



**Memory Verse:**

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

JOHN 15:12, NIVV

**Bottom Line:**

I can love like Jesus.

**WEEK 3 - March 2021 - PRESCHOOL**

**Today’s Bible Story:** When you love like Jesus, you can love everyone.

Love One Another • *John 13:34-35*

**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.*

-All

**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.*

- Race around the world
- Four corners
- #1 foam finger
- Journal and prayer

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

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### **1. All**

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

**What You Need:** Basket, bean bags, and a kitchen timer

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

*Before the Activity:* Place the basket in the center of the activity area. Toss the bean bags all around the activity area.

*During the Activity:* Set the timer to one minute and ask the children to run and collect the bean bags and place them in the basket. Repeat the activity several times, decreasing the time on the timer each time.

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

*Before the Activity:* "Hey, friends! Do you see all of the bean bags around the room? They all belong in this basket." (*Point.*)

*During the Activity:* "Let's see how fast we can get ALL of the bean bags in the basket. We have to be careful and get them ALL! We don't want to leave any behind." (*Do activity.*)

*After the Activity:* "Great job, friends. You did that so fast, and you got ALL of the bean bags! Today in our Bible story, we'll hear how Jesus loves us ALL and never wants to leave anyone behind."

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by chanting this month's Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.

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

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### **Large Group Overview:**

Story Focus: When you love like Jesus, you can love everyone. In week three, we will talk about Jesus' call for us to love others the way He loves us. Jesus said it so simply—go and love others the way I have been loving you all this time. Jesus calmed the storm when the disciples were afraid. He washed their feet. Jesus fed people when they were hungry. Jesus was the disciples' good friend when no one else was. We want our preschoolers to know that when they share with others, help others, and say kind words to each other, they are loving like Jesus.

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## Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

### 1. Race Around the World

#### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

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

**What You Need:** Globe

#### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* Each child will get a turn spinning the globe. The child can be the one who says, "Stop" and you put a finger on the globe to stop it, or you can say, "Stop," and the child puts their finger on the globe to stop it. When the globe stops, read the place (country) that the finger is on.

*After the Activity:* Talk about how Jesus loves everyone in the whole, wide world and when we love like Jesus, we can love everyone.

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Hi, friends! I'm so glad everyone is here today. We'll play a game with this. (Hold up or point to the globe.) This is a globe of the world. Watch this. (Spin the globe.) It spins! We'll use it to play a game."

*During the Activity:* "In our Bible story today, we learned that Jesus loves everyone. Jesus wants to help everyone, share with everyone, and say kind words to everyone. And when we love like Jesus, we can love everyone by helping, sharing, and saying kind words, too!

"Okay, who's ready to race around the world? When I call your name, I want you to spin the globe like this. (Demonstrate.) When you say, 'STOP,' I'll put my finger on the globe to stop it. Then we can see where we landed. [Child's name], you're first. Give the world a spin! (Globe spins until child or you say, 'Stop.')

"We landed on [country's name]. Jesus loves everyone in [country's name], and we can, too. We can help, share, and say kind words to them. Now it's [next child's name]'s turn. Give the world a spin!" (After the globe, stops continue saying the same words inserting the different countries' names. Continue playing as long as the children are interested and time allows. Make sure every child who wants a turn gets one.)

*After the Activity:* "Jesus loves everyone, and we can love everyone, just like Jesus. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.** We sure can! We can help, share, and say kind words to everyone in the whole, wide world!"

### 2. Four Corners

#### 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:** “Ways to Show Love” Activity Page, cardstock, and wall tape

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Ways to Show Love” on cardstock, one set per activity. Tape the four pictures to the four corners of your activity area at preschooler level.

*During the Activity:* Walk the children around your activity area and point out each picture. Name the ways the children in the pictures are showing love: Loving others, hug; sharing, girls playing with dolls; helping, cleaning up toys; using kind words, girl talking.) Once you’ve reviewed each of the pictures, lead the group to stand in the center of your activity area. Read the statements below and the children walk to the corresponding corner. Call the children back to the center and repeat until they’ve traveled to each corner.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “We’ve been learning how to love others like Jesus loves us! I have some pictures with examples. Let’s go see them!

