



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 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



WALK LIKE A . . .

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children to spread out in your activity area. Encourage the children to walk around the activity area like the animals listed below. Demonstrate

each movement for the children as you lead them.

Animal movements: penguin waddle, crab walk, bear crawl, frog hop, alligator crawl, snake slither, and kangaroo jump

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here with me! Let's spread out so we have plenty of room. Everyone, put your arms out to the side like this (*demonstrate*) so we make sure we're spread out. Now put your arms down. Great!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "There are so many awesome animals that move in different ways. I will say an animal along with a way they walk, and I want you to walk like that animal. Ready? Let's all do a penguin waddle!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job, everyone! In our Bible story today, we'll hear a story about someone very special who walked on something very cool. Are you ready? Let's go."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story continuing to call out new animals for them to travel as like elephant walk (*hang arm down like a trunk as they walk*), inchworm crawl (*taking baby steps*), one-legged flamingo hop, duck waddle, and bunny hop.

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.



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ONE
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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



MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children.

BIBLE STORY

Our friend Jesus is always with us.

"I am (*point up*) with you (*thumbs to chest*) always," (*spread arms out*) Matthew 28:20. (*Open hand like a book.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

WALKING ON WATER MATTHEW 14:22-33

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I will say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me! 'I am (*point up*) with you (*thumbs to chest*) always,' (*spread arms out*) Matthew 28:20." (*Open hand like a book.*)

MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you always."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? 'I am (*point up*) with you (*thumbs to chest*) always,' (*spread arms out*) Matthew 28:20." (*Open hand like a book.*)

MATTHEW 28:20, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus is always with us and wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.





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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



JESUS WITH ME BOOK

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus with Me Book" Activity Page; cardstock; camera; scissors; utility knife; ruler; glue sticks; stapler; and permanent marker; Optional smiley face stickers and two-inch square hole punch

BIBLE STORY

Our friend Jesus is always with us.

WALKING ON WATER
MATTHEW 14:22-33

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Jesus with Me Book" on cardstock and cut out, one set per child. Take each child's picture, print it, and cut it to two-inch square size. Cut out the square on the pages indicated.

Write child's name on the front of their book. Option: Use smiley face stickers if you can't take the children's pictures.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to glue their picture or place the smiley face sticker on the last page in the area indicated. Place book pages in order and staple. Read through the book with the children.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you always."

MATTHEW 28:20, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever! Let's make a special book to show that Jesus is always with you."

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look on your paper and point to the square. (Pause.) Now take your [picture or smiley face sticker] and [glue/stick] it to that square. (Pause.) Great! Now let's assemble the pages to our book. Let's start with the cover of the book. (Hold up the first page.) The next page is the page with Jesus on it. (Hold up the page with only Jesus.) Put this page behind the first one. (Pause.) The next page is this page with the boat. (Hold up the page with Jesus and the boat.) Put this page behind the others. (Pause.) Then the last page is the one with your picture on it. Put this page at the end. (Pause.) Now to make the pages into a book!" (Makes sure the pages are in order and staple along the left hand side.)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we learned that our friend, Jesus, is always with us. That's what our book is all about. Jesus is always with you. Open your book to the first page. (Pause.) It's a picture of Jesus and . . . YOU! It says Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Turn the page. (Pause.) Look! It's Jesus and the disciples, and YOU! This page is about how Jesus walked on water in our Bible story. Jesus was always with His friends, the disciples. And Jesus is always with you! Turn the page. (Pause.) This last page is a picture of you and Jesus, and it says, 'I am with you always.' Jesus is always with us and wants to be your friend, forever and ever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

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 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 28:20; journal; and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to walk in water puddles while we go to our Small Group spot. Stand up, do what I do, and follow me! (*Pretend to walk and splash in water puddles as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) And one last splash! (*Jump.*) That was fun! 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.*)"

BIBLE STORY

Our friend Jesus is always with us.

"In today's Bible story, Jesus did something that only He can do. Jesus walked on water! And because Jesus can walk on water, He can always be with us AND be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

WALKING ON WATER
MATTHEW 14:22-33

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

MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you always."

SGL: "That's right! And the Bible verse we'll learn will remind us that Jesus is always with us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'I am with you always,' Matthew 28:20. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)"

MATTHEW 28:20, NIV

"Jesus said those words! Jesus said, 'I am with you always.' Let's stand up and say those words together with these motions I'll teach you. Just say what I say and do what I do."

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'I am (*point up*) with you (*thumbs to chest*) always,' (*spread arms out*) Matthew 28:20." (*Open hand like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SGL: "Yay! You did a wonderful job of saying that Bible verse and doing the motions! (*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.*)"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"Today, we'll make a list of our friends. Then when we pray, we can thank God for our friends. When I say your name, tell me the name of one of your friends. (*Say each child's name as you write it down. Write down what they say beside their names. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)"

"This is a great list. I will add just one more name. He is the best friend we will ever have, and He is always with us. His name is . . . (*say the letters as you write them*) J-E-S-U-S! JESUS! (*Show the children the prayer journal.*)"





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(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Now we're ready to 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, thank You for our friends. Thank You for [child's name]'s friend, [friend's name] and thank You for [child's name]'s friend, [friend's name] . . . *(continue with each child and their friend's name)*. Most of all, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Jesus truly is the best friend EVER. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."