



WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

I can love everyone
like Jesus.

**JESUS LOVES EVERYONE
THE GOSPELS**

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."

PROVERBS 17:17, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

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.

Follow Me Differently
Love on the Wall
Numbering Pom-Poms

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Best Friend" and "Love Like Jesus"

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.

All My Friends
Full Heart
Confetti Names
You Can Love Like Jesus!
Like Jesus Headband
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 SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY 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, "Best Friend," included in your monthly files; "Love Like Jesus," available on iTunes®, Spotify®, and OrangeKidsMusic.com; *Optional Dance Moves videos for "Best Friend," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com* and "Love Like Jesus," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! Are you excited to be at church today? (Pause.) Me too! It's my favorite day of the week because we get to worship God together! God LOVES you and me so much that God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. **Who can love like Jesus?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**I can love like Jesus.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes! We CAN love like Jesus because Jesus is the best friend ever. Stand up and sing this with me.

Lead children in singing "Best Friend," this month's worship song.

"Jesus is my friend forever and ever and ever! We can love like Jesus. **Who can love like Jesus?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**I can love like Jesus.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "YES! We've learned an awesome verse about being a good friend. Let's say it together."

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "'A friend (*hook pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times (*arms out and twirl*),' Proverbs 17:17." (*Open hands like a book.*)

WORSHIP LEADER: "When does a good friend love? At ALL times. Jesus loves you and me, always. What a good, good friend. Sing this with me.

Lead children in singing "Love Like Jesus."

"You and you and you and you and me—WE can love like Jesus! Thanks for worshiping with me today, friends."



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10 MINUTES

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Toy fire truck, streamers, and a rice shaker

The Host runs in with the fire truck and rice shaker while waving the streamers.

HOST: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name]. My friends and I are going to have a parade. We started thinking about all the fun things in a parade—like fire trucks!

Hold up the toy fire truck, then wave streamers overhead and make a fire truck siren sound.

"And marching bands! It will be REALLY fun, and it will be REALLY loud. But our friend, Sam, does not like loud noises. I don't want Sam to stay home if our parade is too loud. So (*speaking quietly*) I thought we could have a quiet parade! Can you help me? (*Pause.*) Everyone, hold up your pretend streamer.

Hold up your streamers.

"Now wave them high!

Wave the streamers over your head.

"Wave them low.

Lower the streamers below your knees and wave them.

"Wave them all around.

Wave streamer all around.

"Hmmm, oh, I know what else we could use in our quiet parade. Rice shakers!

Hold up the rice shaker.

"These aren't too loud. Shake your pretend rice shakers with me. (*Shake your shaker.*) One, two, three, shake. Great job! (*whispering loudly*) We're going to have the best quiet parade ever! I can't wait! See you in a little while, friends."

The Host gathers the props and exits.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Twelve Disciples" Activity Page, cardstock, basket of confetti, twelve chairs, tape, and Bible; *Optional* two chairs or ladders, ribbon or twine, and spring-loaded clothespins; *Optional Story Images*

WHAT YOU DO: Copy "Twelve Disciples" on cardstock, one set per large group. Preset the chairs on stage in a row. Place the basket of confetti in the first chair. Tape each Activity Page on the back of a chair so the storyteller can simply flip them over to reveal the picture. *Option:* Instead of using twelve chairs, hang ribbon or twine between two chairs or ladders. Use a clothespin to hang the "Twelve Disciples" pictures on the line with the blank sides facing the audience. Place the basket of confetti in a chair or on a ladder rung. *Option:* Copy Story Images on cardstock or download files to display on a screen.

Storyteller enters with Bible.



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10 MINUTES

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm so excited to be with you today because I have an awesome true story straight from the Bible to share with you.

Hold up the Bible for the children to see then lay it open on a chair.

"We are learning how to love like Jesus!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 01)

And just like confetti goes everywhere . . . *(Throw up a handful of confetti.)* . . . Jesus' love goes everywhere, too! And to everyone. Jesus wants everyone everywhere to follow Him and be His friend forever. Today's TRUE story from the Bible is about the first twelve people who followed Jesus. They were called 'disciples.'

