



WEEK 4 - February 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: We can love like Jesus.

Love Others • *John 15:12*

Memory Verse: "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

Key Question: Who does Jesus love?

Bottom Line: Jesus loves everyone.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Make it Fun

Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.

-Trains memory match

Make it True

Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world

-Large group time

Make it Stick

Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.

-Memory Verse
-All aboard
-conductors hat
-Journal and prayer

9:10-9:25 | 10:40-10:55 | 12:10-12:25 - MAKE IT FUN

1. Trains Memory Match

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: “Memory Game Cards” Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Memory Game Cards” Activity Page on cardstock and cut on dotted lines (two copies per activity). Shuffle the cards and lay them face down in a grid pattern on the table.

During the Activity: Gather the children around the table, and let each child take a turn turning over two cards to find a match. If a match is found, allow that child to take a second turn. If not, play moves to the next child. Once all matches have been found, identify the pictures on the cards. Then shuffle the cards, lay them face down, and play again as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Gather cards for clean-up.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Do you see the cards here? Let’s take turns turning over two cards to see if you can find two pictures that match. Pay attention as friends turn over the cards so you can find a match when it’s your turn!”

After the Activity: “Let’s see. We have an engine, a train car, a caboose, and a heart! I LOVE trains! We can remember that when it comes to love, it’s like the conductor calling, ‘All aboard!’ Everyone is welcome because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!** Let’s hear more about that in our Bible story! All aboard the love train, friends!”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by chugging like trains along a track.

9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: We can love like Jesus. And then there's all of us and the children and families we will lead this month. We are left with the question, how will I love others? Will I love like those who were bitter at Zacchaeus? The people who shunned the woman at the well? Those with rocks in hand ready to pass judgement? Or, will I choose to love like Jesus—the way Jesus loves us

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 MAKE IT STICK

1. Memory Verse Bridge

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Have two leaders stand, facing each other, and hold their hands up over their heads to create a bridge. Instruct children to walk under the “bridge” one by one, creating a circle, as you repeat the words of the verse. For each repetition of the verse, when you get to the last word (“you”), leaders will catch the child in a hug with their arms, saying his or her name instead of “you.” This is the same movement you would complete for the song “London Bridge Is Falling Down” but without the song. Repeat so that every child has a chance to be “caught.”

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Friends! Let’s all walk under the bridge as we say our verse together! One you walk under, circle back around so you can walk under again! Let’s say our verse together as you go. *Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.*”
(Do the activity.)

After the Activity: “That was SO fun! Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone, He wants us to love others, too! Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”

2. All Aboard!

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning as they review the Bible story

What You Need: “Jesus Train Ticket” Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, sheets of foam heart stickers.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make enough copies of “Jesus Train Ticket” on cardstock so when cut apart each child can have one train ticket.

During the Activity: Put on your pretend conductor hat and blow your train whistle. Give each child a “Jesus Train Ticket,” and invite children to get on the train. They must show you their “Jesus Train Ticket” to get on the train. When they show you their ticket, give them a foam heart sticker to put on it and then show them where to sit. As you review the story, every time you say Jesus’ name, the children will hold up their “Jesus Train Ticket” with the foam heart sticker on it.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “All aboard! (*Blow train whistle*) Come and get your train ticket! All aboard the story train! Get your train ticket! (*Repeat until you have given every child a train ticket.*) Does everyone have a train ticket? (*Pause.*) Great! Show me your train ticket and you can get in one of the train cars.

(Once everyone is in a train car) “Okay, get ready. Every time you hear me say, ‘JESUS,’ I want you to hold your train ticket way up high. Let’s practice. God gave us JESUS (*hold up ticket*) to be our friend forever! Wonderful! I see your tickets! Here we go!

“One day, JESUS (*hold up ticket*) was eating with His friends. JESUS (*hold up ticket*) told His friends the most important thing they could ever do. JESUS (*hold up ticket*) told them the most important thing they could do is love others the way He loves them. Wow! That’s a lot of love! JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loves us a lot!

