

WEEK  
**ONE**  
JUNE 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

*Repeat the verse and motions with the children a few times.*

"Great job! We can follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere because Jesus wants to be my friend forever. There is no friend better. Sing this with me.

*Lead children in singing "Best Friend."*

"Yes! **"Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."**

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "That's right, friends! Thanks for worshipping with me. See you next time!"

## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Two jumbo craft sticks, red and green cardstock, scissors, and tape or glue

Host enters, carrying the red light and green light craft sticks.

**HOST:** "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! I'm [your name]! My friends and I have been playing this really fun game. It's called . . . *(Hold up the red light.)* . . . red light . . . *(Hold up the green light.)* . . . green light!

"This is how you play. When your friend shouts, 'Green light' *(Hold up green light.)*, you move as fast as you can. When your friend shouts, 'Red light' *(Hold up red light.)*, you have to stop really fast and wait. *(Pause as if you have an idea.)*

"Hey! Would you like to play right now? *(Pause.)* Great! Let's play using our hands. When I say, 'Green light' *(Hold up green light.)*, you will clap your hands. When I say, 'Red light' *(Hold up red light.)*, you have to stop clapping really fast and wait for me to say, 'Green light' *(Hold up green light.)*, again. Got it? Green light *(Hold up green light.)*, clap your hands. Red light *(Hold up red light.)*, stop clapping and wait.

"Are you ready to play? *(Pause.)* Here we go! *(Pause.)*

"GREEN LIGHT!

*Hold up the green light and encourage the children to clap for a few seconds.*

"RED LIGHT!

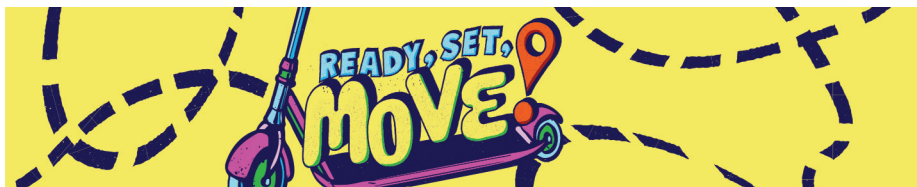
*Hold up the red light for a few seconds.*

"I'm holding up the red light. That means you have to stop clapping and wait, wait, wait, wait. Don't move yet. Keep waiting . . . GREEN LIGHT!

*Hold up the green light for a few seconds.*

"Everyone, clap your hands!

*Play this game with the children for a minute then continue with the script.*



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"Oh, that was fun! You can put your hands back in your lap now. Thanks for playing with me!

"Red light, green light can be a hard game, but I love playing it!

*Look at the red and green lights then back at the children.*

"These lights and all of the stopping and going remind me of our Bible story today. It has a really bright light in it, and it makes someone stop really fast! I can't wait for you to hear all about it. See you later!"

*Host exits with red and green lights.*

## BIBLE STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible and small table; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

**WHAT YOU DO:** Preset the table in the storytelling area.

*Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story about Jesus from the Bible.

*Hold up the Bible and lay it open on the table.*

"And when I tell you about Jesus, I think you'll want to follow Jesus here (*throw one arm out*), there (*throw the other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE! (*Throw both arms out.*)

"Do you see how I did that with my arms? (*Pause.*) Stand up and try doing it with me. Just do what I do!"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Here (*throw one arm out*), there (*throw the other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE!" (*Throw both arms out.*)

**STORYTELLER:** "Great job! You can sit back down.

"Now, before I tell you a true story about Jesus, I need you to say some special words to get me started. When I count to three, I want you to say, 'Ready, set, move!' Okay? (*Pause.*) One . . . two . . . three!"

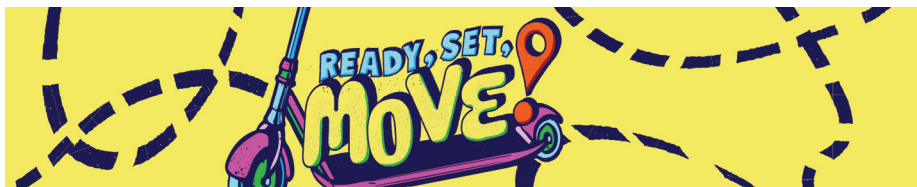
**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Ready, set, move!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Yay! Now I'm ready!

"Our true story from the Bible begins with a man named Paul.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)*

"Paul was not a friend of Jesus or anyone who were friends with Jesus. Paul would look for Jesus' friends and take them to jail! Oh, no! That's definitely not a good friend!



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"But one day, that all changed.

*Slowly walk from one side of the storytelling area to the other as you speak.*

"Paul was walking down a road, to a city called Damascus, and suddenly there was a bright light!

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)*

"Everyone, cover your eyes and say, 'That's so bright!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** *(covering eyes)* "That's so bright!"

*Uncover your eyes and continue.*

**STORYTELLER:** "You can uncover your eyes now.

"The light was SO bright that Paul stopped and fell to his knees.

*Get on your knees.*

"Then Paul heard a voice ask, 'Paul, why don't you want to be my friend?' Paul didn't know who was talking to him, so he asked, 'Who are you?'

"Who do you think was talking to Paul? *(Pause.)* It was Jesus! Jesus was talking to Paul. Everyone, say, 'JESUS!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "JESUS!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus told Paul to go into the city and wait to be told what to do.

*Stand up.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)*

"When Paul stood up and opened his eyes, he couldn't see anything. The people who were with Paul had to help him go to the city.

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)*

"When Paul got to the city, he did what Jesus said, and he waited to be told what to do.

"When Paul met Jesus, Paul's life changed forever because then Paul knew that Jesus is alive!

"And WE know that Jesus is alive, too, and that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! That's why when someone asks you, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**', I want you to say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' Ready? **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**



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**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Again! Who wants to be your friend forever?"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes, Jesus wants to be our friend forever!"

"Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

## PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, Thank You for teaching us that Jesus is alive and Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Help us stop and do what Jesus tells us to do like Paul did. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"I can't wait to tell you more of Paul's story when I see you next time. Bye!"

*Storyteller exits with the Bible.*

## OUTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Red and green lights from Intro Sketch

*Host enters, carrying the red and green light.*

**HOST:** "Wow! Paul saw a bright light, and he heard Jesus talk to him. Jesus changed Paul's life forever!"

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear, listening.*)

**CHILDREN:** "Got it!"

**HOST:** (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

*Look down at the red and green lights then look at the children.*

"I just thought of something! Now I know whether I stop (*Hold up red light.*) or go (*Hold up green light.*), **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** See you next time. Bye!"

*Host exits.*