



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. FOLLOW ME DIFFERENTLY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Assign each child a different movement to do while they follow you around the room.

One child could pat their head, the next child rubs their tummy, the third child stomps their feet, etc. *Option:* If you have a large group, you may assign a movement to a group of children such as, "If you have a red shirt on, you may pat your head."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Perform your movement and lead children to perform their different movements as they follow you around the room. Explain to the children that even though you're all doing different things, you're all following together. Suggested movements: pat head, rub tummy, stomp feet, take baby steps, blink eyes, clap hands, and hop. Repeat as desired with the children switching movements with each other.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how in our story we'll hear about Jesus inviting different people doing different things to follow Him.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! We're going to play a following game."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Each of you will have a different movement to do as you follow me around the room, and I will have my own. (Assign each child or group of children a movement.) Follow me! (Pause.) Great following while you do your movement! Okay, everyone freeze. (Pause.) Let's change movements! (Assign new movements for children.) Follow me! (Repeat as desired.) Great job, friends! We all did different things, but we were all following together! That was fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a story about a lot of different people who did different things, but they all followed Jesus. I can't wait to hear about it."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing the activity with the different movements while the children follow you to the story area.

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.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. FULL HEART

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Everyone Cards" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, red marker, butcher paper, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Everyone Cards" on

cardstock and cut, one set per small group. Draw a large heart on butcher paper. Write, "I can love like Jesus" across the top of the butcher paper. Tape the butcher paper to a wall at the preschooler level. Place a loop of tape on the back of each card.

Note: You may need to make more than one copy of "Everyone Cards," depending on the number of children you have and the size of the heart you draw on your butcher paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around the paper. The children will take turns drawing a card and saying, "I can love like Jesus," then taping their card inside the heart.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus loves everyone, and when we love like Jesus, we love everyone, too!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Look at this big heart with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We'll fill this heart with pictures of all kinds of people, because in our Bible story today, Jesus LOVED all kinds of people and wanted them to follow Him. Jesus loves ALL people because Jesus loves EVERYONE!"

"When I say your name, you will draw one of these cards, say, 'Jesus loves everyone,' then tape your card inside this heart. Let's try to fill the heart!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! Look at all the people inside the heart! Jesus loves ALL of these people because Jesus loves everyone! In today's true story from the Bible, Jesus asked twelve people to follow Him, and they did! They were called 'the disciples.' They were all different people from different places with different jobs and different families. But Jesus chose them all to follow Him. Jesus. Loves. Everyone. He does! And Jesus wants us to love everyone, too. And when we love everyone, we love like Jesus! **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!**"

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an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. ALL MY FRIENDS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in an open area of the room and stand in a circle.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call out different colors of clothes or shoes, different hairstyles or colors, if they wear glasses, etc. If a child has what you called, they move to the center of the circle and say the memory verse. Repeat until every child has had at least one turn, and then bring the children together in the center and say the verse together.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus loves each of us and He wants to be our friend forever.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I need all of my sweet friends to join me and make a big circle!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Before we get started, let's all say and do the motions to our memory verse. Are you ready? Okay! 'A friend (*hook pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times (*arms out and twirl*),' Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Fantastic! Everyone, listen closely to my words. All my friends who have red shoes on, move to the center of the circle. Okay friends in the middle, say the verse with me. 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. Great job! Go back to the circle. All my friends who have ponytails, move to the middle and say the verse with me. (*Pause.*) Go back to the circle. All my friends who have glasses, move to the middle and say the verse with me. (*Continue until each child has had at least one turn.*) Now ALL my friends come to the middle. Let's say it all together. 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. Yay! Fantastic!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus loves each of us and wants us to follow Him and love others like He does. **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus.**"

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WEEK
FOUR
MARCH 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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" from Week One paperclipped in Bible; journal; fun-shaped pen; and confetti or colorful pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut apart, one per small group. Paperclip one card in the Bible at Proverbs 17:17.

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. Toss confetti over each child after they try to say the memory verse. Write in the journal and pray together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll clap and cheer while we walk to our Small Group spot. We're clapping and cheering because Jesus loves everyone! Come on everyone! Follow me! (Repeat, "Yay! Jesus loves everyone," while clapping and cheering as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

"Woo-hoo! 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, we heard about the first people who followed Jesus. They were called 'the disciples.' The disciples had different jobs and lived in different places because Jesus loves everyone. And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that Jesus loves everyone because 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.)

"Jesus is the best friend because He loves at all times! No matter what we look like or where we live or what language we speak, Jesus loves everyone at all times! Let's stand up and say those words together one time with the motions so we can remember to love like Jesus. 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.)

SGL: "Yay! (Toss a small amount of confetti.) Okay, it's time for everyone to sit down. You can take turns saying that verse, and when you do, I'll toss confetti on YOU! (Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse. When they do, toss a small amount of confetti over them.)

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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Everyone, clap for [child’s name]! It’s confetti toss time! *(Do this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)*

“That was fun! Now it’s time to write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)* Since Jesus loves everyone, we’ll make a list of people we can love. And it can be anyone because when we love like Jesus, we love EVERYONE! So when I say your name, tell me the name of one person, and I will write it in our journal. *(Write down what each child says beside their names. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“Look at all these people! *(Show the journal.)* Let’s pray that we will love them 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 love *(say each child’s name)* and everyone in the whole, wide world! We want to love everyone like Jesus. Help us love . . . *(read the list the children made)* and all of the people in the world who aren’t on our list. You’re the best, God. In Jesus’ name. amen.”