



WEEK
THREE
FEBRUARY 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and
wants to help me.

THE CENTURION
MATTHEW 8:5-13

MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long
and high and deep
is the love of Christ."

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Love Catapult
Bandages
Heart Hunt

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Never Be" and "Amazing"

Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Memory Verse Measuring
Looking for Help
How Tall?
Centurion Says
Loved
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

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GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

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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: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One paperclipped in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Never Be," included in your monthly files; and "Amazing," available on Apple Music®, Spotify®, and OrangeKidsMusic.com; Optional Dance Moves videos for "Never Be," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com and "Amazing," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com)

WHAT YOU DO: Download all songs and have them ready to use.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! Are you glad to be at church today? Yay, me too! I love it when we can sing and dance and show God how much we love Him. He sent Jesus, His one and only Son. No one loves us like Jesus.

Who loves you?"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Jesus loves me."

Lead children in singing "Never Be," this month's worship song.

WORSHIP LEADER: "How deep and wide and strong is the love of Jesus! That's what our memory verse tells us. Let's say it together."

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "'How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*hold arms up and down*) and high (*jump high*) and deep (*crouch low*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ,' (*point up*) Ephesians 3:18." (*Open hands like a book.*)

WORSHIP LEADER: "I'm SO glad that **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** His love will never end. He's my forever friend. Sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing "Amazing."

"Everywhere I look, I see Jesus is amazing! There is NO better friend than Jesus. **Who loves you?"**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Jesus loves me."



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10 MINUTES

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Table, basket, storage container, six plain heart-shaped sugar cookies, two or three tubes of frosting, sprinkles, box of candy hearts, roll of paper towels, apron, and chef's hat

WHAT YOU DO: Preset the table in the center of the storytelling area. Place the cookies in the storage container and put the container, frosting, sprinkles, candy hearts, and paper towels in the basket.

Host enters wearing the apron and chef's hat, carrying the basket.

HOST: "Hey, friends! I'm [your name]! We're celebrating Hearts Day all month long. Because hearts mean love. I can't wait to show you what I've made.

Set the basket on the table.

"Drumroll, please! You can do a drumroll on your legs.

Drumroll on the table, then grab the cookie container, open it, and hold up a cookie.

"Ta-dah! They're heart cookies. I had SO much fun baking them. And now, it's time to decorate them! I have lots of special things to decorate with. Different colors of frosting.

Hold up the different tubes of frosting.

"And I have sprinkles.

Hold up the sprinkles.

"And candy hearts!

Hold up the box of candy hearts.

"I can do hearts on the hearts! How fun is that?

Lay out a paper towel on the table and set a cookie on top.

"Okay, here it goes! Let's start with some frosting.

Add some frosting to the cookie.

"Now I have to decide which little hearts to put on my big hearts. Should I use . . . *(Hold up and "read" each candy heart as you go.)* LOVE BUG . . . BEST DAY . . . PUPPY LOVE . . . or I HEART YOU? Oh, you know what I forgot?

Peer into the basket.



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10 MINUTES

I forgot the pink icing. I'll just take all this with me!

Quickly gather everything back into the basket.

"See you in a little while!"

Host exits with the basket.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, toy shield, and toy helmet; *Optional Story Images* and cardstock

WHAT YOU DO: Option: Copy Story Images on cardstock or download them to display on a screen.

The storyteller enters carrying a Bible and a toy helmet and shield.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm so excited you're here because I have an awesome true story from the Bible to share with you. It's about Jesus helping someone.

Open Bible and set it on the table.

"One day, Jesus walked into a town, and a centurion came up to Him.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)

Put on the helmet and hold up the shield.

"A centurion is a fancy word for someone who was a leader of a lot of soldiers. Centurions were very powerful and important. But this centurion had heard about Jesus and all the amazing things He had done. Even though the centurion was an important person, he knew that Jesus was even MORE important. And he needed Jesus' help!

"The centurion said, 'My servant is at home. And he is very, very sick.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)

"Please! I need your help to make him better.' The centurion really needed help, and He believed that Jesus had the power to help him. Raise your hand if you think Jesus has the power to help the centurion. *(Pause.)* I do, too! You can put your hands down now.

Take off the helmet and set down the shield.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)

"Jesus asked the centurion, 'Do you want me to come to your house and make him better?'

Put on the helmet and hold up the shield.



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10 MINUTES

"The centurion said, 'I know you are so powerful that you can just say that my servant will be better and he will get better!' Jesus told the centurion to go home and that his servant would be all better. And guess what?

(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)

"That's exactly what happened! Jesus loved the centurion and wanted to help him and his servant.

Take off the helmet and set down the shield.

"Jesus loves you and wants to help you, too! That's right. Jesus loves you! And He wants to be your friend forever. Tell me, **who loves you?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus loves me."

STORYTELLER: "Let's stand up straight at attention and say it like a big strong soldier. **Who loves you?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus loves me."

STORYTELLER: "That's the truth, friends! Let's have a seat and talk to God."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus. He helped the centurion soldier and He will help us, too, because He loves us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

"Thanks for listening, friends! See you later."

The Storyteller exits with the Bible, helmet, and shield.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Tray of decorated cookies

The Host enters, smiling with a tray of decorated cookies.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus loved the centurion and helped by making the sick man all better. Jesus loves you, and **Jesus loves me**, too! I think I got the story. Did you get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?"

CHILDREN: "Got it!"

HOST: "Good! You know what? I can go help my neighbor Miss Kathy Sue in her garden today and take her some of these cookies so she knows Jesus loves her, too! Nothing says 'love' like cookies!"

Host exits with the tray of cookies while waving to the children.



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship, the introductory sketch, and the Bible story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story. If you are pulling your children to a rug to one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

1. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)
- Instruments or music player
- "Memory Verse Card" paperclipped in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18, NIV

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- This month's worship song, "Never Be," which is included in your monthly files
- "Amazing," available on the Amazing Album on Apple Music®, Spotify®, and OrangeKidsMusic.com

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for "Never Be," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com
- Dance Moves Music Video for "Amazing," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs (available on OrangeKidsMusic.com) and have them ready to use.

2. INTRO/OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Table
- Basket
- Plastic food container with lid
- Six heart-shaped sugar cookies
- Two or three tubes of colored frosting
- Sprinkles
- Box of candy hearts
- Roll of paper towels
- Apron for the Host
- Chef's hat for the Host
- Tray with six fully decorated cookies for Outro Sketch

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the cookies in the container and put the container, frosting, sprinkles, candy hearts, and paper towels in the basket.
- Preset the table in the center of the storytelling area.

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Toy shield
- Toy helmet (Roman style if possible)

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W3 01
- Story Image W3 02
- Story Image W3 03
- Story Image W3 04

WHAT YOU DO:

- Option: Copy the *Optional Story Images* on cardstock or download them to display on a screen..

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY: First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at OrangeStore.org or as part of your monthly Media Package.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_CandyHearts