



WEEK
FOUR
JULY 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Elastic bandage wrap

Host enters, wearing the bandage on their wrist.

HOST: “Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment’s name or story time]! I’m [your name], and I’m really happy to see you today. Would you like to hear about something I made with my friends? (*Listen for response.*) Great! My friends and I made this super-cool obstacle course. It has all sorts of fun stuff. We call one part of the course the ‘Crawlers Crawl.’

Take a deep breath as if you’re preparing yourself.

“Ready. Set. Move!

Drop down and crawl on your forearms and knees, then pop back up.

“After that, you come to the Purple Plank! It’s a board that we painted purple.

Take a deep breath as if you’re preparing yourself.

“Ready. Set. Move!

Walk across the storytelling area with your arms out, as if walking on a balance beam.

“You have to balance yourself when you walk across the ‘Purple Plank’ so you don’t fall off!

Jump to the side like you’re jumping off the Purple Plank.

“Then you come to the biggest obstacle on the course. We call it the ‘Droopy Drop’! It’s where you fall into this really big comfy beanbag. Only I didn’t quite hit the beanbag when I did it, and now I can’t do that part anymore.

Hold up your wrist with the bandage wrapped around it.

“Yep. I hurt my wrist, and I can’t do the obstacle course with my friends. I’m a little sad. I don’t know what I can do with my friends now. Maybe today’s Bible story will give me some ideas. See you later!”

Host exits. Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, small table, lunchbox, several toy people, and a child’s winter coat; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

The table is preset 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 the very first church.

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

"Have you ever wondered what the very first church looked like? (Pause.) The first church had people like you, because the church is a group of people who love Jesus and meet together.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 01)

"One thing the very first church did when they met together was think of ways they could love like Jesus.

Hold up a lunchbox.

"Shout it out if you know what this is. (Listen.) Yes! This is a lunchbox. One of the ways the church loves like Jesus is by sharing what we have.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)

"We can share our lunch with a friend who doesn't have any food. Sharing is loving like Jesus.

Begin lining up toy people on the table.

"Shout it out if you know what these are. (Listen.) Yes! These are toy people. Another way the church loves like Jesus is by inviting people to learn about Jesus with us. Being a friend is loving like Jesus.

Hold up a child's winter coat.

"Shout it out if you know what this is. (Listen.) Yes! This is a coat. Coats keep us warm when it's cold outside.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 03)

"Another way the church loves like Jesus is by giving clothes to people who need them. Helping others is loving like Jesus.

Close eyes and put hands together like you're praying.

"Shout it out if you know what I'm doing. (Listen.) Yes! Praying!

(Option: Display Story Image W4 04)

"Another way the church loves like Jesus is praying together. Praying for each other is loving like Jesus.

"Another way the church loves like Jesus is by being kind to others and making them smile.



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(Option: Display Story Image W4 05)

"Being kind is loving like Jesus.

"All of these things are what the very first church was like. They loved like Jesus! And guess what? We can be the church, too, and think of ways to love like Jesus.

"Every time we share our toys, we, say it with me."

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Love like Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Every time we are kind and make someone smile, we, say it with me."

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Love like Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Every time we pray for others, we, say it with me."

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Love like Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Every time we help someone, we, say it with me."

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Love like Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "All of these are ways we can be the church and love like Jesus! And when we love like Jesus, people will know that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

STORYTELLER: "Look at a friend and tell them. **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."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love and be the church. Help us follow Jesus and love like Him. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.

"I love that story. I can't wait to tell you another one next time! Bye!"

Storyteller exits with the Bible.



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OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Elastic bandage from Intro Sketch

Host enters, still wearing the bandage.

HOST: "Wow! The church isn't a building. The church is people following Jesus and loving like Him by praying for each other, encouraging each other, and helping each other.

"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!"

"I can't do the obstacle course with my friends, but I can still encourage them. I'm going to make posters and cheer for my friends while they do the obstacle course. Then I will be loving like Jesus! See you next time! Bye!"

Host exits, smiling.