



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JULY 2023

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

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

“Speaking of moves, you sure have some good ones! Thanks for singing and dancing and worshipping with me today! See you later, friends.”

## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Jesus Sticker” and “Jesus” Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® #22807 labels or equivalent, resealable plastic bag, table, large gift box with a removable lid, gift wrapping paper, tape, big bow, gift tag, scissors, and marker

*The wrapped present is preset on the table. Next to the table is Storyteller’s basket.*

Host enters quickly, then stops in surprise when they see the present.

**HOST:** “Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment’s name or story time]! I’m [your name], and I have no idea where this box came from!

*Look around the present and find the gift tag.*

“Wait! Here’s a gift tag. It says, ‘To everyone.’ So it must be a gift for all of us! Oh, wow! I wonder what’s inside.

*Pick up the box, shake it gently, and put it back down.*

“It could be anything! Do you think there’s a bouncy trampoline inside?

*Jump up and down while making a “trampoline” sound.*

“Boing! Boing! Boing! (Stop and return to the present.) Do you think there’s a giant elephant inside?

*Make an elephant trunk with your arm and swing it side to side while taking big steps around the storytelling area.*

“Boom! Boom! Boom!

*Stop and return to the present.*

“Do you think there’s a super-fast race car inside?

*Pretend to drive a car really fast around the area.*

“Vroom! Vroom! Vroom!

*Stop and return to the present.*

“I’m so excited to see what’s inside this box! But we have to wait, because [Storyteller’s name] has a wonderful Bible story for us today about the best gift EVER! See you later!”

*Host exits, leaving the present on the table.*



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## BIBLE STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, table, basket, birthday party hat, construction worker hat, toy paper money, folded paper map, and the wrapped gift from the intro sketch; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

*The wrapped present is preset on the table. Next to the table is Storyteller's prop basket.*

*Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! My name is [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 by the present.*

"And this present will help me because today's story is about a very special gift which is another word for 'present.'

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)*

"The gift I'm going to tell you about is so **BIG**, so **GREAT**, so **WONDERFUL**, we need to play our pretend party horns. Everyone, hold your hands up like this (*demonstrate*) and play your pretend party horns with me.

*Play a pretend party horn with your hands*

"That was fun! You can put your party horns down now.

*Point to or hold up the gift tag on the present.*

"Do you remember who this gift tag says this present is for? (*Pause.*) Yes! This gift is for everyone. Does that mean this gift is for you? (*Pause.*) Yes! Does that mean this gift is for me? (*Pause.*) Yes! Does that mean this gift is for **EVERYONE** in the whole world? (*Pause.*) Yes!

"Then I think we should open it and see what's inside! Count to three with me."

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "One. Two. Three!

*Lift the lid on "three" and pull out the picture of Jesus for the children to see.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Look! It's a picture of Jesus!

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)*

"Jesus is the gift for everyone! Jesus is a gift for everyone because Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever.

"And Jesus is the best friend, because Jesus loves us, no matter what. That's a really special gift!

"Let me ask you a question.



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*Put on the birthday party hat.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)*

"Do you think it has to be your birthday to get this gift? (Pause.) No!

*Take off the party hat and put it back in the basket.*

"Jesus is a gift for you every day because Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

*Put on the construction worker hat and hold up the toy paper money.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)*

"Do you have to do work to pay for this gift? No!

*Put the hat and money back in the basket.*

"Jesus is a gift for you, no matter what, because Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

*Open up the paper map and hold it for the children to see.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W1 05)*

"Do you have to go somewhere special to get this gift? No!

*Fold the map and put it back in the basket.*

"Jesus is a gift for you, wherever you are, because Jesus wants to be your friend forever!

"So is there anything that can change how much Jesus loves you? (Pause.) No! Jesus will always love you, no matter what, because Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Jesus is God's GIFT to all of us!

"That means everyone can follow Jesus here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE! (*both arms out*) Now, when someone asks you, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**', you can 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: "Again! Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

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

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



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## PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. Jesus is the best gift ever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"Bye, everyone! See you next time."

*Storyteller exits with the Bible and basket, leaving the present on the table.*

## OUTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Wrapped box from Intro

*Host enters.*

**HOST:** "Wow! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus to be our friend forever! Jesus is a gift for everyone!"

"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:** "Got it!"

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

*Open the gift box and find the bag of Jesus stickers.*

"Hey, look! It's Jesus stickers! And there are enough for EVERYONE! I'll give the stickers to your Small Group Leaders so they can make sure everyone gets one. We can wear our Jesus stickers and remember that Jesus is the best gift for everyone! See you next time. Bye!"

*Host exits.*

**NOTE:** Make sure the Small Group Leaders have the stickers to give to the children immediately after Large Group is over.