



PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

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. EVERYONE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to stand in front of you in an open area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Call out an item the children are wearing and ask the children wearing that item to jump. "If you're wearing a red shirt, JUMP!" Make two specific requests, then have everyone jump. Repeat several times.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how today's Bible story is about a gift for everyone.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hey, friends! You look so nice today! I see so many colors and lots of cool shoes!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's play a game together. Listen closely. If you're wearing a red shirt or there is red on your shirt, jump high! (Pause.) Awesome! If you're wearing tennis shoes, jump high! (Pause.) Nice job! Now, let's all jump together, everyone, jump! (Pause.) Great work! Let's do some more. If you're wearing sandals, jump high! (Pause.) If you have on blue pants, jump high. (Pause.) Now, everyone jump! (Repeat as desired.) Great job, friends. I love it when we do things together."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we'll hear a Bible story about a gift that isn't just for one or two people. This gift is for EVERYONE!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by asking children to line up by the color they're wearing, then once all children have lined up, everyone moves to the designated area together.

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a gift for everyone.

**SALVATION IS GOD'S GIFT**  
**EPHESIANS 2:8-9**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us."

**EPHESIANS 5:2, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

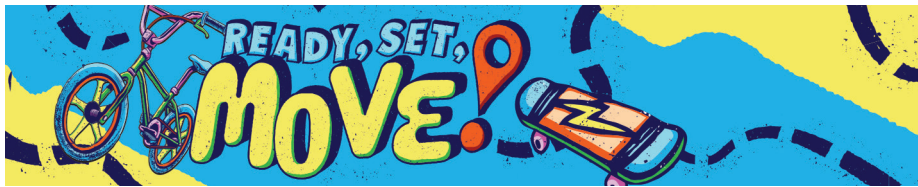
Who wants to be your friend forever?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JULY 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

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



## 1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to listen and watch you as you say the memory verse and do the motions.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how Jesus wants us to love others just like He loves us.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends! We have a brand-new memory verse and new motions to learn today. Everyone, listen and watch me as I say our new memory verse. 'Walk (walk in place) in the way of love (cross arms over chest), just as Christ (point up) loved us (point to self),' Ephesians 5:2." (Open hands like a book.)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? 'Walk (walk in place) in the way of love (cross arms over chest), just as Christ (point up) loved us (point to self),' Ephesians 5:2. (Open hands like a book.) Let's do it again. (Repeat several times.) Nice job, friends."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus wants us to love others, just like He loved us, because He wants to be your friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** One more time. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

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## MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



## 3. FRIEND FOREVER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Butcher paper, scissors, permanent marker, and sticky notes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Cut butcher paper to fit the table. Write each child's name on the butcher paper. Cover each name with a sticky note.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children around the table. Let the children take turns pulling off a sticky note to reveal the name below. Read the name aloud then say, "Jesus wants to be [child's name]'s friend forever." Repeat, allowing each child to remove a sticky note until you've said each child's name. Turn the butcher paper around so children can't see it. Cover the names with the sticky notes again then repeat.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how Jesus loves everyone and wants to be everyone's friend forever.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, gather around the table with me."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "When I call on you, I want you to remove one of the sticky notes on the paper so we can all see what's underneath. [Child's name], will you please remove one sticky note? (Pause.) Great job! Guess what? Jesus wants to be [revealed child's name]'s friend forever. Yay! (Repeat so each child has a turn taking off a note.) That was fun!" (Repeat as desired.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus loves each of us and wants to be my friend and YOUR friend forever! Jesus is the best friend because Jesus loves us, no matter what. That's a really special gift. Jesus is a gift for you, EVERY DAY, because Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Jesus is a gift for you, no matter what. Jesus is a gift for you wherever you are because Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Jesus will always love you 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 REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, Bible, cardstock, scissors, paper clip, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Memory Verse Card"

on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Paperclip the card in the Bible at Ephesians 5:2 and keep in your Bible all month.

**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 write in the journal. Pray with the children.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll move like a bunny and hop to our Small Group spot. Ready? Set? Move like a bunny! (*Hop like a bunny as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! 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, we learned that Jesus is a gift for everyone! And Jesus is the best gift because Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

**SGL:** "That's right! And the Bible verse we'll begin learning today will help us remember that when we follow Jesus, we can love others the same way Jesus loves us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us,' Ephesians 5:2. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)"

"Christ is another name for Jesus. And when we walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us, people here, there, and everywhere will know that Jesus wants to be their friend forever, too! Let's stand up and say that verse with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'Walk (*walk in place*) in the way of love (*cross arms over chest*), just as Christ (*point up*) loved us (*point to self*),' Ephesians 5:2." (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with the motions a few times.*)

**SGL:** "That was great for your first time! Way to go! Now, let's sit down so we

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## (6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) Today, we'll make a list of ways Jesus loves us—things like Jesus is a good friend or Jesus is always with me or Jesus listens when I talk to Him. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

"Wow! Look at this list! (*Hold up journal.*) Jesus really loves us! Let's pray and thank God for giving us Jesus. 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 Your Son, Jesus. Jesus is the best friend we could ever have. We know Jesus loves us because Jesus . . . (*read the list the children made*). Please help us go here, there, and everywhere, loving people the way Jesus loves us. In Jesus' name, amen."