

WEEK
TWO
JUNE 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

friend! Aren't you glad to know that Jesus wants to be your friend and **Jesus wants to be my friend forever?** Jesus is the best! See you next time, friends!"

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Small table, chair, bag with three blocks of different colors, and an eye mask

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

NOTE: Change the script to match the color of the blocks you have.

Host enters, carrying the bag of blocks and an eye mask then lays them on the table.

HOST: "Hello, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! It's me, [your name]! I'm so excited you're here today because I have something fun in this bag to show you.

Gesture to the bag.

"Do you want to see what I have in here? (Pause.) If you do, hold up both hands and wiggle your fingers, like this. (Demonstrate. Pause.) Oh, you definitely want to see what's in here! Let's count to three together, and I'll show you! Ready? Count with me!"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "One, two, three!"

Dump the blocks on the table.

HOST: "Blocks! I have blocks! I love building with blocks. You can make so many cool things!

"Today, I want to build a tower with my blocks. But I'm giving myself a special challenge. I'm going to try to build a tower while wearing this eye mask!

Hold up the eye mask and begin putting it on as you talk.

"This eye mask will cover my eyes so I can't see. I'll need your help. Can you help me?"

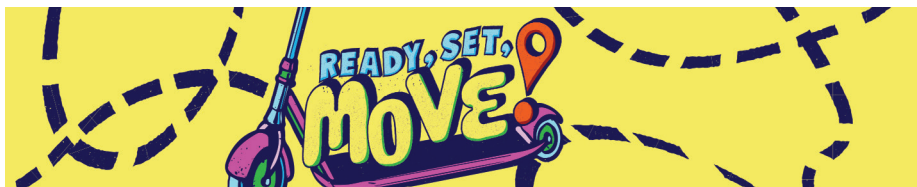
Listen for response then begin reaching for the blocks. Quickly arrange the blocks in a row so the children can clearly see them.

"Yay! First, I need a red block. Can you help me? Can you tell me where the red block is? Shout if you see a red block!

Feel around and find the red block as you listen to the children.

"Is this a red block? (Hold up the red block.) Yay! I'll put the red block right here.

Place the red block in the center of the table and feel around for the blue block.



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"Now can you help me find a blue block? If you see a blue block, shout it out! (*Hold up the blue block.*) Is this it? (*Pause.*) Wow, thanks for helping! I'll put the blue block on top of the red one.

Place the blue block on top of the red block then feel around for the yellow block.

"Whew! Now can you help me find a yellow block? (*Hold up the yellow block.*) Did I find the yellow block? (*Pause.*) Great! I'll put the yellow block on top of the blue block.

Place the yellow block on top of the blue block.

"Did I do it? Did I make a tower? (*Take off the eye mask to look.*) Look! I did it! I made a red, blue, and yellow tower with my eyes covered. I could not have done it without your help. Thank you!

"You know, our Bible story today is about someone who needed help because he couldn't see. I'm going to take all of my blocks so you can hear the story. See you later!"

Host exits with the bag of blocks and eye mask.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Table from Intro Sketch, Bible, chair, eye mask, t-shirt with a heart on it, and three volunteers; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

WHAT YOU DO: Preset the chair near the table in the storytelling area. Give the heart t-shirt to the volunteer playing Ananias. Have all three volunteers stay out of sight of the children.

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible and an eye mask.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible about helping each other.

Hold up the Bible and lay it open on the table along with the eye mask.

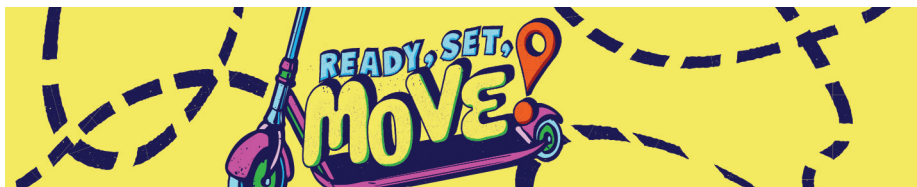
"But before I can tell you the story, I need you to help me by saying some special words. When I count to three, I want you to say, 'Ready, set, move!' (*Pause.*) One . . . two . . . three!"

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

STORYTELLER: "Thanks for helping me! Now I'm ready!"

"Okay, so today's true story from the Bible is about a man named Paul. Paul was not a friend of Jesus or any of Jesus' friends. But that all changed one day when Paul saw a really bright light and heard Jesus talk to him!"

"Jesus told Paul to go to the city of Damascus and wait for someone to tell him what to do. So, Paul did exactly what Jesus said. There was just one problem. When Paul opened his eyes, he couldn't see!"



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"I'll pretend to be Paul and put this eye mask on so I can't see. (*Put on the eye mask.*) Well, that worked. I can't see anything! And Paul couldn't see anything either. So the people who were with Paul had to help him get to the city.

"Can someone help me get to the city?"

Two volunteers quickly come and help the storyteller walk to the chair and sit down. Then they quickly exit.

"There was Paul, sitting in the city of Damascus. He couldn't see anything. All he could do was wait for someone to tell him what to do. So Paul waited. And waited. And waited . . . and waited!

"While Paul was waiting, Jesus told a friend named Ananias to go help Paul.

Volunteer "Ananias" (in heart t-shirt) enters the edge of the storytelling area, just to where the children can see them.

"But Ananias was afraid.

Ananias makes an afraid face.

"Ananias was afraid because he knew Paul was not a friend of Jesus or any of Jesus' friends. But Jesus told Ananias it was safe to help Paul because Paul had changed. Jesus was going to use Paul to help a lot of people become friends with Jesus.

Ananias makes a happy face.

"So Ananias did what Jesus said, and he went to help Paul.

Ananias walks to the Storyteller.

"When Ananias saw Paul, Ananias called Paul a friend and helped his eyes.

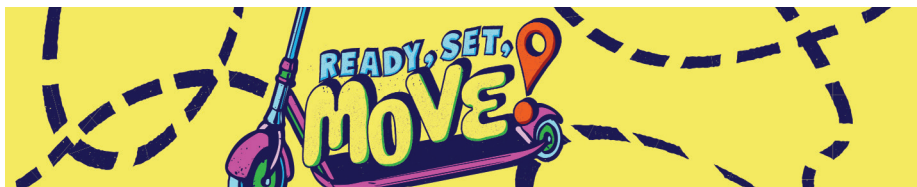
Ananias takes the eye mask off of the Storyteller.

"When Paul opened his eyes, he could see again!

Ananias and Storyteller smile really big. They give each other a high five then Ananias exits with the eye mask.

"Wow! Paul knew that Jesus wants to be his friend forever. So right away, Paul went to tell others that Jesus wants to be their friend forever, too. Jesus sent Ananias to help Paul, then Paul helped people here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE (*both arms out*) know that Jesus is God's Son and wants to be their friend forever.

"So tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?**"



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

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

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

STORYTELLER: "Yes! Jesus wants to be your 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 giving us people to help us the way You gave Ananias to Paul to help him. Please help us be willing to go here, there, and everywhere helping people know that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. In Jesus' name, amen."

"That's our story for today. I'll see you next time! Bye!"

Storyteller exits with the Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

Host enters.

HOST: "Wow! Paul couldn't see, but Jesus sent Ananias to help him. Then Paul became friends with Jesus and helped people here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE (*both arms out*) know that Jesus wants to be their friend forever, too!"

"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.*)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good! Well friends, it's time for me to go and for you to go to your small groups. See you next time. Bye!"

Host exits.