*(Hug)* “In this picture, these friends are showing love by giving a big hug.

*(Sharing)* “In this picture, these friends are sharing their toys. That’s a great way to love like Jesus.

*(Girl smiling)* “In this picture, she is smiling and using kind words. We can love like Jesus when we choose kind words.

*(Cleaning up toys)* “In this picture, these friends are helping. When we help each other, we are loving like Jesus.”

*During the Activity:* “Friends, come stand here in the center with me! Great job. Let’s walk to the picture of a friend showing love. Do you see it? Let’s go!

“Great job. She’s giving a hug. That’s a great way to show love like Jesus. Okay, come back to the center. Now, let’s walk to the picture of friends helping. Do you see it? Let’s go!

“Way to go! Come back to the center. Now, let’s walk to the picture of someone using kind words. Do you see it? Let’s go!

“Awesome! Let’s head back to the center. Now, let’s walk to the picture of friends sharing. Do you see it? Let’s go!” *(Repeat as time allows.)*

*After the Activity:* “This week, we can use kind words, we can love, we can share, and we can help! Those are all ways to love like Jesus. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**”

**3. #1 Foam Finger**

**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:** “Foam Finger” Activity Page; cardstock; paper lunch bags; glue sticks; and crayons or dot markers

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Foam Finger” Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one per child.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to glue their foam finger to one side of an upside-down paper lunch bag then decorate with crayons or dot markers. Have children put their hand in the bag like wearing a true foam finger and march around the room saying, “I can love like Jesus.”

*After the Activity:* Review the story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Jesus taught us that the number one, most important thing to do is to love people. Jesus showed us how love to others. Let’s make a number one finger to wear to show that you and I can do the number one most important thing and love like Jesus, too!”

*During the Activity:* “First, let’s glue the number one finger to your bag. *(Pause.)* Great! Now decorate it with [crayons or dot markers]. *(Pause.)* These look awesome! Slide your hand in your bag. Hold up your hand and march with me. *(Pause.)* Shout, ‘I can love like Jesus!’ *(Repeat.)* Let’s march and shout some more. *(Repeat as long as desired.)* Nice job, friends!”

*After the Activity:* “We know that the number one most important thing is to love like Jesus. Jesus loved others in many ways, and so can we. Jesus helped the man who couldn’t walk. When we help our friends, that’s loving like Jesus. Jesus shared food with lots of people who were hungry. When we share with our friends, that’s loving like Jesus. Jesus loved a woman and said kind things to her when others did not. When we say kind words, that’s loving like Jesus. Put your #1 fingers in the air and tell me **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 to drive cars all around the world until we get to our small group spot. Grab your steering wheel like this *(demonstrate)* and start your engines! Vroom, vroom! Follow me! *(Pretend to drive a car as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*”

“Put on your brakes! We’re here! 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.)*”

“Our Bible story, today, was about how Jesus loves everyone in the whole, wide world. That means, no matter we go in the world, we can love others the way Jesus loves us by helping, sharing, and saying kind words.

“Our Bible verse will help us remember that no matter where we are, we can love each other 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.)*

“Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions so we can remember it wherever we go!”

**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:** “And Jesus loves us by wanting to help us, sharing what we need, and saying kind words to us. That means when we help, share, and say kind words to people, we love them the way Jesus loves us! So tell me, **who can love like Jesus?**”

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

**SGL:** “One more time! **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!”

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

“Since helping others is one way we can love the way Jesus loves us, let’s make a list of ways we can help people. When I say your name, tell me one way you can help people, 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 great ways we can help people. Let’s use our 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, Jesus is the best friend anyone will ever have. He really wants to help, share, and say kind words to everyone in the whole, wide world! That is real love! And we want to love like Jesus. So God, will You please help us to *(read the list the children made)* so people

everywhere will know that we love them the way Jesus loves us? We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

