

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

# THREE

MARCH 2018

SMALL GROUP

# 2

YEAR-OLDS



# first look™

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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

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Anyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-10**



## MOVE

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

## MEMORY VERSE

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Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

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### 1. CELEBRATE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

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

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Call one child by name and invite him to stand in the middle of the circle. As he is walking to the middle, say something positive about him (*nice smile, kind, etc.*) When the child is in the middle of the circle say, "Our Bible story today is about how [child's name] can follow Jesus, because anyone can follow Jesus! Let's celebrate [child's name]!" Encourage the children to clap and cheer. Be sure to make the child in the circle feel special. Ask the child to return to the circle and choose another child to be in the middle. Repeat the activity until each child has had a turn to be in the middle.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "I feel like celebrating! I want to celebrate each of you!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Make a circle and choose the first child to be in the middle.*) "[Child's name], you have such a nice smile today. Will you please stand in the middle of our circle so that we can celebrate you? (*Pause.*) Our Bible story today is about how [child's name] can follow Jesus, because anyone can follow Jesus! YAY, [child's name]! Let's celebrate!" (*Clap and cheer.*) (*Finish activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "It is so much fun celebrating all of you. You all can follow Jesus. Today in our Bible story we are going to learn who can follow Jesus. I can't wait!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by clapping, cheering, and celebrating as you walk to the story area. Say, "Let's keep celebrating while you follow me to the story area!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

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**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-10**



## PLAY

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

## MEMORY VERSE

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Jesus said.”

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

## BOTTOM LINE

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### 2. BUBBLE PATH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bubble solution and bubble wand

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Guide the children to stand in a line behind you.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Start walking with the children behind you and blow bubbles as you walk. Have the children keep walking behind as they try to pop the bubbles.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Walk around the activity area several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** “Everyone follow me down the path.”

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “As we walk down the path, try to pop the bubbles.”  
(Do activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Great job following me! Today we are going to learn who can follow Jesus. I am so excited for you to hear our TRUE story from the Bible!”

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by continuing to pop bubbles as you walk to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Anyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-10**



## EXPLORE

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

## 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.

### 3. ALL OF THE PEOPLE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Medium-sized tub, shredded paper, and Little People® figures

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place all of the Little People in the tub and cover them with the shredded paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Invite the children to use their hands to try to find the figures inside the tub. Be sure every child has a turn to find the figures. If all of the figures are found before every child has a turn, simply replace the found figures under the paper in the tub and begin again.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's see what is hidden in our tub!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Use your hands and see what you can find!" (Do activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "WOW! Look at all of the people. Today in our Bible story, we are going to find out what all of the people can do!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by holding hands with all of the people in the class.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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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. BALL PATH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Floor tape and a large ball

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Using the tape, make two lines about three feet apart, parallel to each other. This should create a pathway. It should be about 10 feet long.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children line up and roll the ball down the pathway as you say the memory verse as a group. Be sure each child has a turn to roll the ball.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse tells us we should follow Jesus. We should always follow His path!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I see a path on the floor. (*Point.*) Let's roll the ball onto the path as we say our awesome memory verse." (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Way to go! You made the ball follow the path. We should always follow the path behind Jesus too. We can ALL follow Jesus. **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

**BIBLE STORY**

Anyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-10**

**2. WHO CAN FOLLOW JESUS?**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Large Jesus" and "All People" Activity Pages, white cardstock, scissors, wall tape, and a small basket

*(Option: You may consider replacing the "All People" Activity Page with pictures of the children in your class.)*

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Large Jesus" Activity Page onto the white cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Tape the large cutout on a wall at preschool level. Copy the "All People" Activity Page onto the white cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Place all of the people cutouts in the basket. Be sure you have one people cutout per child.

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Retell the Bible story and encourage the children to come to the wall one by one and pick a people cutout from the basket. Help the children hang the cutouts on the wall "following" the Jesus cutout. Be sure every child has a turn to hang a cutout.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Today we heard a wonderful Bible story!"

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can follow Jesus.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Matthew was a tax collector, and many people did not like him. He had to take their money, so he did not have many friends. Jesus came to Matthew and said, "Follow Me," and Matthew did! Anyone can follow Jesus! (*Point to Jesus on the wall.*) We need to add people to the picture of Jesus to show that EVERYONE can follow Him!" (*Finish activity.*)

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Perfect! We put the people around Jesus so that they can follow Him. We can follow Jesus too, just like Matthew did! **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

**BIBLE STORY**

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**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)  
MATTHEW 9:9-10**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

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**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**BOTTOM LINE**

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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**3. FOLLOW MY LEAD**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Music player and this month's song, "Friend Forever"

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Prepare to play the monthly song.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Start to dance, and ask the children to follow your lead and mimic your dance moves. Do several different silly dance moves, such as the swim, the funky chicken, the worm, etc. Repeat several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Follow my lead! Dance the way that I dance."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I am going to dance and you can follow my lead and do what I do." (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Awesome! You are great dancers. You followed what I did. We can all follow Jesus too. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"



PRELUDE

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**CREATE**

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**4. HAPPY PEOPLE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Happy People” Activity Page, white cardstock, and yellow dot markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

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

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child an Activity Page and a dot marker. Encourage the children to color the happy faces with the markers.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Send the Activity Page home with the children.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** “Our Bible story today told us that everyone can follow Jesus.”

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “We are so happy that we can follow Jesus. We have happy faces following Jesus on our page. (*Point.*) Let’s use our markers to color them!” (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “I am so happy that I can follow Jesus. Are you happy that you can follow Jesus too? (*Pause.*) Awesome! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**”