"Like Peter *(reveal Peter)* and Andrew *(reveal Andrew)*.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)

"Peter and Andrew were fishermen out trying to catch fish when Jesus said, 'Come follow me!' And they did!

"James *(reveal James)* and his brother, John *(reveal John)*, were fishermen, too.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 03)

"James and John were out with their dad when Jesus said, 'Come follow me!' And they did.

"In the next town, Jesus found Philip. *(Reveal Philip.)*

(Option: Display Story Image W4 04)

"Then Philip found his friend, Nathanael, and brought him to see Jesus. *(Reveal Nathanael.)* Nathanael followed Jesus, too!

"Then there was Matthew. *(Reveal Matthew.)* Matthew had a different job. He was a tax collector. Matthew followed Jesus, too!

"Then there was Thomas *(reveal Thomas)* and James *(reveal James)*. And Thaddeus *(reveal Thaddeus)* and Simon *(reveal Simon)* and Judas *(reveal Judas)*.

"Whew! That's a lot! Let's see, do we have all twelve? Let's count them. Ready?"

Tap each picture as you lead the children to count to twelve.

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve!"

STORYTELLER: "We did it! These were Jesus' twelve disciples.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 05)



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10 MINUTES

"All different people from different places, with different jobs, and different families, but Jesus chose them all to follow Him.

"Now, why do you think Jesus chose different people? Because Jesus loves everyone! He does! And Jesus wants us to love everyone, too. Jesus wants us to love (*toss some confetti in the air*) everyone, everywhere! Tell me, **who can love like Jesus?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "I can love like Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "You've got it! Jesus called all of these different people to follow Him because He loves everyone! And we can love everyone, everywhere, too, with Jesus' help. Let's bow our heads and talk to God."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "God, we love You! Thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love everyone, everywhere. Help us choose to spread love every chance we get. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

"Great listening, friends! See you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the Bible, leaving chairs and the basket of confetti behind.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Streamers and shaker from Intro Sketch, basket of confetti from Story

The Host enters, smiling with the streamers and shaker.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus loves everyone, and Jesus wants us to love everyone, too! **I can love like Jesus!** I think I got the story. Did you get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?"

CHILDREN: "Got it!"

HOST: "Good!

Wave the streamers and shake the shaker.

I'm so excited about our quiet parade because EVERYONE can come!

Look around and pick up the basket of confetti.

"I know what else we need! Confetti!

Toss out a big handful of confetti.

"See you next time! Bye, friends."

Host exits with the basket, streamers, and shaker 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" from Week One paperclipped in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- This month's worship song, "Best Friend," included in your monthly files
- "Love Like Jesus," available on the Love Like Jesus Album on Apple Music®, Spotify®, and OrangeKidsMusic.com

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for "Best Friend," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com
- Dance Moves Music Video for "Love Like Jesus," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download songs and have them ready to use.

2. INTRO/OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Streamers
- Toy fire truck
- Rice shaker

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Twelve Disciples" Activity Pages
- Cardstock
- Basket of confetti
- Twelve chairs
- Tape
- Bible
- *Optional* two chairs or ladders, ribbon or twine, and twelve spring-loaded clothespins

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W4 01
- Story Image W4 02
- Story Image W4 03
- Story Image W4 04
- Story Image W4 05

WHAT YOU DO:

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- Preset the chairs in a row on stage.
- Place the basket of confetti in the first chair.
- Tape the "Twelve Disciples" Activity Pages on the back of the chairs so the storyteller can simply flip one over to reveal the picture.
- *Option:* Instead of using twelve chairs, hang ribbon or twine between two chairs or ladders. Use clothespins to the "Twelve Disciples" pictures to the line with the blank sides facing the audience. Place the basket of confetti on a chair or ladder rung.
- *Option:* Copy the *Optional Story Images* on cardstock or download them to display on a screen.



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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_ConfettiToss