



WEEK 3- April 2021 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: Jesus taught us how to love one another.

Early Church • Acts 2:42-47

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.

-Sharing spoons

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.

-I can help
-Plush Friend
-Symmetry Heart
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Sharing Spoons

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

What You Need: Plastic spoons and several large pom poms or balled-up socks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Give each child a spoon.

During the Activity: Give several of the children a pom pom or balled-up socks. Challenge the children to share the pom pom by giving it to each other with the spoons.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends! I am so glad you are all my friends! One thing we can do with our friends is share."

During the Activity: "We're going to share with our friends, but today let's share with SPOONS! That sounds like so much fun. I have a pom pom (*hold it on a spoon*), and I can share it with a friend by giving it to them on their spoon. (*Demonstrate.*) Let's all share with our friends!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! Sharing with friends is always fun! Today, we'll hear a Bible story about how Jesus shared with His friends, too."

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

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: Jesus taught us how to love one another. Week three is all about what Jesus wants us to do now that He has gone to get Heaven ready for us. Jesus wants us

to love one another. Loving one another looks like helping one another, sharing with one another, and being kind to one another. When we love like Jesus, people will believe us when we tell them that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. I Can Help

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: “Food Circle Stickers,” “Clothes Circle Stickers,” and “Home Circle Stickers” Activity Pages; Online Labels® #OL1025WX or equivalent; butcher paper; tape; and a marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Food Circle Stickers,” “Clothes Circle Stickers,” and “Home Circle Stickers” Activity Pages on the label paper (option: use bought stickers).

During the Activity: Tape a strip of butcher paper to the wall at preschooler level. Draw three large hearts going across the butcher paper. Write “Food” in the first heart, “Clothes” in the second heart, and “Home” in the third heart. Give each child a food, clothes, or home stickers. As the leader reviews the Bible story, they will invite the children to place their stickers in the appropriate hearts.

After the Activity: Talk about how Jesus showed us that helping each other is one way to love one another.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hi, friends! I need your help filling these hearts with things that show people we love them. Will you help me?”

During the Activity: “Jesus showed us that helping people is one way we can love people. I gave you some stickers that show ways we can help people. The first way we can help people and show them we love them is by giving them food when they’re hungry. Look at your stickers and find food. When I say your name, you can put your food stickers in this heart. *(Point to the food heart and allow each child the opportunity to put their food stickers inside the heart.)* Good job!

“A second way we can help people and show them we love them is by giving them clothes to wear when they don’t have what they need. Look at your stickers and find clothes. When I say your name, you can put your clothes stickers in this heart. *(Point to the clothes heart and allow each child the opportunity to put their clothes stickers inside the heart.)* Wonderful!

“Another way we can help people and show them we love them is by giving them a place to live or helping make their home better. Look at your stickers and things that go with a home. When I say your name, you can put your home stickers in this heart. *(Point to the home heart and allow*

each child the opportunity to put their home stickers inside the heart.) Look at all of the ways Jesus taught us to love one another and be a good friend, just like Him!"

After the Activity: "Jesus is such a good friend that He taught us how to be a good friend, too! I am so happy that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

2. Plush Friend Love

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: Plush animals, large basket, heart cutouts, floor tape, music, and music player; *Optional "Hearts" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors instead of hearts cutouts*

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If using the "Hearts" Activity Page, copy on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Tape the heart cutouts around the floor of your activity area. Place the plush animals in the basket away from your activity area.

During the Activity: Point out the hearts on the floor and the plush animals in the basket. Explain that you will play the music as the children select a plush friend and race to place it on a heart before the music stops. Call for the children to pick their plush friend back up. Play the music and repeat. Children find a new heart for each round.

After the Activity: Gather the plush animals and hearts for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand by me! Do you see the hearts on the floor? *(Pause.)* Great! Do you see the plush friends over there in the basket?" *(Pause.)*

During the Activity: "I will play some music. When the music starts, I want you to go to the basket, select a plush friend, then race to place your plush friend on a heart BEFORE the music stops. Remember, watch out for your friends and make sure to share. There is a plush animal and a heart for every friend."

After the Activity: "That was so fun! You shared the love with your plush friends. Jesus taught us to love and share that love with others. He loves you SO much. Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

3. Symmetry Painted Heart

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: “Symmetry Painted Heart Label” Activity Page; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; white construction paper; washable paint in various colors (leaders will be using only); safety scissors; crepe paper streamers; glue sticks; and permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Symmetry Painted Heart Label” on label paper, one per child. Fold construction paper in half and draw the outline of half of a large heart, one per child. Cut streamers in 16 to 18-inch lengths, one per child. Write child’s name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to cut around the outline and unfold their paper to reveal the heart. Glue the streamer to the point for a kite tail. Add the “Symmetry Painted Heart” sticker to the streamer. Have children pick two colors of paint. Leader puts a couple of drops of each color on one side of the heart. Have children fold the heart back over and rub their hand over it. Carefully open the heart to reveal the symmetrical paint pattern. Clean hands.

After the Activity: Review the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our story today, we heard how Jesus’ friends wanted to love others like Jesus loved them. They wanted to be super sharers because that’s how Jesus loved others.”

During the Activity: “Take a pair of scissors and cut around the line on the paper. *(Pause.)* Unfold your paper. What did you make? *(Pause.)* A heart! Hearts mean love, and that’s what we’ve been learning about today! Let’s make this heart into a kite. Glue the streamer to your heart. *(Pause.)* Flip it over and add the label to the streamer. *(Pause.)* Pick two colors of paint, and I’ll squeeze a little of both colors onto your heart. *(Leader, make sure to only put the paint on one side.)* Fold your heart back up and rub your hand over it like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Great. Now let’s carefully open the hearts. *(Pause.)* Look at that, friends! Your paint that was only on one side is now on both sides! And it’s exactly the same on both sides! Your paint shared, just like Jesus’ friends in our Bible story today.”

After the Activity: “Jesus showed His love by sharing, and that’s what His friends did, too. They spent a lot of time together. They ate together, talked, laughed, and praised God together. This showed everybody that they were friends with Jesus. They loved each other because Jesus loved them. We can be friends like Jesus and share so that everyone knows that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. **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 Bible, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll take the longest steps we can while we walk to our small group spot. Do what I do and follow me! *(Take big, long steps as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*”

“Those were some really long steps! But nothing is LONGER than Jesus’ love for you and me. Right? Right! 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 we can love others the way Jesus loves us. Do you remember how we can love people? *(Pause.)* We can love them by giving them the food, clothes, or a home that they need. When we give people what they need, we are loving them and being a good friend, just like Jesus!

“The Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember just how much Jesus loves people. It 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.)*

“Wow! That’s a lot of love! 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 motions a few times.)

SGL: “And because Jesus loves us SO much, He wants to be our friend forever and ever and EVER! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**”

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

SGL: “One more time! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**”

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

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

“Since everyone needs clothes, and giving people clothes when they need them is one way we can love like Jesus, I thought we could make a list of clothing. It can be socks, shoes, a coat, shirt . . . anything that you wear. When I say your name, tell me one kind of clothing, 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.)*

“This is a great list of clothes! Let’s pray that we will love people the way Jesus loves us and help them have the clothes they need. 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 the clothes we need. Help us give people (*read the list the children made*) so they will have clothes and know how much Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