“Do you remember how JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loved the woman at the well, even though she was different than Him? He was her friend. It didn’t matter where she lived or what she looked like or what language she spoke because **[Bottom Line] JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loves everyone!**

“Do you remember how JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loved Zacchaeus, even though He had made a wrong choice? JESUS (*hold up ticket*) was still Zacchaeus’ friend because **[Bottom Line] JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loves everyone!**

“Do you remember how JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loved the woman who didn’t have any friends? He was kind to her and helped her because **[Bottom Line] JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loves everyone!**

“And guess what! JESUS (*hold up ticket*) loves YOU, no matter what. And JESUS (*hold up ticket*) wants you to love people the way He loves you. That means you can love people no matter what!”

After the Activity: “Thank you for riding the story train with me. Take your train ticket home so you can remember to love others the way Jesus loves you.”

3. Conductor’s Hat

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: Sentence strips (one per child), “Hat” Activity Page, cardstock, clear tape, and markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Hat” Activity Page onto cardstock and cut on dotted lines (one per child). Set the sentence strips and markers on the tables.

During the Activity: Give each child a “Hat” Activity Page to color. As they’re working, walk around the table, wrap a sentence strip around each child’s head, and secure it with tape. As children finish coloring, help them tape their hats to the front of the sentence strip.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Right here on the front of our hats it says, ‘All aboard! **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**’ Use your markers to color your hats, and I’ll come around and help you secure them to the strip so you can wear them home.”

After the Activity: “Your hats look amazing! Remember: **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.** With Jesus, it’s always ALL aboard! **Who does Jesus love?** Say it loud! **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.**”

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at John 15:12. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group. You will also need heart stickers as well as reward stickers or hand stamp for saying the Bible verse.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. I have something for you to wear to our Small Group spot today. It’s a . . . heart!

(Give each child a heart sticker.)

“This heart is to remind you that Jesus loves you with His whole heart. That’s A LOT!

(Pause and look at the children.)

“There! Everyone has a heart sticker because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “Jesus loves everyone!”

SGL: “He sure does! Now follow me! Let’s walk to our Small Group spot.

(Lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

“Here we are! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

“We have been learning a lot about how **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.**

“Jesus loves people who are different than Him.

“Jesus loves people when they do something wrong.

“Jesus loves people when no one else does.

[Bottom Line] “Jesus loves everyone!

“And Jesus wants us to love everyone, too.

(Pick up the Bible.)

“We have been learning a Bible verse that will help us remember that Jesus wants us to love everyone like He does.

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

“*Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.*

“Did you hear that? Jesus told us to *(point to verse in Bible): Love each other as I have loved you.*

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

“Loving people is the best way we can show the world that we love Jesus and Jesus loves them. Let’s stand up and say that verse together with the motions so we can remember to love people the way Jesus loves us. Then, anyone who wants to say it by yourself can give it a try. I have my stickers/hand stamp ready!”

CHILDREN and SGL: *“Love each other (give yourself a big hug) as I (point up with both fingers) have loved you (bring fingers down and point all over the room at all the kids), John 15:12.” (Open your hands like a book.)*

SGL: “You sound amazing! You can sit back down, and when it’s your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and say it.

(Say each child’s name. Make sure to give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his own. Have your stickers/handstamp ready to give when they say it.)

“I am so proud of you, [child’s name]! Here is your sticker/hand stamp!

(Give a high five to each child after they say the verse.)

“Now it’s time to write in our journal and pray.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Jesus did so many things to show people that He loves them while He was on Earth. Let’s make a list of things He did. When we pray, we can ask God to help us love people like Jesus.

(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

(Suggestions for ways Jesus loved people: helped the sick, forgave, listened, prayed for them, encouraged, said kind words, gave them food, taught them about God, told the truth, etc.)

“Wow! Jesus did a lot to show people that He loved them. Let’s pray and ask God to help us love like Jesus. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, Jesus is an amazing friend! He truly loves everyone. Help us to love like Jesus by *(read the list the children made)*. We want everyone to know how much Jesus loves them. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

