



WEEK
THREE
JULY 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

“What an awesome song! Jesus, You are there for me, showing me the way. We can follow Jesus always! One more time, **who wants to be your friend forever?**”

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

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Toy boat with remote control and piece of colorful tape

Host enters, holding toy boat and remote control with a look of frustration. They stop when they notice the children.

HOST: “Oh, hi friends. Welcome to [your environment’s name or story time]. I’m [your name], and this is the new boat I bought the other day.

Hold up the boat.

“It’s really cool. It even has a remote control that goes with it.

Hold up the remote control.

“I use the remote control to make the boat go here, there, and everywhere! Or at least I did until everything started going wrong. First, I put my boat in the water. I got my remote control. Ready, set, move! But I made it go too fast, and it hit a wall and broke. I put some tape on it, right here. See?”

Hold up the boat and point to the tape.

“The tape fixed the broken part so I was ready to try again. I put the boat in the water. I got my remote control. Ready, set, move! But I crashed. AGAIN! This time when my boat crashed, it flipped over and started to sink in the water. I had to rescue my boat!

“When I pulled my boat out of the water it looked okay, so I was finally ready to sail my boat again. I put my boat in the water. I got my control. Ready, set, move! But when I clicked my remote, nothing happened.

Move the controls on the remote control around a few times.

“Now I can’t get my boat to go at all. I think it needs new batteries.

“Have you ever had a day when hard things keep happening? Today’s Bible story is about a man named Paul, and he had a lot of hard things happen! It sounds like the perfect Bible story for me. See you later. Bye!”

Host exits with the boat and remote control.

BIBLE STORY

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

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

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.



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

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

"Paul loved Jesus.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)

"Paul knew Jesus wanted him to love people and go here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE (*both arms out*), telling the good news that Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever. Stand up and try doing that with your hands with me. Just do what I do!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: Here (*one arm out*), there (*another arm out*), and EVERYWHERE." (*both arms out*)

STORYTELLER: "Good job! You can sit back down.

"Paul told everyone that Jesus wants to be their friend forever, but some hard things happened.

"One day, Paul was on a boat.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)

"While the boat was sailing, there was a really big storm. OH, NO! Can you help me make the rain sound? Pat your legs, like this.

Pat your legs softly to make "rain."

"First, the storm started small. Then it got bigger! Pat your legs harder and faster, like this!

Pat your legs harder and faster.

"OH, NO! There was so much wind! Put your arms up, like this.

Hold your arms above your head.

"The wind blew the boat this way! Move your arms this way.

Move your arms one way.

"The wind blew the boat that way! Move your arms that way.

Move your arms the other way.

"You can put your arms down now.



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"All of the people on the boat were afraid. Can you show me your afraid face?"

Make an afraid face with the children.

"But Paul was not afraid, because he knew that God would take care of them.

"So what did Paul do even though hard things were happening? (Pause.) Paul chose to love like Jesus and encourage everyone on the boat to not be afraid. Let's encourage the people like Paul and say, 'Don't be afraid!' Say that with me."

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Don't be afraid!"

STORYTELLER: "Good job!"

"Paul encouraged everyone, but the storm did not go away, and the people were still so afraid. Suddenly, the boat hit some land and got stuck!

(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)

"OH, NO! Everyone, say, 'OH, NO!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Oh, no!"

STORYTELLER: "The boat was stuck, but all of the people on the boat were safe, just like Paul said they would be. When they looked around, they weren't in a place they expected, and their boat was broken. What was Paul going to do? (Pause.) Paul chose to love like Jesus, even though more hard things were happening.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)

"Paul helped the people who were sick. Paul prayed for the people. And Paul told them that Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever, here (*one arm out*), there (*other arm out*), and EVERYWHERE. (*both arms out*)

"Wow! Even though Paul had so many 'OH, NO' hard moments, he still chose to love like Jesus and tell people that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. And that's what we can do, too, because Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

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: "He sure does!"

"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. Help us love people the way Jesus loves us, even when hard things happen. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"That's our story for today. Have fun in your small groups! See you next time! Bye!"

Storyteller exits with the Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Toy boat from Intro Sketch

Host enters with the boat.

HOST: "Wow! Paul went through so many hard things! But through it all, he still loved everyone and told them about Jesus. And even when it's hard, we can love like 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: (*Hold two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

Hold up the boat and briefly look at it.

"I'm going to keep encouraging myself and not give up, even though this is really hard. See you next time. Bye!"

Host exits with the boat.