

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. EVERYWHERE I GO

WHAT YOU NEED: Facial tissues

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to stand in a single line on one side of the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place a single tissue on each child's head. Instruct the children to walk across the room, one at a time, while trying to keep the tissue on their heads. When tissues fall off, encourage children to put the tissues back on their heads and continue.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how in today's story, we'll hear about someone who is always with us.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, line up beside me. I have a fun game for us to play today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you think this tissue will stay on your head as you walk to the other side of the room? Watch me. (*Demonstrate.*) When it's your turn, I will place this tissue on your head, and you will walk to the other side of the room, Try to keep the tissue on your head, just like I did. [Child's name], let's give it a try. (*Pause.*) Remember, it's okay if the tissue falls off. Place it back on your head and keep going. (*Pause.*) Wow! (*Continue with each child.*) Great Job!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Raise your hand if your tissue fell off while you were walking. (*Look for responses.*) Yes, we lost our tissues a lot, didn't we? In our Bible story today, we will hear about someone who is always with us. We will never lose Him. Let's go find out who it is!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by talking about people or things that we like to keep with us to feel happy such as parents, friends, stuffed friends, blankets, etc.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is always with me.

**AN ANGEL HELPS PETER
ESCAPE FROM PRISON
ACTS 12:1-19**

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said,
'Come follow me.'"

MATTHEW 4:19, NCV

KEY QUESTION

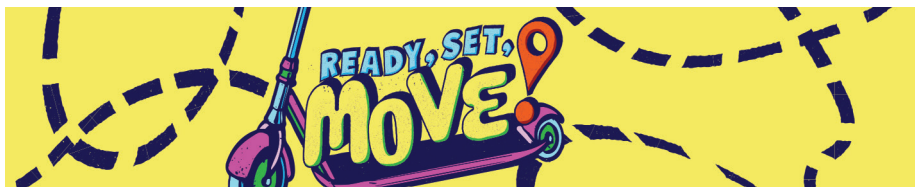
Who wants to be
your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.



WEEK
FOUR
JUNE 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

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. ROLL AND REPEAT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cube" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Cube" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Fold along the lines then tape in

place.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Guide the children to take turns rolling the cube until it lands on the next picture in the story. Identify the picture and lead the children to do what it says.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus was always with Peter and Jesus is always with us, too.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. Let's play a game!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, we heard how Jesus was always with Peter. Let's roll this cube and talk about what happened in the story. We'll roll the cube until we get the picture we need for the story, but if it lands on the heart or smiley face, we will do what it says. (Depending on the size of your small group, the first child can roll until the cube lands on the picture of Peter in jail or the children can take turns rolling the cube until it lands on the correct picture.)

"[Child's name], you roll first. We need to find the picture of Peter in jail. Yay! That's the picture of Peter in jail. It says, 'Make a sad face.' Everyone, let's make sad faces. Those are the saddest faces I've ever seen! Our Bible story began with Peter telling people everywhere that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever. King Herod did not like what Peter was saying, so he sent soldiers to take Peter to jail!

"Now, we need to roll the cube for the next part of the story. We're looking for a picture of people praying. [Child's name], you roll first. Great job! It says, 'Make praying hands.' Everybody, let's make praying hands like this. (Demonstrate.) Yes, Peter's friends could have been worried, scared, mad, sad, or frustrated because their friend Peter was in jail. What do you think Peter's friends did? They prayed!

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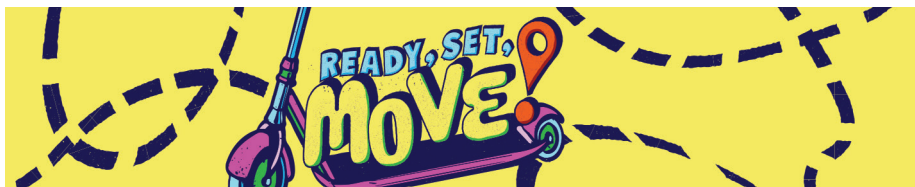
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“Next, let’s find the picture of an angel. [Child’s name], can you roll the cube and find the angel? *(Pause.)* Yes, that’s an angel. The cube says, ‘Make a happy face.’ Oh friends, show me your happiest faces! Yay! While Peter was sleeping, an angel woke him up! The angel said, ‘Follow me.’ Peter did what the angel said and followed him safely outside.

