



WEEK 1 - February 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: Jesus loves me.

Jesus and the Children • *Luke 18:15-16*

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NIrV

Key Question: Who loves you?

Bottom Line: Jesus loves me.

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.

-Come to me

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
-Jesus loves us
-Sandbox
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Come to Me

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:

Before the Activity: Guide the children to spread out in your activity area. To help facilitate this, have the children hold their arms out straight to make sure no friends are near them, then put their arms down. Stand in the center of the activity area.

During the Activity: Call out different animal movements for them to mimic from the list below. After a few seconds, say "Come to me" and guide them to come close to you. Then send them back to their spots and call out a different animal to mimic.

Movements:

March in place like an ant

Run like a cheetah

Hop like a kangaroo

Swim like a fish

Waddle like a penguin

Star jump like a starfish

Chomp like an alligator

Move SLLLOOOOWWWWLLLYYY like a turtle

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, let's gather over here and spread out. Everyone put their arms out to the side like this (*demonstrate*) to make sure there is space around us! I will call out an animal and a movement. I want you to move like that animal. Keep moving until I say, 'Come to me,' then move toward me. Are you ready?"

During the Activity: "Okay friends, march in place like an ant! (*Let them march for several seconds.*) Come to me! Great job, friends. Head back to your spots, and let's do it again. This time, run in place like a cheetah."

After the Activity: "Raise your hand if you thought that was fun! I sure did. And you did a great job coming to me. In our Bible story today, we'll hear a story where children go to see someone special."

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to call out animals and movements for the children to follow; i.e., slither like a snake, hop like a frog, fly like a bird, stomp like an elephant, leap like a dolphin, strut like a chicken.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: Jesus loves me. We will begin, week one, with the beautiful story of Jesus and the children. We want our preschoolers to hear, loud and clear, Jesus saying, 'Let the children come to me.' Let Maggie come to me. Let Jamar come to me. Let Isabella come to me. Let ALL the children come to me. It is our sincerest hope that, as preschoolers hear Jesus saying, 'let the children come to me,' that they will also hear, Jesus loves me. Because every child was made for His love.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Memory Verse with Motions

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:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and do the following motions in front of the children. "A friend (*hook your pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times,' (*stretch your arms out and turn in a circle*) Proverbs 17:17." (*Open hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I'm going to say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me! 'A friend (*hook your pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times,' (*stretch your arms out and turn in a circle*) Proverbs 17:17." (*Open hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? 'A friend (*hook your pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times,' (*stretch your arms out and turn in a circle*) Proverbs 17:17." (*Open hands like a book.*)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus is our friend forever and He ALWAYS loves us! **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**"

2. Jesus Loves Us

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: Two pool noodles

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children to sing a version of “London Bridge Is Falling Down” using the lyrics below. Create the “bridge” with two volunteers holding the pool noodles as the children walk underneath. Gently catch the child who walks under on the last word by lowering the pool noodles and saying that child’s name as indicated below. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Set the pool noodles out of reach of children for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come gather here with me! We’ll sing a tune you’ve probably heard before, but with new words.”

During the Activity: “Let’s walk in a line under our ‘bridge’ as we sing this together. Listen closely for the last word.

“Jesus loves us at all times,
At all times,
At all times.
Jesus loves us at all times
Jesus loves [child’s name].”

After the Activity: “That was so fun! Jesus DOES love us at all times—every single one of us. He loves us on cold days, sunny days, rainy days, and clear days. He loves us when we’re happy or sad, excited or just so-so. Jesus loves us at ALL times. **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**”

3. Children in the Sandbox

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: “Friends in the Sandbox” Activity Page; cardstock; and crayons

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Friends in the Sandbox” on cardstock, one per child.

During the Activity: Encourage children to draw their friends in their sandbox.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Look at the great big sandbox on your paper. *(Pause.)* There’s room for lots of friends!”

During the Activity: “Draw all of your friends in the sandbox. *(Pause.)* Tell me who’s playing in the sandbox with you. *(Write the names in the blanks.)* It’s fun to play in the sand with friends!”

After the Activity: “Jesus loves all the little children. Jesus loves (say each child’s name)! **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**”

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 Proverbs 17:17, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll give ourselves a BIG hug while we walk to our small group spot, because Jesus loves you and **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!** Go ahead! Give yourself a big hug and follow me! (*Hug yourself as you 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 in front of the children.*)

“Today, our Bible story was about how Jesus wants ALL children to come to Him. He wants every child to be His friend forever. That means Jesus wants you and you and you and you . . . (*point to each child*) to be His friend forever! And because Jesus is the best friend EVER, He loves us all the time. And the Bible verse we’ll learn will remind us that Jesus loves us all the time. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

“‘A friend loves at all times,’ Proverbs 17:17. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

“Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “‘A friend (*hook your pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times,’ (*stretch your arms out and turn in a circle*) Proverbs 17:17.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

SGL: “Jesus is a good friend, and He loves you all the time! **Who loves you?”**

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

SGL: “Louder! **Who loves you?”**

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

SGL: (*cheering*) “Yay! **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**”

“Okay, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

“Now that we know Jesus loves ALL children and He wants to be their friend forever, let’s make a list of our friends. When we pray, we can ask God to help us tell our friends that Jesus loves

them and wants to be their friend forever, too. When I say your name, tell me your friend's name, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

(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.)

"Great! Let's use this list when we talk to God. 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 sending Jesus to love everyone. Thank You that Jesus didn't just come to be a friend to grown-ups. He came to be a friend to children, too! Jesus wants to be *(name each child)*'s friend forever, and He wants to be *(read the list the children made)*'s friend forever, too. Jesus wants ALL children to be His friend forever! Please help us tell all of our friends that Jesus loves them and that He wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

