



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



1. DO WHAT I DO

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand in front of you in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Perform several different actions like riding a bike, cooking dinner, brushing your hair, giving a hug, and washing your hands. Invite the children to mimic you.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! I'm so glad that you're here today! Come over here with me, and let's play a game."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'll act like I'm doing different things, and I want you to do what I do. Are you ready? (Pause.) First, I'm going to ride a bike! (Pretend to ride a bike.) Now you ride a bike, too! (Pause.) Nice job! This time, I'll cook dinner. (Pretend to cook.) Can you cook dinner, too? (Pause.) Way to go! (Continue with the different actions and repeat as desired.) Great job, friends. You did an excellent job of following what I did!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story, we'll learn how we can follow what Jesus does!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by doing movements (pat your head, jump, stomp, take giant steps, etc.) as you walk and have the children mimic you.

BIBLE STORY

I can love like Jesus.

**JESUS WASHES
HIS FRIENDS' FEET
JOHN 13:3-7, 34-35**

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.



WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

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



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 show the motions to the children.

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 we can love our friends all the time, just like Jesus did!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I'll say our new memory verse. Everyone, listen and watch me. 'A friend (hook pointer fingers together) loves (hug yourself) at all times (arms out and twirl),' Proverbs 17:17." (Open hands like a book.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? 'A friend (hook pointer fingers together) loves (hug yourself) at all times (arms out and twirl),' Proverbs 17:17. (Open hands like a book.) Let's do it again. 'A friend (hook pointer fingers together) loves (hug yourself) at all times (arms out and twirl),' Proverbs 17:17. (Open hands like a book.) Nice job, friends!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse tells us that we can love our friends all the time, just like Jesus loves us all the time! **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!** One more time. **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!**"

BIBLE STORY

I can love like Jesus.

**JESUS WASHES
HIS FRIENDS' FEET
JOHN 13:3-7, 34-35**

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.



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



4. BUCKETS OF LOVE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Ways to Love" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, four buckets, tape, plastic bin, and pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Ways to Love" on cardstock and cut in half, one set per group. Tape one half page to the front of each bucket. Set the buckets in a row, side-by-side, about two feet apart in the center of your Small Group area. Make sure the bucket with the heart is the last in line. Place the pom-poms in the plastic bin and set the bin five or six feet away from the buckets.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children line up facing the pictures on the buckets. Let the children take turns tossing a pom-pom into each bucket. Point out the picture on the front of each bucket and talk about what they see. Name the way the person in the picture is choosing to love like Jesus. As they toss their pom-poms in the bucket with the heart, encourage them to name one way they can love others like Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about all the different ways we can love like Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, line up in front of these buckets. We're going to take turns tossing a pom-pom into each bucket. When you do, we'll talk about what we see in each picture."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, toss a pom-pom into the first bucket. (Pause.) What do you see in this picture? (*picture of two friends hugging*) Yes, these two friends are hugging. It looks like one friend is sad and the other is encouraging them with a hug! That's loving like Jesus for sure.

"Let's all toss a pom-pom into the second bucket. (Pause.) What do you see in this picture? (*two friends sharing a cookie*) These two friends are sharing a cookie. That's loving like Jesus!

"Toss a pom-pom into the third bucket. (Pause.) What do you see in this picture? (*a friend who's fallen from his bike*) One friend has fallen off his bike and another friend has stopped to help. Is that loving like Jesus? Yes!

"Okay, last bucket. Toss a pom-pom into this bucket. (Pause.) What do you see in this picture? (*heart*) It's a heart! Can you name a way you could love others like Jesus? (Pause.) There are so many ways to love like Jesus! You gave some great examples."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus showed us how to love so we can love like Jesus! **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus.**"

BIBLE STORY

I can love like Jesus.

**JESUS WASHES
HIS FRIENDS' FEET
JOHN 13:3-7, 34-35**

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.



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, Bible, cardstock, scissors, paperclip, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per group. Paperclip one card in the Bible at Proverbs 17:17 and keep in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to your Small Group spot, sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Bible story and memory verse then write in the journal. Pray with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to swim while we go to our Small Group spot. Move your arms like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Follow me! (*Make a swimming motion with your arms as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)"

"Yay! We made it! 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.*)"

"In our Bible story today, Jesus did something with water, and it wasn't swimming. What did Jesus do with water? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus washed the feet of His friends, the disciples. Jesus washed His friends' feet to show them how to love like He does. Now we can love like Jesus, too!"

"That's why, when I ask '**Who can love like Jesus?**', I want you to say, '**I can love like Jesus!**' Let me hear you say it! **Who can love like Jesus?**"

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

SGL: "You sure can! And the Bible verse we're going to learn will help us remember when to love. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)"

"Did you hear that? A friend loves at ALL times! Jesus is the best friend! That means Jesus loves you and Jesus loves me ALL of the time! And since we can love like Jesus, we can love all the time, too!"

"Let's stand up and say our new Bible verse together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

BIBLE STORY

I can love like Jesus.

**JESUS WASHES
HIS FRIENDS' FEET
JOHN 13:3-7, 34-35**

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.



WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

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

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "I love that verse! I'm SO glad we're learning it together. Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.) Today in our Bible story, Jesus showed us one way we can love like Him. Let's make a list of other ways we can love like Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you think we can love like Jesus, and I'll write it in our journal. (Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"These are wonderful ways we can love like Jesus! Let's pray and ask God to help us love like Jesus. 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 sending Your Son, Jesus, to show us how to love. Please help us love like Jesus and do things like . . . (read the list the children made). You're the best, God, and we love YOU very much! In Jesus' name, amen."