" Activity Page, white paper, laminator, scissors, clean and empty 2-liter bottle with a lid and the label removed, water, hot glue gun, hot glue, glitter, and star confetti

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto white paper and cut on the dotted lines. Laminate the Jesus figure and cut it out again. Each class will need one Jesus figure. Fill the bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water. Bend the Jesus figure slightly to place it inside the bottle through the top opening. Pour the glitter and star confetti in the bottle. Use the hot glue gun to glue the lid onto the bottle.

(Note: Be sure when using the hot glue gun, you do not use it near the children. Be sure to unplug it and remove it from the classroom as soon as you are finished. If possible, use the glue gun when no children are present.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the bottle in the activity area. Invite the children to pick up the bottle and move it around. Challenge the children to follow the Jesus figure around the bottle as it moves. Repeat until each child has had a turn to follow Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's follow Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Move the bottle around and the Jesus figure will move all around too! Watch closely with your eyes and see if you can follow Him." *(Do activity.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Nice job! You followed Jesus! We are going to hear a TRUE Bible story today about how EVERYONE should follow Jesus. I can't wait!"

TRANSITION: Move to Bible story time by playing "Follow the Leader" to the story area.

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15 MINUTES

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PLAY

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

3. FOLLOW POP

WHAT YOU NEED: Pop beads

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children sit in front of you. Give each child one bead.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Hold one bead up and ask a child to connect her bead to follow it. Keep asking other children to follow the beads by connecting their bead to the others. Keep going until all children have connected their beads.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s play with the pop beads!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Hold up your bead.*) “Okay, everyone, follow my bead. (*Choose one child.*) You can go first. Follow my bead! (*Pause as child connects her bead.*) Awesome! Now let someone else follow our beads.” (*Continue with activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Way to follow the beads! We are going to learn who we should ALWAYS follow in our Bible story today!”

TRANSITION: Move to Bible story time by chanting this month’s Bottom Line: **“I can follow Jesus!”** as you walk 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 WITH MOTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children:

"Come (*motion toward yourself with hand*) and follow me" (*march*),
Jesus said (*hands to mouth like yelling*),
Matthew 4:19. (*Open your hands like a book.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I am going to say our new memory verse today. Everyone watch me! "Come (*motion toward yourself with hand*) and follow me" (*march*), Jesus said (*hands to mouth like yelling*), Matthew 4:19." (*Open your hands like a book.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's do it all together! Are you ready?" (*Say the verse with the motions several times.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! Our memory verse tells us that Jesus wants us to follow Him. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"

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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BASIC TRUTH

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2. JESUS IS SPECIAL

WHAT YOU NEED: “Special” Activity Page, white cardstock, and multi-colored star stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child an Activity Page and some stickers. Encourage the children to place stickers around Jesus on the page.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Retell today’s Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Jesus is special! Today we learned that John the Baptist told everyone how special Jesus is.”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “We have a page with Jesus on it. *(Hold up.)* Let’s place stickers all around Jesus to show special He is.” *(Do activity.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “John loved Jesus and wanted everyone else to love Him too. He told everyone all about how special Jesus is. He baptized everyone who wanted to follow Jesus. We should follow Jesus too! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**”

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



MOVE

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

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3. TUNNEL VISION

WHAT YOU NEED: A toddler tunnel

(Option: If you do not have access to a tunnel, you can drape a sheet over a table or large box to make it a tunnel.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the tunnel in the middle of the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to follow one another through the tunnel. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's play with the tunnel today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Follow each other into the tunnel!" *(Do activity.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Perfect! I love the way you all followed each other. We can follow Jesus too! He wants us to follow Him! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



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4. BIG FISH, LITTLE FISH

WHAT YOU NEED: “Big Fish” and “Little Fish” Activity Pages, light blue and dark blue cardstock, scissors, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the “Big Fish” Activity Page onto the light blue cardstock. Copy the “Little Fish” Activity Page onto the dark blue cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Each child will need three fish: a large fish, a medium-sized fish, and a small fish.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a “Big Fish” Activity Page and the three fish cutouts. Ask the children to find the small dot on the page. Help the children glue the small fish on top of the small dot. Next ask the children to find the medium-sized dot on the page. Encourage the child to glue the medium-sized fish onto that dot.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Finish the activity with the large dot and the large fish.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “We have different sizes of fish here. (*Hold up fish.*) We are going to help them follow each other, just like we follow Jesus!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Here are our three fish. We have large fish (*hold up*), medium-sized fish (*hold up*), and a small fish (*hold up*). Can you look on the page and find a small dot? (*Pause.*) Great job! Now glue the SMALL fish onto the SMALL dot! (*Pause.*) Way to go! Now look for the medium-sized dot. (*Pause.*) YES! Nice job! Now glue the medium-sized fish onto the medium-sized dot.” (*Continue the activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Great job! Now the small fish and the medium-sized fish are following the big fish, just like we follow Jesus! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**”