Okay, the next picture we need is of Peter with his friends. [Child’s name], can you roll the cube and find Peter with his friends? *(Pause.)* Yes, now we get to give a friend a high-five! *(Give high fives.)* After the angel left, Peter went right to his friend’s house and knocked on the door. Peter told his friends how an angel helped him and led him safely out. Jesus was with Peter the whole time!

“Yay! Great job! *(Continue with each child.)* That was so much fun!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Jesus was always with Peter, and Jesus is always with you, too, because Jesus wants to be your friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”



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MADE TO MOVE

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



1. FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to spread out in the activity area. Lead children to repeat the verse with the

motions for review.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call on a child to pick a movement (*any movement they choose*) and lead everyone to follow. Choose a second child to lead a different movement for everyone to follow. (*Continue with each child.*) After the third child, repeat the memory verse together. Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let's spread out so we have space to move without touching our friends. Let's say our memory verse together. 'Jesus said, (*point up*) "Come (*motion towards self*) follow me,"' (*march*) Matthew 4:19. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, I'll call on each of you, and when I do, I want you to start moving. You can move any way you choose, and the rest of us will follow you! [Child's name], ready, set, move! Show us your move! (*Follow for a few seconds.*) Now, stop! Okay now, [child's name], show us a move! (*Follow for a few seconds.*) Now, stop! Okay, [child's name], show us a move. (*Follow for a few seconds.*) Now, stop! Let's say our verse together. 'Jesus said, (*point up*) "Come (*motion towards self*) follow me,"' (*march*) Matthew 4:19. (*Open hands like a book.*) You are amazing!" (*Continue with the next three children. Repeat as desired.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! Thanks for leading us, friends. We followed each friend's movements. Our memory verse teaches us that Jesus wants us to follow Him, and when we follow Jesus, we love everyone! Jesus is the best friend ever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

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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, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or handstamp

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 Matthew 4:19.

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, we’ll pretend to fly like the angel in our story. Hold your arms out and follow me! (*Hold your arms out and pretend to fly as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay! We’re here! Let’s sit down so we can 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 was with Peter in jail and helped him get out. Peter’s friends were so happy to see him again! This story helps us see that Jesus is always with us, no matter where we go! No other friend is like Jesus. Jesus is always with us and wants to be our friend—FOREVER! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**”

CHILDREN AND SGL: “**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**”

SGL: “Yes! And the Bible verse we’ve been learning will help us remember that Jesus wants us to follow Him and be His friend forever. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) ‘Jesus said, “Come follow me,”’ Matthew 4:19. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)”

“I love knowing that Jesus wants us to follow Him. Let’s stand up and say that with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do.”

CHILDREN AND SGL: “‘Jesus said, (*point up*) “Come (*motion towards self*) follow me,’” (*march*) Matthew 4:19.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

SGL: “That was fantastic! Now I need everyone to sit down. Anyone who wants to try to say that verse can give it a try. I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready! (*Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.*) Everyone, clap for, [child’s name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! (*Repeat with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.*)”

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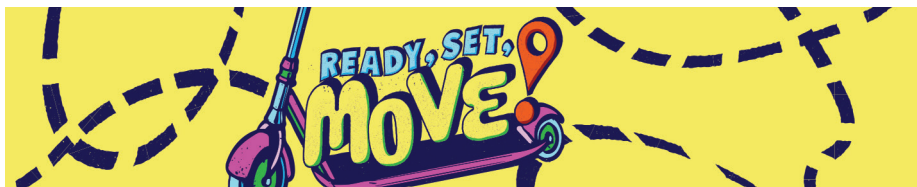
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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Okay everyone, when I count to three, I want you to stand up and show me your [sticker/handstamp]. One, two, three! *(Pause.)* Yay! *(Clap.)*”

“Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)* Since Jesus is always with us, we’ll make a list of places we go. Then when we pray, we can thank Jesus for being with us in all of those places! Listen for your name. When I say your name, tell me one place you go. *(Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)* Thank you for helping make this list! Let’s pray. 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 forever. Thank You that Jesus is always with us. Help us remember that Jesus is with us at *(read the list the children made)*. You’re the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”