



**Memory Verse:**

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

JOHN 15:12, NIVV

**Bottom Line:**

I can love like Jesus.

**WEEK 1 - March 2021 - PRESCHOOL**

**Today’s Bible Story:** When you love like Jesus, you will be a light.

Light of the World • *Matthew 5:14-16*

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

**Key Question:** Who can love like Jesus?

**Bottom Line:** I can love like 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.*

-Stoplight move

**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  
-Light dance  
-Light cups  
-Journal and prayer

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## **First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN**

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### **1. Stoplight Move**

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

**What You Need:** no materials needed

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Have the kids line up in front of you (either play with all the kids or a few at a time)

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Hello, friends. Let's spread out. We're going to play a game called Red Light, Green Light. Listen to me. If I say green you'll walk towards me. If I say red then you stop! If you don't stop I have to send you back to the beginning. The first one to get to me wins this round. (You can play a few rounds)

*After the Activity:* "That was super fun. Today, we'll hear about a light that we can shine."

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by saying red light or green light.

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## **Large group - MAKE IT TRUE**

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### **Large Group Overview:**

Story Focus: When you love like Jesus, you will be a light. Week one, Jesus Himself says to start your engines, so to speak, and go be a light in the world. We want our preschoolers to know that when they love others the way Jesus loves them, they are like a shining light in this world. People see us when we shine bright with the love of Jesus, and it brings glory to God.

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## **Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK**

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### **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.

“Love each other (*hug yourself*) as I (*point up*) have loved you (*point thumbs to chest*),” John 15:12. (*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:* “Love each other (*hug yourself*) as I (*point up*) have loved you,’ (*point thumbs to chest*) John 15:12.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

*During the Activity:* “Now, let’s do it together! Are you ready? ‘Love each other (*hug yourself*) as I (*point up*) have loved you,’ (*point thumbs to chest*) John 15:12.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

*After the Activity:* “Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us and wants us to love others the same way that He loves us! **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**”

## 2. Light Dance

### 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:** the monthly song, “Love Like Jesus;” (use thrivingteams.org to find the song) and preschool-safe flashlights

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Dim or turn off the lights in the room. If you turn the lights completely off, be sure there is a window or a nightlight in the room. Many children are afraid of the dark so there should be some light in the room. Give each child a flashlight.

*During the Activity:* Play “Love Like Jesus” and encourage the children to turn on the flashlights and wave them around while they dance to the music. Repeat as desired.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Let’s dance together and let our lights SHINE!”

*After the Activity:* “Friends, you have some awesome dance moves! That was so fun. The lights were so bright, just like in our Bible story. Jesus loves us and wants us to love each other like He loves us. Tell me, **who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**”

## 3. Light Cups

### 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:** “Light for Jesus” Activity Page; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; clear plastic punch cups; red, yellow, and orange tissue paper; scissors; battery-operated votive candles; glue sticks; and a permanent marker

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Light for Jesus” on label paper, one per child. Cut tissue paper into two-inch squares.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to glue the tissue paper squares to the inside of their cup. Place the label on the outside of the cup. Show children how to turn the votive candle on and have them place it inside their cup. Watch the light flicker through the colors on the cup. Talk about shining their light and not covering it up. Write child’s name on the bottom of their cup.

*After the Activity:* Review the story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “In our story, Jesus said that when we love others, it’s like we shine a light that shows everyone that God loves them. Let’s make a light to help us remember today’s story.”

*During the Activity:* “Rub your glue stick all over the inside of your cup. *(Pause.)* Add the pieces of tissue paper to cover the glue. *(Pause.)* Add more glue if you need. *(Pause.)* Add your label to your cup. *(Pause.)* Great! These are special lights, turn yours over and move the black button over. *(Pause.)* What happened to your light? *(Pause.)* It’s shining! Place your light into your cup. *(Pause.)* Look at how the light flickers and lights up the colors. Hold up your lights and say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can love like Jesus.’** *(Repeat.)*

*After the Activity:* “Jesus really wanted the crowd of people to understand that when we go out and love people, they will know God and praise Him. It’s like we shine our light for all to see. If we cover our light, we aren’t showing others our love like Jesus did. So shine bright by helping, sharing, and saying kind words. Jesus said to let your light shine! We can be a light and love like Jesus. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**”

**4. Journal and Prayer**

**Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

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

**What You Need:** Paper clipped “Memory Verse Card” in Bible at John 15:12, journal, and fun-shaped pen

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll pretend our hands are a light shining on and off like this *(hold your hands out in front of you then open and close them like a blinking light)* . . . while we walk to our small group spot. Hold your lights up and follow me! *(Open and close your hands as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*”

“We made it! 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’s Bible story was about how we shine a light when we love people the way Jesus loves us. And the Bible verse we will learn will help us remember to love people the way Jesus loves us. It says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*”

“‘Love each other as I have loved you,’ John 15:12. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*”

“That is Jesus talking to you and me. Jesus is telling us, ‘love each other as I have loved you.’ Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

**CHILDREN and SGL:**

“‘Love each other *(hug yourself)* as I *(point up)* have loved you,’ *(point thumbs to chest)* John 15:12.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

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

**SGL:** “Jesus telling us to love each other as I have loved you means that we can love like Jesus! So when I ask you, ‘**Who can love like Jesus?**’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can love like Jesus!’** Get ready! **Who can love like Jesus?**”

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

**SGL:** “Raise your hands and say it louder! **Who can love like Jesus?**”

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

**SGL:** *(cheering)* “Yay! **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**”

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

“When we love like Jesus, we shine like a light. Everyone sees the love! That’s why we’re going to make a list of ways we can love like Jesus. Then, when we pray, we can ask God to help us love like Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus, 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.)*

“These are wonderful ways to love like Jesus! 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 teach us how to love each other. Sometimes it’s hard, but we know Jesus is with us and will help us love like He loves. Help us love others by *(read the list the children made)*. We want to be a shining light of love everywhere we go. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

