



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Our friend Jesus
is always with us.

WALKING ON WATER
MATTHEW 14:22-33

MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:20, 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
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 28:20, NIV. You need a music player and this month's worship song, "We Are Friends," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for "We Are Friends" is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need "He's Alive Oh Yeah," available on the *All Good* album, on iTunes®, Spotify®, or OrangeKidsMusic.com. The dance moves video for this song is available at OrangeKidsMusic.com.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, friends! It's time to worship God together! We can worship and sing because God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. When I ask, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**', you say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, He does! No matter what, Jesus' love for me will never change. Let's sing this together.

Lead children in singing "We Are Friends," this month's worship song.

"What an awesome truth that God loves us and sent Jesus to be our friend forever. The Bible teaches us that Jesus said, 'I am with you always,' Matthew 28:20. That means that Jesus is the BEST friend ever. Let's learn our memory verse together. Are you ready? Watch me say it and do the motions, then you can do it with me!

"I am (*point up*) with you (*thumbs to chest*) always,' (*spread arms out*) Matthew 28:20. (*Open hand like a book.*) Great job! We'll say that verse all month long to remind us that Jesus is with us and He's the BEST! Jesus is stronger than anything. Nothing can stop Him. Let's sing this out with everything we've got.

Lead children in singing "He's Alive Oh Yeah."

"God loves us, and He gave His only Son, Jesus! One more time, **who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"



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INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Table, baby bathtub, bag, bubble bath bottle, rubber duck, and an animal-hooded bath towel

WHAT YOU DO: Preset the table in the center of the storytelling area. Place the bubble bath, rubber duck, and bath towel in the bag then place the bag inside the bathtub.

The host enters, carrying the baby bathtub. The host places the bathtub on the table.

HOST: "Hi, everyone! Welcome to [your environment's name]! I'm [your name] and this (*hold up the bathtub*) is a baby bathtub. Have you ever seen one of these? (*Pause.*) I found this one at my house and thought I could use it to give my toy friends a bath.

Place the baby bathtub on the table.

"I found some other things, too. Would you like to see what else I found? (*Pause.*) They're all things that go together with a bath.

Reach in the bag and pull out the rubber duck for the children to see.

"Like this! Do you know what this is? (*Pause.*) Yes! This is a rubber ducky! Rubber duckies go together with bath time. Let's see what else is in here.

Reach in the bag and pull out the bubble bath for the children to see.

"Ah-ha! This is bubble bath! Raise your hand if you like bubbles in your bath. (*Pause.*) Me, too! Bubbles and bath time for sure go together! I have one more thing to show you. It is a . . .

Reach in the bag and pull out the hooded bath towel for the children to see.

" . . . bath towel! But not just any bath towel. This is a [animal's name] bath towel.

Put the hood of the towel on your head and let the towel hang.

"See?"

Turn around for the children to see then take it off and begin putting everything back in the bag.

"Bath towels definitely go together with bath time. Yep, rubber duckies, bubble bath, and bath towels all go together with bath time. Today, our Bible story is about someone special who goes together with YOU! Listen up as our storyteller comes out, and I'll see you later. Bye!"

Host exits, carrying the baby bathtub and bag of bath items.



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BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Table from Intro Sketch and Bible; *Optional Story Images*

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm so happy to see you today! My name is [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Hold up the Bible for the children to see then lay it opened on the table.

"Our story begins by a lake where Jesus had been teaching people all day. When Jesus was done teaching, He told his friends, the disciples, to get in a boat and go to the other side of the lake. Let's pretend we are Jesus' friends, the disciples. Jesus told us to get in a boat and go to the other side of the lake. Let's paddle our boat, like this!

Pretend to paddle a boat.

"Good job! You can stop now.

"Then Jesus went up on a mountain to pray by Himself. While the disciples were in the boat, the wind began to blow. Will you help me be the wind? (*Pause.*) Put your arms up like this. (*Hold arms straight up.*) And move them side-to-side like this.

Wave arms side-to-side.

"Good job! Keep moving like the wind!

Continue to wave arms side-to-side.

"The wind blew and blew. It rocked the boat back-and-forth, back-and-forth, back-and-forth. The disciples didn't know what to do!

"Okay, you can put your arms down now.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)

"Then, something amazing happened! As the wind rocked the boat, the disciples looked out on the water and saw something coming towards them. Look with me like this.

Make hand binoculars and look around with them.

"Keep looking! As the disciples looked, it got closer and closer and closer. It was a PERSON! The disciples were so afraid! Now show me your afraid faces!

Make an afraid face with the children.



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"Yes! That's how they felt! I mean, how could a person really walk on water? Then, the person talked! They said, 'It's me! Don't be afraid!' IT WAS JESUS!

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

"Yay! Jesus walked on the water! The disciples were so happy to see their friend, Jesus. Show me your happy faces.

Make a big happy face with the children.

"They were happy and AMAZED to see Jesus walking on water! Right away, Peter said, 'Jesus, if it's You, tell me to walk to You on the water.' And guess what Jesus said to Peter? Jesus said, 'Come.'

"Peter looked at Jesus and stepped out of the boat.

Slowly take a big step like you're stepping out of a boat.

"And he started walking on the water towards Jesus!

Take three steps, then stop to look at the children.

"Only Jesus could help Peter walk on water. It truly was amazing. Until Peter stopped looking at Jesus and looked at the wind.

"I need you to be the wind again like this.

Wave arms side-to-side.

"Keep going! When Peter saw the wind, he got scared and started to sink in the water. Oh, no!

(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)

"But Jesus reached out and caught Peter by the hand so he wouldn't sink. Then they both got back in the boat together. Whew!

(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)

"After everyone was back in the boat, the wind stopped. You can put your arms down now.

"The disciples looked at Jesus and said, 'You really are God's Son!' (Pause.) You know, Jesus really is the most amazing friend ever. He's the only friend who has the power to always be with us, even if it means walking on water! Yes, Jesus can always be with you and me, because Jesus is God's Son. That's right! Jesus is always with you! And the best part is, Jesus wants to be your friend forever. It's true. Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever!

"So when I ask, **'Who wants to be your friend forever?'**, I want you to say, **'Jesus wants to be my friend forever!'** **Who wants to be your friend forever?'**



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CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

STORYTELLER: "Again! Who wants to be your friend forever?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

STORYTELLER: "Yay! Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Thank You that Jesus has the power to always be with us. I pray that every person here will choose to believe that Jesus is Your Son and follow Him. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Baby bathtub and bubble bath

The Host enters, smiling and carrying the baby bathtub and bubble bath.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus was always with Peter, and Jesus is always with us. I think I got the story. Did you get it? (Pause.) If you did, say, 'Got it!' (Pause.) Get it?"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: "Good!"

Hold up the baby bathtub and bubble bath, look at them then looks back at the audience.

"Bubbles and bath time go together. But the best things that go together are my friend Jesus and me. I hope you have a great day, and I will see you next time! Bye!"

The Host exits with the bathtub and bubble bath while waving and smiling at the children.