



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. LET'S SWIM

WHAT YOU NEED: Blue butcher paper, scissors, and blue painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut a long piece of paper and tape to the floor. Option: Tape wavy lines on the floor for the water instead using of paper.

the water instead using of paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children to "jump" into the water and swim. Encourage them to imitate different swimming strokes such as the backstroke and dog paddle. Demonstrate these strokes if needed. Encourage any teen or adult helpers to "jump" in and swim with the children, too.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! It's great to see you today! Come over here with me. What do you think this is? (*Point to the "water."*) That's right! It's water! We'll pretend the water is a swimming pool."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Jump in! Let's go swimming! I can't wait to see all the different swimming strokes you can do. Can you freestyle? (*Demonstrate.*) Nice. Can you dog paddle? (*Demonstrate.*) Wow! Look at you go! Can you backstroke? (*Demonstrate.*) That's awesome! Now swim all around in the pool. (*Repeat as desired.*) Whew! That was a lot of swimming! You are all great swimmers."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who jumped out of a boat and into the water then swam to shore so they could see someone SUPER special."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to swim to the story area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever.

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH
JOHN 21:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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



4. FRIEND TO FRIEND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children in an open area of the room.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever.

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH
JOHN 21:1-14

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Count to three and encourage children to find a friend and do a movement together such as elbow to elbow or a high five, etc. with each other and say, "Jesus wants to be my friend forever." Repeat moving to different friends. End with everyone in a circle and shout, "**Jesus is alive!**"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus told His friends He loved them, and He would always be their friend forever and ever.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "In today's Bible story, Jesus wanted His friends to know that He is alive and He would be their friend forever. Let's play a game with our friends to celebrate that Jesus is alive and wants to be our friend forever, too!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When I count to three, find a friend and do a movement together like elbow to elbow (*demonstrate*) or a high five. (*Demonstrate.*) Then say, 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever.' Ready? One, two, three! (*Pause.*) Awesome! When I count to three, find a new friend. Ready? One, two, three! (*Repeat as desired.*) You did a great job of finding different friends to do movements with. I have one more movement for us to do, and we'll all do it together. Stand in a circle with me. When I count to three this time, I want you to jump and shout, '**Jesus is alive!**' Everyone ready? One (*Hold one finger up.*), two (*Hold two fingers up.*), three. (*Hold three fingers up.*) **Jesus is alive!** Yay! Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus went away and came back, just like He said He would. Jesus told His friends that He loved them and that He would always be their friend. Forever and ever. Jesus loves YOU so much and He wants to be YOUR friend too. FOREVER and ever! **Who is alive? Jesus is alive.** One more time. **Who is alive? Jesus is alive.**"

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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. MATCHING HEARTS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Matching Hearts" Activity Page; color cardstock in various colors; scissors; and a basket

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Matching Hearts" on several colors of cardstock and cut, one for every two

children. Make sure each child has a half. Place heart pieces in the basket and mix around.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have each child pick a heart piece from the basket then have them find the friend with the matching piece. When a match is made, have those children say the memory verse together. If there are an odd number of children, the leader will play. Return pieces to the basket, mix, and repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Repeat the memory verse with the motions.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever.

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH
JOHN 21:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me over here. I have a basket of heart pieces we'll use to say our memory verse today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "There are two pieces for each heart. When I call your name, come over and pick a heart piece. When I say, 'Go,' I want you to find the friend with the match to your heart. (Call several children up at a time to pick a piece.) Now that everyone has their piece, go find your match. When you have your match, hold the two pieces together. Ready? Go! (Pause.) Did everyone find their match? (Pause.) Super! Now let's say our verse together. 'I am alive for ever and ever,' Revelation 1:18. Great job! Everyone, put your heart pieces back in the basket. (Mix them all around.) Let's play again! (Repeat as many times as desired.) Friends, that was fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say the verse while we do the motions this time. 'I am alive (point up) for ever and ever,' (twirl around) Revelation 1:18. (Open hands like a book.) Good job! **Who is alive? Jesus is alive.**"



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" paperclipped in Bible, journal, a fun-shaped pen, and smiley face stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Paperclip one card in your Bible at Revelation 1:18. 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 pray with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, every time we take three steps, we'll stop and say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' Are you ready? Count with me!" (*Count out loud with each step and when you say, "three," stop and say, "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!" Continue as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

CHILDREN AND SGL: "One . . . two . . . three! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

SGL: "Yay! We're here! 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 made breakfast for His friends, the disciples. Jesus wanted His friends to see that **Jesus is alive** and will be their friend forever. And the best part is that Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever, too! Yay! **Jesus is alive**, and He wants to be our friend forever! **Who is alive?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**Jesus is alive!**"

"The Bible verse we have been learning is Jesus talking! It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'I am alive for ever and ever,' Revelation 1:18. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say that with the motions."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'I am alive (*point up*) for ever and ever,' (*twirl around*) Revelation 1:18." (*Open hands like a book.*)

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

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever.

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH
JOHN 21:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

"I am alive for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 1:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is alive?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is alive.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 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)

SGL: “Did you hear that? Jesus said that He is alive for ever and ever! Wow! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*”

“Today, our Bible story was about Jesus showing His friends that **Jesus is alive** and will be their friend forever. But Jesus doesn’t want to just be the disciples’ friend forever. Jesus wants to be everyone’s friend forever! That means Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever!

“I’ll write ‘Jesus wants to be our friend forever’ at the top of this page in our journal. When I say you’re your name, I will write it on this page. Then you can put a smiley face sticker by your name because it makes us happy knowing that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! *(Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*”

“Look at all of the happy faces in our journal! Let’s pray and thank God for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. 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 giving us Jesus to be our friend for ever and ever. I pray that each person here will choose to follow Jesus and be His friend. We love You, God! In Jesus’ name, amen.”