



WEEK  
**ONE**  
FEBRUARY 2023

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



## 3. ON THE BUS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Painter's tape and chairs

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Tape a large rectangle on the floor to be the bus. Place a chair for the driver (*leader*) and a chair for each child in rows like bus seats inside the rectangle.

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Tell the children that you're going to ride a bus to see someone special. Ask the children to find a seat on the bus. Leader sits in the driver's seat and pretends to drive the bus. Ask each child to name someone special that they would like to go see. Pretend to drive the bus for about 30 seconds then stop. Ask the children to wave to the special person. Then drive the bus to the next person. Repeat for every special person the children named.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how some children went to see someone very special in today's Bible story.

## MEMORY VERSE

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Look! Let's pretend this is a super-cool bus that we're going to ride today!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We can ride the bus to go see someone special. I will be the bus driver and sit here. (*Point.*) Everyone, find a seat behind me! (*Point.*) Let's ride the bus to go see someone special. Who is someone special that you would like to see? (*Pause.*) Those are all such special people! Let's get going so we can see them all! Everyone buckle up, and let's go! Let's wave to [special person's name]! (*Pause.*) Let's keep going. Wave to [special person's name]! (*Repeat until you have waved to all of the special people.*) That was so much fun!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "We all had someone special that we wanted to see. Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about someone SUPER special who some children went to see!"

## KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to drive a bus to see someone special and hear a Bible story.

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

## 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



## 1. 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 motions in front of the children.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

"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.*)

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

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how Jesus loves us so much.

### MEMORY VERSE

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, gather here with me. I'll say our new memory verse. Everyone listen and watch me! '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.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? '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.*) Let's do it again. '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.*) Nice job!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us SO MUCH! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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## 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



## 5. JESUS AND THE CHILDREN PUPPETS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus and the Children Puppets" and "Puppet Parent Note" Activity Pages; cardstock; washable markers; craft sticks; glue sticks; scissors; and masking tape

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

### 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.

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jesus and the Children Puppets" on cardstock and cut out, one set per child. Copy "Puppet Parent Note" on cardstock and cut apart, one per child. Write each child's name on the back of their cutouts.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to color their puppets and glue a craft stick to the back of each picture. Leader tapes each puppet to secure it to the stick. Use the puppets to review the Bible story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how Jesus loves all the children and Jesus loves me.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit with me at the table. We're going to make puppets to help us review today's Bible story!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "There are three different pictures for our puppets. Who are these people? (*Hold up the picture of the disciples.*) The disciples! That's right! Good job. And who is this? (*Hold up the picture of Jesus.*) JESUS! And who is in this picture? (*Hold up the picture of the children.*) Yay! Children just like you! Color your pictures. (*Pause.*) Super-duper! To turn them into puppets, glue a craft stick to the back of your pictures. (*Pause.*) Great! (*Tape to secure the sticks.*) Now let's use these to help review our Bible story.

"Hold up your Jesus puppet and your disciple puppet. (*Pause.*) When Jesus was teaching, a lot of people came to hear Him. And one day, people brought their children to see and hear Jesus! Hold up your children puppet. (*Pause.*) The people wanted their children to get so close to Jesus because these parents knew how special and amazing Jesus is. But Jesus' disciples didn't want the children to be near Jesus.

"Hold your disciple puppet in front of your Jesus puppet. (*Pause.*) The disciples told the children to go away. Now put your Jesus puppet in front of the disciple puppet. (*Pause.*) But Jesus called the children to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to me!' Jesus opened His arms wide, and the children went to Him.



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“Hold your Jesus and children puppets together. (Pause.) The children were able to be near Jesus and know how much Jesus loved them! Great job helping me review our story with your puppets. You can take your puppets home and retell the story over and over.”

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**”



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, Bible, scissors, paperclip, journal, a fun-shaped pen, and a heart stamp with inkpad or heart stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Memory Verse Card" on

cardstock and cut apart, one per small group. Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in the Bible at Ephesians 3:18. *NOTE:* You will keep this card in your Bible all month.

Lead the children to your Small Group spot.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about today's Bible story and review the memory verse. Talk about how Jesus loves each of the children in your small group and write in the journal.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pray together.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! When you hear your name, I want you to stand and line up behind me. (*Say each child's name with excitement until everyone is lined up behind you. Then lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! Let's 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.*)

**SGL:** "In our Bible story today, we learned that Jesus loves children and He wants to be their friend forever. That means Jesus loves (*say each child's name*), and He wants to be YOUR friend forever! So when I ask, '**Who loves you?**', I want you to say, '**Jesus loves me!**' Let me hear you say it! **Who loves you?**"

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus loves me!"**

**SGL:** "Yes, Jesus loves you! And the Bible verse we're going to learn will help us remember how BIG Jesus' love for us is. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,' Ephesians 3:18. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'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.*)

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

### MEMORY VERSE

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## (6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

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

**SGL:** "That was great for your first time saying that Bible verse. Way to go! Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

"Today, when I say your name, I'll write it in our journal. Then I want you to put a [heart stamp/sticker] by your name because Jesus loves you! Listen for your name.

"Jesus loves [child's name]. *(Continue with each child's name and write their names in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and letters. After you say each name, give that child a heart stamp or sticker to put by their name.)*

"I love seeing all of your names with hearts by them. It reminds me that Jesus loves all children and He wants to be your friend forever!

"Would anyone like to pray before I pray?" *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

### **AFTER THE ACTIVITY:**

**SGL:** "Dear God, Thank You that Jesus loves [child's name], and Jesus loves [child's name] . . . *(continue this with each child's name)*. Thank You that all children can go to Jesus, talk to Him, and be His friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."