



WEEK 5 - March 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: When I follow Jesus, I can love everyone.

Love One Another • *John 13:34-35*

Memory Verse: "Come and follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19, NIV

Key Question: Who can you follow?

Bottom Line: I can follow Jesus.

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.

-Hello

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.

-Heart pass
-How can you love?
-Heart cutout
-Journal and prayer

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

1. Hello

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

What You Need: “Hello” Activity Page and cardstock

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Hello” onto the cardstock and cut on dotted lines.

During the Activity: Stand at the entrance where the children come in while holding the Activity Page. Invite the children to choose a greeting from the Activity Page. Greet the child in the way that they have chosen. If they choose a hug, make sure to do a side hug.

After the Activity: Repeat until each child has been greeted.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I am so glad you are here today!”

During the Activity: “I want to tell you hello. Can you show me on the page (*hold up*) how I can say hello? (*Point.*) Fist bump, high five, or a hug? (*Pause and do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Today we are going to hear about a special way that we can follow Jesus! We can love each other!”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by waving hello to anyone that you meet on the way to the story area.

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

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: When I follow Jesus, I can love everyone. So, what happens when we follow Jesus? Well, when we follow Jesus, we learn how to love people the way Jesus loves people. That means during week five, we will learn that we can love everyone and what that love looks like for preschoolers.

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

1. Heart Pass

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: soft pillow or plus

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Guide the children to sit in a circle.

During the Activity: Pass the pillow around the circle as you say the memory verse. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We can follow Jesus by loving one another."

During the Activity: "We have a heart that we can pass. A heart reminds me of love. (*Hold up.*) It can remind us that we can follow Jesus by loving one another. Let's say our memory verse as we pass the pillow." (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that we can follow Jesus. We can follow Jesus by loving one another. **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**"

2. How Can You Love?

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: An opaque bag, a BAND-AID®, a mini snack pack, a small toy, and a heart

(*NOTE: If you have a large class, consider offering multiples of the items above.*)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather all the items in the supply list and put them into the opaque bag.

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area to sit in a circle. Call on each child one at a time to come and pull an item from the bag and then share with the group how they might use that item to show love.

Examples:

Snack pack: share a snack with a friend
BAND-AID: help a friend who is hurt
Small toy: share with a new friend
A heart: give someone a hug

After the Activity: Gather all the items back in the bag for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come sit down over here with me. In our Bible story today, we learned that Jesus loves everyone! And when we follow Him, we can love everyone, too. In this bag, I have several items that you can use to show love to others. I will call on a friend one at a time to reach into the bag, pick an item, and then share how you might use it to show love to someone else.”

After the Activity: “You have SO many great ideas for showing love to others! I want to follow Jesus every day and show love to everyone, too. Jesus is the BEST leader to follow for sure. Tell me: **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”

3. Heart Cutout

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Construction paper, marker, and preschool-safe scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut the paper into four equal squares. Fold each square in half. Draw half of a heart with the middle of the heart at the fold.

During the Activity: Give each child a folded square and a pair of scissors. Instruct the child to cut on the outline of the heart.

After the Activity: Help the children unfold their cutouts to reveal the heart.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to practice our cutting.”

During the Activity: (Give each child a folded square.) “Use the scissors to cut on the line.” (Do activity.)

After the Activity: “Great job! Let’s unfold the cutout and see what it is! (Finish activity.) It is a heart! A heart is about love. Jesus wants us to follow Him and love one another! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”

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 Matthew 4:19. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group. You will also need reward stickers or hand stamp for saying the Bible verse.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Today we are going to pretend to be FISH! You can be the little fish, and I’ll be the big fish leader. Make your best fish face (*make a fish face*) and follow me!

(Pretend to swim like a fish as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

“Okay, little fishies, we made it! Thank you for following me. Now 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.)

“Our Bible story today was about loving one another the way Jesus loves us. That’s a lot of love, because Jesus loves us A LOT!

“When we follow Jesus, we get to see that He loves people by forgiving and sharing and helping and being kind. Jesus loves us by being the best friend ever!

“Hmmm. That means when we follow Jesus, we can love everyone the way Jesus loves us. That’s awesome! And tell me: **Who can you follow?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: [*Bottom Line*] “I can follow Jesus!”

SGL: “You got it! You CAN follow Jesus! And we have been learning a Bible verse that will help us remember that Jesus wants us to follow Him. Let’s say it one time together and then anyone who wants to try and say it can give it a try!

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card and lay it down.)

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

SGL: “You sound awesome! Look to a friend and tell them, ‘Great job!’

(Pause.)

“Okay, 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/hand stamp 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.)

“Today we are going to make a list of ways we can be a good friend and love people the way Jesus loves us. Sound good? *(Pause.)* Okay, when I say your name, tell me one way you can be a good friend and love people the way Jesus loves you.

(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.)

“This is such a great list! Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that He loves us and shows us how to love others. Help us to *(read the list the children made)* so we can love everyone the way Jesus loves us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”