



WEEK 2 - April 2021 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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

Memory Verse: "How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

Ephesians 3:18, NIV

Key Question: Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be our friend forever

Make it Fun

Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.

-Ball Roll

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.

-Kite tracing
-Calling Friends
-Fish Fry Breakfast
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Ball Roll

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

What You Need: Playground balls

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 playground ball. Instruct the children to sit a few feet apart from each other and roll the ball back and forth.

After the Activity: Collect all balls 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 and face your partner. Leave some room between you. I will give each pair a ball to roll back and forth."

NOTE: Consider using circles on the floor 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 rolling a ball more fun alone or with a friend? (*Pause.*) Yes! It's way more fun to roll a ball 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 pretending to fly a kite at the beach.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Week two is one we tell as a continuation of the Easter story. Can you imagine what the disciples felt when they saw Jesus standing on the shore after they thought He was gone? Before they knew it, they were sitting around a fire eating the breakfast Jesus had cooked for them. Jesus is really alive, and He wanted to make sure His friends knew He is alive and that He is going to be their friend forever. That's what we want preschoolers to know—Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever too.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Kite Tracing

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: Butcher paper, tape and crayons

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Hang up the butcher paper

During the Activity: Draw one kite on the butcher paper as an example. Instruct the children that they can each go up and draw a kite. (Don't forget to draw the kite tails) They may also color their kites. If needed draw 4 dots for the children to connect to help them draw a kite. Use the dialogue below to talk about how wide, long, high, and deep God's love is for us as you create kites

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come have a seat. What do you see on the page in front of you? (Pause.) Yes, it's a kite. Let's connect each dot, and you can color a kite, too."

During the Activity: "Some of these tails are SO long. It reminds me of our verse written on the page. It says, 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.' Ephesians 3:18."

After the Activity: "Jesus' love for you is higher and wider and longer and deeper than you could ever imagine. Jesus LOVES you and wants to be your friend, forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

2. Calling Friends

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: Blue sheet and brown sheet

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the blue sheet out flat in the center of your activity area. Lay the brown sheet on the floor a few feet away from the blue sheet.

During the Activity: Gather the children to stand on the blue sheet (representing the boat in the water). Select a child to stand on the brown sheet (represent the beach). Have the children in the "boat" call out the friend's name on the "beach" then leave the "boat" to see their friend. Repeat, selecting a different child to stay on the "beach" as you send the rest of the children to the "boat."

After the Activity: Gather the sheets for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our true story from the Bible, we learned how Jesus’ friends were out fishing when they saw someone standing on the beach. Do you remember who it was? *(Pause.)* Yes, it was Jesus! He was back. They were so excited that they jumped out of the boat and headed straight towards Him. Let’s pretend this sheet is the water and the brown sheet is the beach. Everyone, stand over here with me.” *(Lead children to the blue sheet.)*

During the Activity: “Okay, [child’s name], why don’t you head over to the brown sheet—our beach! *(Pause as child moves.)* Now let’s call out to our friend! *(Pause as children calls friend’s name.)* Let’s go see our friend.” *(Repeat with a different child.)*

After the Activity: “We found our friend, just like the disciples found their friend, Jesus! That was so fun. Can you imagine how excited they were to see Jesus on that beach? Jesus promised that He would come back, and He did! Jesus wanted to be their friend forever. And He wants to be yours, too. So, tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?** **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

3. Fish Fry Breakfast

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: “Fish on a Stick Circle Stickers” and “Fish Fry Breakfast Label” Activity Pages; Online Labels® #OL1025WX or equivalent; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; clear punch cups; red, yellow, and orange tissue paper; popsicle sticks; scissors; gray or black craft tape; and a permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Fish on a Stick Circle Stickers” on Online Labels or equivalent, two per child. Copy “Fish Fry Breakfast Label” on other label paper, one per child. Cut tissue paper into 6”x6” squares. Write child’s name on the bottom of their cup.

During the Activity: Encourage children to scrunch up the tissue and put it in their cup. Then help children place four pieces of tape over the opening like a pound sign. Have children place one fish sticker on each of their popsicle sticks. Add the “Fish Fry Breakfast” label to the side of the cup.

After the Activity: Review the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our story today, we heard how Jesus wanted to spend time with His friends after He went away and came back. One morning, Jesus saw His friends out on a boat so He started cooking breakfast for them.”

During the Activity: “Let’s make a fish fry. Scrunch up tissue paper and stick it in the cup. *(Pause.)* Put four pieces of tape over the opening of the cup, two going away and two more across those. *(Demonstrate.)* Add the “Fish Fry Label” to your cup. *(Pause.)* Now put one fish

sticker on each popsicle stick. *(Pause.)* Nice job! Hold your fish over the fire like this. *(Demonstrate.)* You're cooking fish like Jesus did!"

After the Activity: "At Easter, Jesus went away and came back, just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! When Jesus came back, one of the things He wanted to do was spend time with His friends. One morning, Jesus' friends were fishing on a boat when they saw Jesus standing on the shore. They were so excited to see Him. One of His friends jumped out of the boat and swam to Jesus. When they all got there, Jesus was cooking breakfast. So, they sat, ate, and spent time with their best friend. Jesus is alive! Jesus loved His friends and wanted to show them that He would always be their friend, forever and ever. Jesus loves you, too, and wants to be your friend forever and ever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to tip-toe through the warm sand while we walk to our small group spot. Do what I do and follow me! *(Tip-toe and pretend to walk on sand as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*

"I love sand! Thank you for pretending with me. 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 Jesus made breakfast for His friends, the disciples, on the beach. Jesus wanted His friends to know that He is alive and wants to be their friend forever. Jesus loves all of His friends, more than we can even imagine! That's why our Bible verse says *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.' Ephesians 3:18. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

"Jesus' love is so big we can't even measure how wide or long or high or deep it is. Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together with the motions."

CHILDREN and SGL: "How wide *(hold arms out wide)* and long *(raise one hand high and hold one hand low)* and high *(jump)* and deep *(crouch)* is the love *(hug yourself)* of Christ,' *(point up)* Ephesians 3:18." *(Open hands like a book.)*

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

SGL: "And because Jesus loves us SO much, He wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

SGL: “Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

SGL: “You got it! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“Since Jesus made breakfast for His friends, we’re going to make a list of our favorite breakfast foods today. When I say your name, tell me your favorite food to eat for breakfast, 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.)*

“Yum! These are some great breakfast foods! Let’s pray and thank Jesus for all the ways He shows us that He loves us. 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. He is the best friend ever. Thank You for the Bible and all of the true stories that teach us how great a friend Jesus is. We love how Jesus made fish and bread for breakfast for His friends. We like to eat *(read the list the children made)* for breakfast. I pray each child here today will follow Jesus so He can be their friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”