WEEK
THREE
JUNE 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE   SOCIAL   WORSHIP   **STORY**   GROUPS   HOME

**10 MINUTES**

## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Basket, soccer ball, container with a few ready-to-eat strawberries, and a bike helmet

*Host enters, carrying the prop basket, and places it in the center of the storytelling area.*

**HOST:** "Hello, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! It's me, [your name]! I have a question for you. Have you ever moved to a different place? (*Pause.*) I have! One time, my family and I moved to a new neighborhood. I thought I would be so lonely. I thought I wouldn't have any friends to play with. But once I got there, I wasn't lonely at all! I made new friends, and we did so many fun things together.

*Pick up the soccer ball from the basket.*

"One friend asked me to play soccer with him.

*Kick the soccer ball around a few times, put it back in the basket, and pick up the container of strawberries.*

"Then another friend invited me to play in her backyard. We even got to pick a special snack from her family's garden. Strawberries!

*Hold up a strawberry and take a bite.*

"I love strawberries!

*Put the container of strawberries back in the basket and pick up the bike helmet.*

"And then another friend came by with her bike, and we rode our bikes around the cul-de-sac all afternoon. We even had a race!

*Put the helmet on and pretend to race a bike around the storytelling area.*
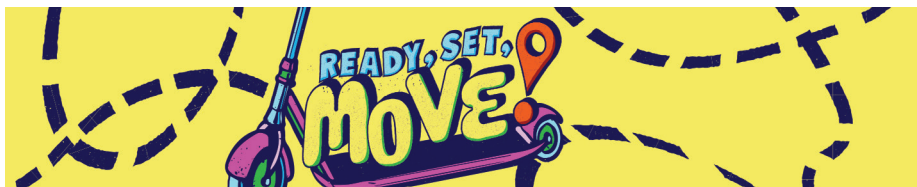
"Beep, beep! Coming through!

*Take the helmet off and put it in the basket.*

"Moving to a different place with different people can be hard, but it can also be a lot of fun! Especially when people choose to love, like my new friends did.

"Hey, that reminds me of our Bible story today. A man named Peter chooses to love a new friend! I think you're really going to like this story. See you later!"

*Host exits with the basket of items.*

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## BIBLE STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, table, large playhouse or tent, crazy hair wig, and heart stickers; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

*NOTE:* The storyteller will hand out heart stickers during the story as a symbol of telling people about Jesus. If you have a very large group, consider giving SGLs stickers to pass out to their small group.

*Preset the table in the center of the storytelling area. Set the playhouse or tent to the side. Hide the wig and heart stickers on the floor by the table.*

*Storyteller enters, carrying the Bible.*

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

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

"Do you remember what I need you to say to help me tell the story? (*Pause.*) When I count to three, I want you to say, 'Ready, set, move!' (*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 Peter.

(*Option: Display Story Image W3 01*)

"Peter was a friend of Jesus. Jesus taught Peter to love everyone the way Jesus loves everyone. So Peter started telling the good news that Jesus loves everyone and Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever!

"It doesn't matter where a person lives.

*Step inside the playhouse or tent, then smile and wave.*

(*in a different voice*) "Jesus loves me!

*Step out of the playhouse.*

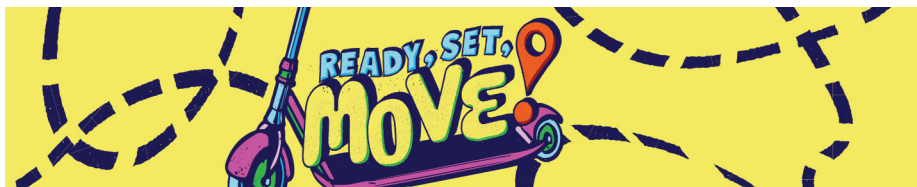"It doesn't matter what a person looks like.

*Put on the crazy wig then smile and wave.*

(*in a different voice*) "Jesus loves me!

*Take off the wig.*

"It doesn't matter what language a person speaks.

*Walk across the storytelling area, waving and smiling as you say, "Hello" in several different languages.*

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"Hola (*Spanish, pronounced 'oh la'*)! Bonjour (*French, pronounced 'bon-joor'*)! Guten tag (*German, pronounced 'gooten taug'*)! Konnichhiwa (*Japanese, pronounced 'kon-nichi-wa*)! Habari (*Swahili, pronounced 'Ha-ba-ree'*)!

"Jesus loves everyone! Does that mean Jesus loves you?

*Point to the children.*

"YES! Jesus loves you (*point to a child*) and you (*point to a child*) and you (*point to a child*) and you, you, you (*point really fast to all of the children*), and you! Jesus loves everyone, and Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever!

"So that's what Peter told everyone.

*Put a heart sticker on a child each time Peter tells someone about Jesus.*

*When Peter tells "friends" and "family" about Jesus, put heart stickers on as many children as you can. (If possible, put a heart sticker on every child or have leaders help put stickers on children.)*

(*Option: Display Story Image W3 02*)

"Peter told his friends about Jesus.

*Give out several heart stickers.*

"Peter told his family about Jesus.

*Give out several heart stickers.*

"Then Peter told someone named Cornelius about Jesus, and he wasn't Peter's friend or his family.

(*Option: Display Story Image W3 03*)

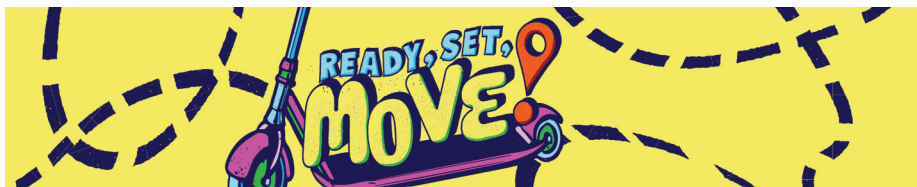*Give one heart sticker to a child.*

"Cornelius was different from Peter. But Peter chose to love Cornelius and tell him that Jesus loved him, because Jesus loves EVERYONE and Jesus wants to be EVERYONE'S friend forever.

"Cornelius was SO excited when he heard about Jesus that he got all of his friends and family to come hear about Jesus, too!

(*Option: Display Story Image W3 04*)

"Then they all became friends with Jesus!

*Give heart stickers to the rest of the children or, if you have a very large group, consider enlisting volunteers or SGLs to hand out stickers to their small group.*

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**10 MINUTES**

*When everyone has a sticker, return to the center of the storytelling area.*

"But wait! There's more wonderful news to this story. Jesus wants to be OUR friend forever, too! It's true!

"So every time you hear someone ask, '**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?**"

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

**STORYTELLER:** "One more time! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

**STORYTELLER:** "Yay!

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

## PRAYER
**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, thank You that Jesus loves EVERYONE and He wants to be EVERYONE's friend forever. Please help us love everyone the way Jesus loves everyone. In Jesus' name, amen.

"I hope you have a wonderful day knowing that Jesus loves you and He wants to be your friend forever! Bye!"

*Storyteller puts the crazy wig on and exits with the Bible.*

## OUTRO SKETCH
**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bike helmet from Intro Sketch

*Host enters carrying a bike helmet.*

**HOST:** "Wow! Jesus said to love everyone the way He loves everyone, not just your family and friends. That's why Peter told Cornelius and his family about Jesus, and they became friends with Jesus, 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:** (*two thumbs up*) "Good!

"Hey! A new person moved into our neighborhood this week. I'm going to think of some ways I can love them like Jesus. Maybe they will like riding bikes, too! Bye!"

*Put on the bike helmet and exit.*

"Beep, beep! Coming through!"