



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



BUNNY HOP

WHAT YOU NEED: Music player and "Bunny Hop" song

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand behind you in a single file line with their hands on the shoulders of the child in front of them. Start the music.

BIBLE STORY

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

MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)
MATTHEW 9:9-12

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children around the room while doing the "Bunny Hop." To do the "Bunny Hop" tap your right foot to the side two times, tap your left foot to the side two times, hop forward, hop backwards, then hop forward three times all while holding on to the person in front of you. Continue until the music is over. Repeat as desired.

NOTE: This will be so much fun and a little chaotic with preschoolers. Do not worry about staying with the music and go as slow as needed for little legs to keep up.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Let's put on our 'Bunny Hop' shoes and follow me! We'll do a funny dance like a bunny! Watch and follow what I do!" (Do activity).

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job, friends. That was awesome! You did a great job of following me. Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about someone we can follow even if we do something wrong!"

KEY QUESTION

Who can be friends
with Jesus?

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to do the "Bunny Hop" without music to the story area.

BOTTOM LINE

Everyone can be
friends with Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



SHOE CORNERS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Shoe Corners" Activity Page, copy paper, and wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Shoe Corners" on paper; one set per activity. Hang one page in each corner of the

activity area at preschooler level.

BIBLE STORY

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

MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)
MATTHEW 9:9-12

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Introduce each picture to the children before you begin the activity. Ask the children to stand in the middle of the activity area. Say, "Run to the firefighter's shoes! When they get to the corner with the firefighter shoes, tell the children "Jesus wants to be the firefighter's friend because Jesus wants to be friends with everyone." Repeat with the construction worker's shoes, police officer's shoes, and farmer's shoes, saying the phrase each time the children reach the corner.

MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"
Jesus said."

MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We have pictures of shoes around our room. (Point.) These shoes belong to community helpers. There are pictures of a firefighter's shoes (point to firefighter boots), a construction worker's shoes (point to construction boots), a police officer's shoes (point to black tennis shoes), and a farmer's shoes." (Point to cowboy boots.)

KEY QUESTION

Who can be friends with Jesus?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, stand in the middle. (Point.) Listen very carefully to what I say and go to the picture that I call out. Are you ready? (Pause.) Firefighter's shoes! Everyone, go to the corner with the picture of shoes a firefighter wears. (Pause). Great job! Jesus wants to be the firefighter's friend because Jesus wants to be friends with everyone." (Continue activity.)

BOTTOM LINE

Everyone can be friends with Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so much fun! Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever! **Who can be friends with Jesus? Everyone can be friends with Jesus!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



FOLLOW ME SHOE RING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Shoe Charm" Activity Page, cardstock, dot markers, crayons, stamps, washable inkpads, metal binder ring, scissors, hole punch, and pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Shoe Charm" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Punch a hole where indicated in each charm. Write child's name on the back of their charm.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their charm. Leader helps attach the charm to the ring then on their shoe.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll make a charm for your shoe. Look. (*Hold up the charm.*) It's a shoe with our memory verse. "'Come and follow me,'" Jesus said,' Matthew 4:19."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Use the markers, crayons, and stamps to decorate your shoe charm. (*Pause.*) These are awesome. Let me help you attach it. (*Attach charm to ring then their shoe.*) Say the memory verse with me. "'Come and follow me,'" Jesus said,' Matthew 4:19. (*Repeat.*) Great job! Your shoe charm can help you remember to follow Jesus."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In today's story, we heard about a man named Matthew who was a tax collector. This made people mad, and no one wanted to be his friend. But Jesus wanted to be his friend. Jesus loved Matthew. Jesus asked Matthew to follow Him, and he did! Matthew became a disciple, one of Jesus' good friends. Jesus wants to be friends with everyone. **Who can be friends with Jesus? Everyone can be friends with Jesus.**"

BIBLE STORY

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

MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)
MATTHEW 9:9-12

MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Matthew 4:19, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, [child's name] will stand up and follow me. [Child's name], stand up and follow me. (Repeat with each child.)

Everyone will stand up and follow me because **Everyone can be friends with Jesus!** (Clap, cheer, and repeat, "Yay! Everyone can be friends with Jesus!" as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

"I'm so glad **Everyone can be friends with Jesus.** Let's sit down so we can 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 man named Matthew. Did Jesus want to be Matthew's friend? (Pause.) Yes, He sure did! Did Matthew follow Jesus when Jesus told him to? (Pause.) Matthew got right up and followed Jesus. Why were people surprised that Jesus was Matthew's friend? (Pause.) You're right. Matthew had done something wrong, but Jesus still loved him and wanted to be his friend because **Everyone can be friends with Jesus! Who can be friends with Jesus?"**

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

SGL: "And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that we can follow Jesus, too. It says . . . (Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card. "'Come and follow me,' Jesus said,' Matthew 4:19. (Close Bible and lay it down.) Let's stand up and say that together with the motions. Just say what I say, and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'Come (motion towards self) and follow me," (march) Jesus said,' (hands around mouth) Matthew 4:19." (Open hands like a book.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "Wow! Good job! (Give fist bumps.) 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 can be friends with Jesus,** we'll make a list of people we know. It can be anyone because **Everyone can be friends with Jesus!** Okay, when I say your name, tell me the name of anyone you think of, and I will write it in our journal. Then when we pray, we can say their names. (Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Look at all of these names! Thanks! Now, 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 sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that *(read the names you wrote in the journal)* and *(name each child)* can all be friends with Jesus. Thank You that **Everyone can be friends with Jesus!** We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

