

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

ONE

MARCH 2018

LARGE GROUP
RUG

3-5

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 Me Fishin'
Tell and Match
Bug Hunt

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 a Star!
Name Match
Star Walk
Megaphone
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue



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10 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

WORSHIP

Use the full mix of the monthly song provided with the curriculum to lead your preschoolers in worship. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Matthew 4:19. You will also need a CD player and this month’s worship song, “Friend Forever,” which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves for this song are available on the “Everybody Sing” Dance Moves DVD.

LEADER: “Hello, friends! How are you this morning? I’m so excited because this month we get to go fishing! Yes, we get to go fishing just like Jesus did. But Jesus wasn’t fishing for fish. Jesus was fishing for men. He wanted to find people to follow Him. And you know what? He found lots of people to follow Him. Want to know something even more awesome? You can follow Him too. That’s right! You can follow Jesus, and **I can follow Jesus**. Say that with me. **I can follow Jesus!** When I ask you this very important question, ‘**Who can you follow?**’ I want you to say, ‘**I can follow Jesus.**’ Let’s try it. **Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “**I can follow Jesus.**”

LEADER: “Great job! You guys are awesome! Let’s sing our new song about how much Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

Lead children in singing “Friend Forever,” this month’s worship song.

“Yes! Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Isn’t that awesome? You can follow Jesus! **I can follow Jesus. Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “**I can follow Jesus.**”

LEADER: “That’s right! **I can follow Jesus**. We can all follow Jesus. And that’s what Jesus wants. In fact, that’s what our memory verse tells us this month. It says: “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.) Let’s try that together.”

CHILDREN AND LEADER: “Come (motion toward yourself with hand) and



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10 MINUTES

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follow me" (march), Jesus said (hands to mouth like yelling), Matthew 4:19." (Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat several times.)

LEADER: "Great job, everyone! Jesus is God's Son, and He loves us so much.

STORY

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story."

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! I have a true story from the Bible . . .

(Open Bible and hold it.)

". . . about a very special person. A long time ago, God told people that one day He would send His Son, Jesus, to be with them. God said Jesus would be very, very special. He would be THE GREATEST!

"Now this is where I need your help to tell the story today. Every time I say the words, 'THE GREATEST,' I want you to get out your pretend horns out like this . . .

(Make a horn with your hands.)

". . . and then make as sound like this.

(Pretend to blow a horn.)

"Let's practice doing that. Get your pretend horns ready. God said Jesus is THE GREATEST!"

(Pretend to blow your horn.)

"Perfect! Okay, now we're ready for the rest of the story. Have your horns ready and listen carefully.

"Now, because God had told the people He was sending someone very special, they watched and waited for someone very special to come. When God was ready to show His Son, Jesus, to the people, God sent someone else first to tell all the people to get ready because Jesus was coming.

"God sent someone to tell the people that Jesus was on His way and that He would be THE GREATEST!

(Pretend to blow a horn.)



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10 MINUTES

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“The guy God set to tell the people that Jesus was coming was named John. People called him John the Baptist, because he would baptize people in water. Since John really loved God, God told him it was his job to go tell the people that Jesus was coming and that Jesus would be THE GREATEST!

(Pretend to blow a horn.)

“When God gave John this special job, John did exactly what God said. He started telling all the people about God’s Son, Jesus, and how very special He is. He started telling people that Jesus is THE GREATEST!

(Pretend to blow a horn.)

“When people started hearing what John said, they came to the water to be baptized so they could show everyone that they loved God and wanted to live God’s way. It was awesome!

“Then one day, JESUS came to the water to be baptized.

“He was the One they had been waiting for!

“He was the one John told them about!

“JESUS was finally here!

“John was amazed that Jesus was standing right there in front of him and that He wanted John to baptize Him. John did what Jesus wanted him to do and while he was baptizing Jesus, a loud voice came from the sky and said, ‘This is my Son.’

“It’s like God was saying Jesus is THE GREATEST!

(Pretend to blow a horn.)

“From that day on, people started following Jesus.”

(Close the Bible and lay it aside if you haven’t already done so.)

“But the story doesn’t end there. We can follow Jesus too! When we follow Jesus, He shows us how to live God’s way, and He can do that because he’s SO special. Jesus is—one more time—THE GREATEST!

(Pretend to blow a horn.)

“This month, when I ask you, ‘**Who can you follow?**’ I want you to say, ‘**I can follow Jesus.**’ Let’s try that. **Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: “I can follow Jesus!”

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STORYTELLER: "Again: **Who can you follow?**"

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

STORYTELLER: "You got it! That's the truth, friends. You better believe it! Let's close our eyes and pray now."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Thank You that He came to show us how to live Your way and be with You forever. I pray that every person in here will want to follow Jesus and help others follow Jesus too. You're the best, God. We love You very much! In Jesus' name, amen."