



WEEK  
**THREE**  
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



### SHOE SORTING

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Hula hoops, "Three Sizes of Shoes" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Three Sizes of Shoes" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one set per activity.

Lay the three hula hoops on the floor, a foot or so apart. Place a "small" shoe card in the first hula hoop, a "medium" shoe card in the second, and a "large" shoe card in the third hula hoop as examples for the children to follow. Mix the remaining shoe cards and place them in a pile.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Let the children take turns drawing a shoe, deciding if it's small, medium, or large, then placing that card inside its corresponding hula hoop. Be prepared to guide children who need help. Pass out the cards so every child has a turn! If time allows, collect cards, shuffle, and sort again.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Collect the cards and hula hoops and set aside for clean-up.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come over here with me! Do you see these shoes? (Point to each hula hoop as you talk about it.) It looks like we have a hoop for small shoes, a hoop for medium shoes, and a hoop for large shoes. Let's see if we can sort these shoes into the right size! When you pull a card from the pile, let's figure out which size it is and place it in that hoop."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great sorting, my friends! Look at all these shoes. We've been learning that no matter what size shoe we wear, we can ALL follow Jesus because **Everyone can be friends with Jesus!** Today, we'll hear about some special friends Jesus chose to be His friends and follow Him. Come with me!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by leading children to follow you with little steps, regular steps, and big GIANT steps along the way.

### BIBLE STORY

Everyone can be friends with Jesus.

### THE TWELVE THE GOSPELS

### 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.





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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



### AND YOU TURN YOURSELF AROUND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Music player or smartphone and "The Hokey Pokey"

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Cue music player to "The

Hokey Pokey." Gather the children to stand and spread out in your activity area. Play "The Hokey Pokey" and lead the children to follow along with the motions. With preschoolers, don't worry about switching between their left and right. When the song calls for putting your "right hand in" just encourage the children to put in either hand.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, we've been talking about putting on our shoes to follow Jesus! I have a super fun song with motions for us to follow. Come stand here with me. Spread out so you have plenty of room and won't bump into any friends. Ready? Listen and follow along."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "That was SO fun! You did a great job of listening and following instructions. We can follow Jesus because He's the best friend ever. Tell me, **who can be friends with Jesus? Everyone can be friends with Jesus.**"

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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



**EVERYONE HEADBAND**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Everyone Headband," "Gingerbread Person," and "Everyone Headband Label" Activity Pages; cardstock; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; sentence strips; googly-eye stickers; markers; scissors; glue sticks; stapler; and permanent marker

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Everyone can be friends with Jesus.

**THE TWELVE THE GOSPELS**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me," Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can be friends with Jesus?

**BOTTOM LINE**

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Everyone Headband" on cardstock and cut out, one set per child. Copy "Gingerbread Person" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Everyone Headband Label" on label paper, one per child. Write child's name on their sentence strip.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to decorate the gingerbread person to look like them then glue it to the sentence strip with the pictures of the disciples. Add the label. Measure sentence strip on child's head and staple. Let children wear their headbands.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we heard about twelve of Jesus' closest friends, the disciples. They loved Jesus and followed Him everywhere."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's make a headband with the disciples and you! Decorate the gingerbread person to look like you. (Pause.) Great! Glue it to the strip. (Pause.) Now glue the pictures of the disciples to the strip. (Pause.) Super! Add your label. (Pause.) I'll measure it to your head and secure it into a headband. (Pause.) Everyone put your headbands on."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In today's story, we learned about Jesus' closest friends, the disciples. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were all fishermen. Matthew used to be a tax collector and collected money. They were all very different. Brothers, fishermen, tax collectors—they all came from different places and different families but were friends with Jesus because EVERYONE can be friends with Jesus. They followed Jesus everywhere and saw Him help sick people, feed hungry people, and listen to children. When Jesus went away, they went everywhere telling everyone that they can be friends with Jesus. We can tell our friends that they can be friends with Jesus, too. **Who can be friends with Jesus? Everyone can be friends with Jesus.**"





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## 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, we'll try to walk to our small group spot in twelve steps. Follow me, and let's see if we can do it! (As you lead your group, take twelve big steps or small steps, whatever is needed to make it to your spot in just twelve steps. Count as you go.)

"We did it! We made it in twelve steps! Now 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 twelve of Jesus' special friends, the disciples. The disciples went everywhere with Jesus. They heard Jesus teach and watched Him do things that only He can do. When some people saw the disciples, they wondered why Jesus chose fishermen and tax collectors who had done wrong things to be His friends. Other people were happy Jesus chose them to be His friends because it meant **Everyone can be friends with Jesus!**

"I'm SO happy **everyone can be friends with Jesus**, because that means we can be friend with Jesus, too! **Who can be friends with Jesus?**"

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

**SGL:** "That's right! And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that Jesus wants us to be His friend and follow Him. 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:** "Great job! (Give two thumbs-up.) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Before Peter was friends with Jesus, his job was catching fish. Before Matthew was friends with Jesus, his job was collecting money. It didn't matter what kind

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