



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



COOKING ON THE CAMPFIRE

WHAT YOU NEED: Inflatable Campfire set-up; long sticks or thin dowel rods; "Fish for Cooking" Activity Page; cardstock; and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Fish for Cooking" on cardstock and cut out, at least one fish for every two

children. Set up the campfire. Check out the Pinterest page for ideas on how to create a campfire set-up in your activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Help the children poke a small hole in the top of the fish to slide onto the end of the stick or dowel rod. Lead the children to the "campfire" to hold their fish over the fire and cook them. Make sure the children take turns so everyone has a chance to do some campfire cooking.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect sticks or rods and fish for clean-up. Move campfire out the way if possible.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: (*Point to the campfire.*) "What do you see over there? A campfire! Let's check it out. Come with me." (*Lead children to gather around the campfire.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's cook our fish. Remember to take turns so every friend can cook their fish. What are some other things you can cook on a campfire?"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Cooking with our friends is so fun. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone special who cooked over a fire. He was cooking fish for breakfast! I can't wait to hear all about it!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to pretend to cook then enjoy breakfast.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH
JOHN 21:1-14

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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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically
designed for older preschoolers



WE GO TOGETHER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "We Go Together Cards" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "We Go Together Cards" on cardstock and cut apart; one set per activity.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Pass out the cards to the children. Make sure you've passed out matching sets so each child can find their match. Be certain each child can identify the picture on their card. Encourage the children to move around to find the card that matches or goes together with their card. If time allows, collect all the cards, shuffle, and redistribute to play again. If you had more cards than children, try to use new cards the second round.

Answers: Ketchup and mustard, salt and pepper, milk and cookies, hamburger and fries, chips and salsa, peanut butter and jelly, fork and spoon

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather the cards and set aside for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "There are some things that just go together: like ketchup and mustard or salt and pepper! I have some cards with different items that go together. I'll give each of you a different card. You will search to find a friend who has a card that 'goes together' with yours. For example, one of you will have a picture of salt. What goes with salt? (Pause.) Yes, pepper! So, if you have the salt card, you need to find the friend with the pepper card and stand together. When you find your friend, stand together and raise your hands to show me that you found your match. Ready? Here we go."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You found all of the things that go together! But you know the BEST things that go together are my friend Jesus and me! Because **Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever? 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



FRIENDS FOREVER NECKLACE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Friends Forever Square" Activity Page; cardstock; heart beads; fish stickers; paper straws; yarn; scissors; hole punch; masking tape; and a permanent marker

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JOHN 21:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

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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.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Friends Forever Square" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Punch a hole in the top center of each square. Cut straws into one-inch lengths; several per child. Cut yarn into 16-inch lengths, one per child. Wrap masking tape around one end of each piece of yarn and knot the other end. Write child's name on the back of their square.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to put the fish stickers on some of the straw pieces. Have them thread the straw pieces, heart beads, and square onto the yarn. Tie ends together to make a necklace.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today, Jesus made breakfast on the beach for His friends, the disciples."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus loved His friends so much that He cooked fish, and they ate right there on the beach. Let's make a necklace to help us remember this story. First, add a fish sticker to each straw piece. (Pause.) Great! Now thread the fish, the hearts, and this square onto the yarn. (Pause.) Did you add all of the hearts and fish that you wanted to? (Pause.) Super! Now I'll tie the ends together to make a necklace for you to wear."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus had told His friends that He had to go away but would come back. And He did! Jesus is Alive! When He came back, He wanted to see His friends. He found them out on the water, fishing. When they saw Jesus, they were so excited! They were so happy to be with their good friend Jesus again. They knew that Jesus loved them and would always be their friend, forever and ever. Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever, too. **Who wants to be your friend forever? 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; fun-shaped pen; and reward stickers or a handstamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll walk super-fast to our Small Group spot like the disciples did when they saw Jesus. Follow me! (*Take short quick steps as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

"We got here so fast! Now we can sit down and 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 was about a special breakfast Jesus made on the beach for His friends, the disciples. Jesus wanted to spend time with His friends after He came back so they would know that He would be their friend forever. Jesus wants you to know that He wants to be YOUR friend forever, too. It's so awesome! Jesus wants to be your friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

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

SGL: "Yay! Jesus wants to be your friend forever. And forever means that Jesus is always with you. The Bible verse we learned will help us remember 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.*)

"Let's stand up and say that together one time with these motions, then anyone who wants to say it can have a turn. (*Say the verse together with motions.*)

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

SGL: "It sounds like you're ready! (*Give two thumbs-up.*) Now you can sit down. Anyone who wants to can try to say that verse. I have my [*stickers/handstamp*] ready! (*Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.*)

"Yay, [*child's name*]! Here is your [*sticker/handstamp*]! (*Repeat with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.*)

"Okay everyone, when I count to three, I want you to stand up and show me your [*sticker/handstamp*]. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Yay! (*Give fist bumps to the children.*)

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(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) Since Jesus made breakfast on the beach for His friends, we’ll make a list of our favorite breakfast foods. When I say your name, tell me your favorite breakfast food. (*Say each child’s name and write what they say. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

“This list is making me hungry! Let’s use it when we 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 yummy foods like (*read the list the children made*) that we get to eat for breakfast. Thank You that Jesus made fish and bread for His friends for breakfast. That story reminds us that Jesus cares about His friends and wants to spend time with them. I pray that every person here will follow Jesus so He can be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”