



WEEK 3 - April 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever.

Breakfast on the Beach • *John 21:1-14*

Memory Verse: "I am alive for ever and ever!" Revelation 1:18, NIV

Key Question: Who is alive?

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive.

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.

-Bean bag toss

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.

-Jesus on the beach
-Blooming friendship
-Help me serve
-Journal and prayer

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

1. Beanbag Toss

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

What You Need: Beanbags (one per every two children)

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Help the children pair up to find a partner. Give each pair a beanbag. Instruct the children to sit a few feet apart from each other and toss the beanbag back and forth.

After the Activity: Collect all beanbags for clean-up.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Friends! Come over here with me. Everyone find a partner. (*Help children partner up.*) I want you to sit down facing your partner. Leave some room between you. I'm going to give each pair a beanbag to toss back and forth."

NOTE: Consider using round floor spots placed in pairs around your activity area for children to sit on. You could preset these and send each pair to sit on their spots.)

After the Activity: "That was so fun! Is tossing a beanbag more fun alone or more fun with a friend? (*Pause.*) Yes! It's way more fun to toss a beanbag with a friend! In our Bible story today, we'll talk about something Jesus did with His friends at the beach. I can't wait!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by talking about things you like to do at the beach with friends as children pantomime each example. Examples: fly a kite, build a sandcastle, play catch, dig for seashells, and have a picnic.

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

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever. Then comes a crucial part of the Easter story for our preschoolers. Jesus' friends are out in a boat and they look to the shore. Guess who they see? Jesus! He's sitting on the beach cooking breakfast. They quickly join Him to eat, talk, and just be with their good friend, Jesus. This story of Jesus being with His friends on the beach helps solidify the idea.

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

1. Jesus on the Beach

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: Four straight back chairs, four solid or striped pieces of fabric (at least three yards per piece), scissors, a fishing net, "Smiley/Excited Faces" Activity Page, cardstock, and two clothespins

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Smiley/Excited Faces" Activity Page onto cardstock front and back so that you have a smiley face on one side and an excited face on the other. You'll need two of these front/back images.

The straight back chairs will be used as "people" from today's Bible story. Use the scissors to cut a long strip of material from the edge of each piece of fabric. Drape a piece of fabric over each chair, covering the back all the way to the floor if possible. Secure the fabric in place by using the long strip you cut to tie around the back of the chair. Line up the chairs with the covered backs facing your activity area.

Chair One represents the disciples fishing. Hang the fishing net over the back of the chair on top of the fabric.

Chair Two represents Jesus.

Chairs Three and Four represent the disciples seeing Jesus. Use a clothespin to hang the Activity Page with the smiley face facing out on the back of each chair.

During the Activity: Use the chairs to retell today's Bible story. Stand behind each chair as you review the story for the children. Then let the children take turns standing behind each chair as they act it out.

After the Activity: Gather all material and other items from chair backs for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come sit here with me! Do you see these crazy looking chairs? Do they remind you of our true Bible story we heard today?”

During the Activity: “Remember, after Jesus had died, He was put in a tomb and His friends were so sad. Tell me, did Jesus stay dead? *(Pause.)* No way! We know that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!** He came back just like He said He would!”

(Stand behind Chair One.) “Not long after that, Jesus’ friends were out fishing. Everyone throw out your nets and pull them back in. Great job.”

(Stand behind Chair Two.) “As they were coming in from fishing, they saw someone standing on the beach. Can you guess who it was? *(Pause.)* Yes, Jesus!”

(Stand behind Chair Three.) “Jesus’ friends were so happy! *(Flip the sign over to reveal the excited side.)* They were EXCITED to see Jesus! Their friend Jesus was alive.”

(Stand behind Chair Four.) “They had breakfast right there on the beach with Jesus. *(Flip the sign over to reveal the excited side.)* Isn’t that exciting? The friend they thought was gone was alive!”

After the Activity: “Those friends were so happy and excited to see Jesus. Why? Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!** Isn’t that awesome news? **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive,** and He wants to our friend forever!”

2. Blooming Friendship

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: “Blooming Leaf” Activity Page, green cardstock, scissors, hole punch, green pipe cleaners, and different colored sheets of tissue paper

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Blooming Leaf” Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. You will need one leaf per child. Use the hole punch to punch a hole on the dot at the tip of the leaf.

During the Activity: Give each child a sheet of the tissue paper. Help the child fold the sheet accordion style all the way to the end. Once folded, bend the paper in half and wrap the top of the pipe cleaner around the bend of the paper. Feed the leaf up the

bottom end of the pipe cleaner through the punched hole. Help the children fluff out the tissue paper by pulling apart the folds to form a flower.

After the Activity: Instruct the children to give their flower to a friend of their choice.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s be good friends! Good friends are nice to each other.”

During the Activity: “We are going to make a flower for a friend. You may choose which friend you would like to give your flower to. It can be a friend here at church or a friend at home.” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Your flowers are beautiful! Your friend will love it! Jesus wants us to be His friend forever, too! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive! Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**”

3. Help Me Serve

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: A paper plate, a playground ball, and a fish sticker (*optional*)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If using a fish sticker, place it on the ball.

During the Activity: Divide your group into two lines. Show the group the plate and ball. Guide the first two children to hold onto the plate as you set the ball on top. Then encourage the children to carefully walk from one end of the activity area and back while balancing the ball (breakfast) on the plate. If they drop the ball, they may pick it back up and keep going. Once the first pair returns, they will pass the plate and ball off to the next two children in line. Play continues until every child has taken a turn.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s pretend this is our breakfast! We need to serve it to our friends. I want you and a friend to hold onto this plate and walk from here to the end and back again making sure to keep the ball—or breakfast—on the plate. You will have to work together and walk at the same speed. If you drop your breakfast, that’s okay. Just pick it up, put it back on the plate, and keep going. When you return to the line, pass the plate to the next two friends so everyone can have a turn.”

After the Activity: “What wonderful breakfast servers you are! I love how you worked together! Today we heard about how Jesus prepared breakfast for His friends. Why were they so excited to see Jesus? (*Pause.*) Yes, because He is alive! **Who is alive? [Bottom Line] Jesus is alive!**”

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 Revelation 1:18. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Today we are going to pretend to paddle a boat to our Small Group spot. Get your paddles ready and follow me!

(Pretend to paddle a boat as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

“That was some great paddling! 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 some men who were in a boat fishing. Who did they see on the beach while they were in the boat fishing? *(Pause.)*

“Yes! They saw Jesus! And what did Jesus do for His friends when they hurried to see Him? *(Pause.)* Right again! Jesus made them breakfast on the beach. Jesus wanted His friends to see that He is alive and He wants to be their friend forever.

“We are learning a Bible verse that will help us remember that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive.**

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

“The verse says: “*I am alive for ever and ever!*” Revelation 1:18.

(Close the Bible and lay it down.)

“That is Jesus talking! Jesus is saying: “*I am alive for ever and ever!*” Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “*I am alive (point both hands up) for ever and ever!*” *(Twirl around.)* Revelation 1:18.” *(Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)*

SGL: “Fantastic!

(Give a fist bump to the children.)

“Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

(Hold the journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“The men in our story spent time with Jesus on the beach. Now that Jesus is always with us, we can spend time with Him anywhere. That’s why I want us to make a list of some of our favorite places. When we pray, we can thank Jesus for being with us wherever we go.

(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.)

“Look at all of these places! This is 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, we are so thankful **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive** and we can be with Him everywhere we go. We can spend time with Jesus at *(read the list the children made)*. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”