



WEEK  
**THREE**  
MARCH 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



## 2. ROLL THE BALL

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Playground balls

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Pair up children together and have them sit on the floor with their legs spread out and feet touching.

## BIBLE STORY

I can share like Jesus.

**JESUS HELPS**  
**JOHN 6:1-13**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each group a ball and have them roll the ball back and forth saying "Roll the ball, roll the ball, roll the ball to me." Repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how today's Bible story is about sharing.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we'll play a game, but we need to get into groups of two. Find a friend and sit down, facing each other with your feet touching. Like this." (*Demonstrate.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Each group gets a ball. (*Give each pair of children a ball.*) Say this with me. Roll the ball, roll the ball, roll the ball to me. Now, roll the ball to your friend. (*Pause.*) Ready? Roll the ball, roll the ball, roll the ball to me. (*Pause.*) Great job! Keep going! (*Repeat as desired.*) It was great seeing you share the ball while you played the game!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our story, we'll hear how a boy shared his lunch with Jesus and a whole bunch of people."

## MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIV**

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to roll the ball to a child in line and have them roll it back. Repeat with each child.

## KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## 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. CUT AND PASTE MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Cut and Paste Memory Verse" Activity Page, cardstock, preschool-safe scissors, glue sticks, and a marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Cut and Paste Memory Verse" Activity Page on cardstock, one per child. Set an activity page at each spot at the table. Place the scissors and glue sticks in the center of the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Review the memory verse together. Point out the words and blocks at the top of the page and the pictures at the bottom. Encourage the children to cut along the dotted lines to remove the three pictures along the bottom. Show them where to glue each picture next to the words of the verse: The picture of two friends beside "A friend," the heart beside "loves" and the clock beside "at all times."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** As the children finish, write their names at the top of their pages. Then lead the children to repeat the verse as they point to the words or pictures on the page.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, find a spot at the table. Let's do the motions as we say our memory verse together. 'A friend (*hook pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times (*arms out and twirl*),' Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at your paper. Do you see the pictures at the bottom of the page? Cut along the dotted lines. (*Pause.*) Great job! Now glue those pictures to the top, next to the words. I'll help you. These words say 'A friend.' Glue the picture of two friends here. (*Pause.*) The next word is 'loves.' Which picture do you think should go here? (*Pause.*) The heart! You're right! The next words say, 'At all times.' Glue the clock here. (*Pause.*) Nice!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Point to the pictures as we say the verse together. Ready? (*Point to the pictures with the children.*) 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. Great job, friends. We can love like Jesus because Jesus loves US at all times! Tell me, **who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus.**"

## BIBLE STORY

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**JESUS HELPS  
JOHN 6:1-13**

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## 4. PASS THE ICE CREAM

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Brown construction paper, ball pit balls, and tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Roll brown paper into a cone and tape to secure, one per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a paper cone and talk about how it looks like an ice cream cone. Give a third of the children a ball pit ball and explain the ball is the ice cream. Encourage the children to find someone to share their ice cream with. Have them tip their cone to allow the ball to roll out into the friend's cone. Continue passing and sharing the ice cream. If desired, stand in a circle and have the children pass and share one ice cream.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how we can love like Jesus.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hey, friends come play a game with me!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone gets one of these. (*Hold up a cone.*) What do these remind you of? (*Pause.*) They look like ice cream cones! Hold your cone like this. I'll give a few of you a ball. They will be the ice cream for your cone. To play the game, you need to share your ice cream with someone who doesn't have ice cream. To share it, tip your cone like this so it will roll into their cone. (*Demonstrate.*) Ready, set, share! (*Pause.*) Wow, great job, friends! Let's play again. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was fantastic sharing!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** ""In our Bible story, there was a crowd of people coming to see Jesus! There were over 5,000 people! Jesus loved them all. Jesus knew they would be hungry and wanted to help them. There was a boy in the crowd who had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus prayed and thanked God for the food. Then Jesus gave the bread and fish to His friends to share with all the people and said everyone could have as much food as they wanted! Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus helped a lot of people that day by feeding them. We can love like Jesus when we share and help others, too. **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus.**"

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## 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" from Week One paperclipped in Bible; journal; and a fun-shaped pen

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card"

Activity Page from Week One on cardstock and cut apart, one per small group. Paperclip one card in the Bible at Proverbs 17:17. You will keep this card 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! Let's pretend we're walking up a big hill to see Jesus. Take big steps like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Follow me! (*Take big slow steps, like going up a hill, as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)"

"Whew! 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 helped A LOT of people have food because He loved them. We can love like Jesus when we help people. **Who can love like Jesus?**"

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

**SGL:** "Yes, it's true! And when we love like Jesus, we are a good friend. The Bible verse we're learning will help us remember how to be a good friend like Jesus. 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.*)"

"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:** "'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:** "Wow! You sound great! (*Give high fives.*) Now, let's sit down so we can

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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) Today, we'll make a list of things we can do to help our family. Helping our family is loving like Jesus! So when I say your name, tell me one way you can help your family, and I'll write it in our journal. (*Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

"Thank you! You just helped me make this list. See? You can 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 Jesus to show us how to love. Please help us help our family and do things like . . . (*read the list the children made*). We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."