



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2022

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Everyone can be friends with Jesus, even if they have done something wrong.

MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)
MATTHEW 9:9-12

MEMORY VERSE

“Come and follow me,
Jesus said.”

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can be friends
with Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

Everyone can be
friends with Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN’S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Matthew 4:19, NIRV. You need a music player and this month’s worship song, “Wherever He Goes,” which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for “Wherever He Goes” is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need “Everyone Everywhere,” which is available on the *Very Big Things* album, iTunes®, Spotify®, and OrangeKidsMusic.com. The dance moves video for this song is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Friends, I’m so happy to be with you. It’s time for worship. We can show Jesus that we love Him because He is the BEST friend ever. **Who can be friends with Jesus?**”

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: “**Everyone can be friends with Jesus.**”

Lead children in singing “Wherever He Goes,” this month’s worship song.

WORSHIP LEADER: “I’m gonna walk, walk, walk like Jesus. I wanna go wherever He goes. Why? Because **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Tell me, **who can be friends with Jesus?**”

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: “**Everyone can be friends with Jesus.**”

WORSHIP LEADER: “That’s right! **Everyone can be friends with Jesus!** The Bible teaches us “Come and follow me,” Jesus said,’ Matthew 4:19. Let’s say our memory verse together. “Come (*motion towards self*) and follow me,” (*march*) Jesus said,’ (*hands around mouth*) Matthew 4:19. (*Open hands like a book.*)

“Great! Did you know that Jesus loves everyone, everywhere? It’s true! He’s the best friend ever. Sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing “Everyone Everywhere.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “I love that song! Remember, **Everyone can be friends with Jesus.** Everyone includes—well, EVERYONE! Thanks for worshipping with me!”



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INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Table, trunk from last week, black rubber boots, firefighter's hat, artist's beret, paintbrush, funky colorful shoes, chef's hat, Crocs® or other comfy shoes, and a spatula

WHAT YOU DO: Place the shoes, paintbrush, and spatula in the trunk and preset it in the storytelling area. Set the table near the trunk.

The Host, very excited, walks out carrying the three hats in a stack.

HOST: "Hello there, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm so excited about this trunk of super-fun shoes we found. And if you've got great shoes, you need a great hat to match! Do you think we can find some shoes to match these hats?"

Hold up the stack of hats.

"Let's see what goes with this hat.

Hold up the firefighter's hat, then rummage through the trunk to pull out the boots.

"Aha! Firefighter boots.

Set the boots and hat next to each other on the table.

"Let's see. I wonder what shoes go with this?"

Hold up the artist's beret, then rummage through the trunk and pull out the crazy colorful shoes.

"Colorful shoes!"

Pull the paintbrush out of the trunk.

"An artist needs these!"

Group the shoes, artist's beret, and paintbrush on the table, then hold up the chef's hat.

"I wonder what kind of shoes a chef wears? Oh, I know.

Rummage through the trunk and pull out the Crocs® and the spatula.

"Comfy shoes!"

Start placing everything back in the trunk.

"I think I'll look for some more hats to go with all these shoes! See you later, friends."

The Host close the trunk and exits.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, paper plates, large box, the table from Intro Sketch, and a chair; *Optional Story Images*

WHAT YOU DO: Place the paper plates in the box. Set the chair near the table.

The storyteller enters carrying the Bible and prop box.



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STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad you're here! Today, I want to tell you a TRUE story from the Bible (*hold up your Bible*) about a man named Matthew. Let's see, I need a Matthew.

Select a male volunteer to join you in the storytelling area.

"Thanks for helping me today. You'll play Matthew. Everyone say, 'Hi Matthew!'"

CHILDREN: "Hi, Matthew!"

Pull the chair up to the table so the volunteer will face audience when seated.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 01)

STORYTELLER: "You can have a seat right here. You might notice that Matthew is up here all by himself. (*Move a bit away from Matthew to emphasis this.*) People didn't like Matthew because he had made some bad choices that made them very mad! And nobody really wanted to be his friend.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 02)

"One day, Jesus came to town. Jesus is God's Son. He is SUPER special and amazing. He could have talked to anyone in town, but can you guess who He talked to? (*Pause.*) Yes, He talked to Matthew! Jesus walked right up to Matthew and said, 'Follow me!' Jesus loved Matthew, no matter what, and wanted to be his friend.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 03)

"Later, Jesus went to have dinner at Matthew's house.

Set a plate on the table in front of the volunteer.

"Guess who else wanted to have dinner with Jesus? Everyone! Everyone is a LOT of people. Do you want to help serve them? Pretend with me. We need to get everyone a plate.

Grab the rest of the plates and set them on the table as you count to ten with the children.

"Let's count our plates. Ready? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Great job! We served everyone who came to eat with Jesus at Matthew's house.

"Some people were confused when they saw Jesus eating with these people. They asked, 'Why would Jesus want to be friends with someone who makes bad choices? I'll tell you why! Because Jesus wants to be friends with EVERYONE! He wants to be friends with me and you (*point to the children*) and you and you and you! **Everyone can be friends with Jesus.**

"Did you like the story? If you did, give it two thumbs-up! (*Pause.*) Awesome. Tell me, **who can be friends with Jesus?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Everyone can be friends with Jesus!"



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STORYTELLER: (to the volunteer) **"Who can be friends with Jesus?"**

VOLUNTEER: **"Everyone can be friends with Jesus!"**

STORYTELLER: "You've got it! How about a hand for [volunteer's name]? You can head back to your seat!"

Send volunteer back to his seat.

"Everyone can be friends with Jesus. Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for always loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. We are so thankful that everyone can be friends with Jesus?, even when they do something wrong. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.

"Thank you for being so, so wonderful! I'll see you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the Bible and box of props.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

The Host enters, smiling.

HOST: "Wow! Matthew made some bad choices, but Jesus still wanted to be his friend. Jesus wants everyone to be His friend. I think I got the story. If you got it, let me see a big thumbs-up! (Pause.) Awesome!"

"No matter what shoes or hats you wear, Jesus wants to be your friend! Remember, **Everyone can be friends with Jesus.** I have so many hats and shoes. I'm going to find a friend to try them on with me. See ya next time!"

Host exits while waving to the children.