



WEEK 4 - April 2021 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: I can tell others about Jesus.

Great Commission • *Matthew 28:16-20*

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.

-Tic-Tac-Toe

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.

-How wide
-Love around the world
-Love Travels
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Tic-Tac-Toe

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

What You Need: paper and pencils/craysons

What You Do:

During the Activity: Small group leaders can teach children how to play Tic-Tac-Toe. Draw the lines for the children until they get the hang of it. If they know how to play then partner them with another child to play

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends! Let's play tic-tac-toe!"

During the Activity: "If you don't know how to play we will teach you. We will take turns and try to get three in a row and get a tic-tac-toe! I love playing games with friends" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "That was awesome!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by telling everyone you see that Jesus wants to be their friend forever!

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: I can tell others about Jesus. We finish up the month with the great commission. Yes, Jesus wants to be my friend forever, but the awesomeness doesn't stop there! Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever, and He told us to make sure everyone knows it. Young and old, we can all tell others about Jesus, and He will always be with us to help us.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. How Wide?

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

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

What You Need: Measuring tape

What You Do:

During the Activity: Have children stretch their arms out to their sides. The leader measures and documents how wide their wingspan is. Talk about the similarities and differences in each friend's measurements. Then have everyone say the memory verse together.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "How wide do you think your arms can reach? *(Pause.)* That's really wide! Let's measure and see how wide they really are."

During the Activity: "When I come to you, stretch your arms out really wide like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Okay, [child's name], arms out. *(Stretch tape measure from the tip of one middle finger to the other.)* Your arms stretch [number of inches] wide! Next up! *(Continue with each child.)* I see some friends have similar measurements. Let's see who has the biggest measurement. *(Pause.)* Wow! [Child's name], stretch out your arms for us. *(Pause.)* That is wide! Now, everybody stretch your arms out wide, and let's say our memory verse together. 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,' Ephesians 3:18. *(Repeat.)* Arms down. That was fantastic!"

After the Activity: "Jesus loves you, and He wants to be your friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

2. Love Around the World

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: Globe that spins

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children to sit on the floor of your activity area. Place the globe in front of you. Spin the globe then put your finger on a spot to stop it. Name the place where you finger rests and use the dialogue below to talk about how Jesus loves and wants to be a forever friend to the people who live in that place. Repeat, spinning the globe again and again as time allows.

After the Activity: Set the globe aside.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Do you know what this is? It's the earth. We live right here. *(Point to where you live on the globe.)* Let's spin the globe and see where we land.

(Spin and stop the globe with your finger.) "Oh look, it's [location]. We can tell the people in [location] that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever."

After the Activity: “Jesus loves you. Jesus loves me. Jesus loves the children and grown-ups living in ALL the places we found on our globe! Jesus loves everyone and wants to be their friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

3. Love Travels

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: “Love Travels” and “Kite Travels” Activity Pages; cardstock; map scrapbook paper or actual maps; scissors; 1/8-inch ribbon; glue sticks; and marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Love Travels” on cardstock, one per child. Copy “Kite Travels” and cut out to use as a template on the map paper. Cut one kite from map paper for each child. Cut ribbon into 12-inch lengths, one per child. Write child’s name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to glue their kite on their paper then add the ribbon tail. Talk about all the places the kite can go in the world, then talk about how we can go tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.

After the Activity: Review the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today, we heard how Jesus wanted His friends to do a very important job. He wanted them to go everywhere and tell everyone about Him.”

During the Activity: “Let’s make a special kite today. This one will help us remember our story. Can you fly a kite anywhere in the world? *(Pause.)* Yes! You sure can! You could fly a kite in Africa, Canada, or in Texas! Look at these kites. What do they have on them? *(Pause.)* All of the kites have maps on them. Maps help tell us where to go. You can get a map of anywhere and everywhere! Glue your kite to the top part of your paper. *(Pause.)* Great! Now add the ribbon for the kite tail. *(Pause.)* Super-duper! Just like your kites can go everywhere, so can we! We can go everywhere and tell everyone that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.”

After the Activity: “In our story, Jesus took His friends up the mountain to talk to them. He had a really important job for them to do. Jesus told them that He wanted them to go tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Jesus wants us to do the same important job. We can tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus is alive 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, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or handstamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll pretend we’re flying on an airplane so we can go and tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus loves them and He wants to be their friend forever! Wings out! *(Hold arms out like airplane wings.)* Here we go! Fly with me! *(Pretend to fly like an airplane as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*”

“We’re coming in for a landing . . . aaaand stop! That was fun! 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 a very important job Jesus gave all of His friends. He told them to go tell everyone, everywhere that He loves them and wants to be their friend forever. We can go in a boat or on an airplane or just walk to a friend’s house and say, ‘Jesus loves you, and He wants to be your friend forever.’”

“Jesus wants everyone to know that He loves them, because He really, really, REALLY loves everyone, everywhere with the biggest love there is! And the Bible verse we have learned will help us remember how much Jesus loves us. 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.)*”

“We will stand up and say that together with the motions one time, then anyone who wants to try to say it can give it a try. I have my [stickers or handstamp] ready!”

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.)*

SGL: “Wonderful! *(Give two thumbs-up.)* Let’s sit down. When it’s your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and try it. *(Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)*”

“You did it, [child’s name]! Here is your [sticker or handstamp]! *(Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)*”

“Now when I count to three, I want everyone to show me their [sticker or handstamp]. One, two, three! Yay, I see them! I’m so proud of you! *(Clap and cheer for the children.)*”

“When we choose to follow Jesus and be His friend forever, we have the important job of telling everyone, everywhere that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.”

“So, tell me, one more time, **Who wants to be your friend forever?**”

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

SGL: *(cheering)* “Yes! *[Bottom Line]* Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

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

“Today, we’ll make a list of people we can go tell that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. When I say your name, tell me one person you can tell, 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.*)

“Thank you for helping make this list. We can use it when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, we want everyone, everywhere to know that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. Please help us go tell (*read the list the children made*) about Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

