



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. PEOPLE GATHERING

WHAT YOU NEED: Wide painter's tape and pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape a large heart outline on the top of a classroom table. Scatter the pom-poms on the floor of your activity area. Use the tape to wrap a "cuff"

around each child's wrist, sticky side out.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to use their tape cuffs to pick up pom-pom "people" and then walk to the table and pluck them off. Then they place them in the tape heart to bring all the "people" together. Continue until all pom-poms have been collected and placed within the heart. Repeat as desired. Help the children remove the tape cuffs and discard them.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we'll hear a story about how we can love everyone like Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, look at all the pom-poms on the floor. Let's pretend these pom-poms are people and we need to bring them together to show them some love."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'll give each of you a special bracelet to use to pick up the pom-pom people. (Put a tape cuff on each child.) You can press the tape to the pom-poms to pick them up. Give it a try. (Pause.) Good job! Pick up more people and walk to the table. Then place them inside the heart. (Pause.) Keep going until you've collected all of the pom-pom people. You gathered all of the pom-pom people in the heart! Great job."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today, we'll hear how we can love like Jesus. Let's go hear all about it."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out "STOP and SHOW LOVE" periodically. When you do, children will find a friend and give them a side hug.

BIBLE STORY

We can love just as Jesus loves us.

THE CHURCH
HEBREWS 10:23-25;
ACTS 2:42-47

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.



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. SAY IT WITH ME

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Ask the children to stand in a large circle with you. Say the memory verse and do the motions together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite one or two of the children to come inside the circle with you and say the memory verse. Then invite one or two more children into the circle and say the memory verse again. Continue the activity until all children are with you and you can say the verse with everyone.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we can be the church by loving others the way Jesus loves us.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand with me. Let's make a big circle. Great job! Let's do the motions as we say our 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.) Super job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Stay in the circle until I call your name. (Walk to the center of the circle.). I want to invite some friends to come inside the circle to help me say our memory verse. (Invite one or two children.) I am so glad that you're here with me! Let's say our memory verse together! 'Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us,' Ephesians 5:2. Let's invite more friends. (Invite one or two more children and repeat until everyone is inside the circle.) Now that all of us are together inside our circle, let's say and do the motions to our verse again. '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.) Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we heard a Bible story about how we can be a church and love like Jesus. When we walk in love like Jesus, we are loving others the way Jesus loves us. Jesus loves you, and 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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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



2. BUILT BY LOVE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "The Church" Activity Page, cardstock, safety scissors, glue sticks, and crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "The Church" on cardstock, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a copy of "The Church." Guide the children as they cut out the picture squares and glue them inside the outline of the building while you review the Bible story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how the church is made of all the people here, there, and everywhere, who love Jesus and follow Him.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. We're going to build the church!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "You may be wondering how we'll build the church. We'll build it like we learned in our Bible story today—by loving like Jesus!"

"Look at the paper I just gave you. Point to the pictures along the bottom of the paper. These are pictures of ways we can love like Jesus. You will cut your pictures out and glue them inside the heart on your paper while we talk about them.

"Today, we learned that everyone who loves Jesus and follows Him is the church. The food picture is for sharing like Jesus. The coat picture is for helping like Jesus. The praying hands picture is for praying like Jesus. The people smiling picture is for meeting together and encouraging one another like Jesus. The Bible picture is for learning about Jesus together. And when we do all these things, we are the church and we are loving like Jesus! That's what the heart is for. LOVE!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "People here, there, and everywhere make the church by loving like Jesus. And Jesus wants to be your friend forever and help you love like Him, too! **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" from Week One paperclipped in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

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 Ephesians 5:2. You will keep this card 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 pray with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll move like a penguin and waddle all the way to our Small Group spot. Ready? Set? Move like a penguin! (Walk like a penguin as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) You make super-cute penguins! Now, 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 didn't learn how to walk like a penguin. We learned how to walk like Jesus and love like Him! And everyone who follows Jesus and loves like Him makes the church! The best part is that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and help us love like Him. **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

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

SGL: "He sure does! And the Bible verse we've been learning will help us remember that Jesus wants us to walk like Him, and that means He wants us to love like Him. The verse 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. This verse is telling us to love people here, there, and everywhere, the same way Jesus loves us. That's A LOT of love because Jesus loves you A LOT! Let's stand up and say that 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.)

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WEEK
FOUR
JULY 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "What an awesome verse to know! I'm so happy we're learning it."

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)* Today, we'll make a list of ways we can love people the way Jesus loves us. Think about all the ways we can love people. When I say your name, tell me one of them. *(Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)* Look at all the ways we can love like Jesus! *(Hold up journal.)* Let's pray and ask God to help us do these things and love like 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 sending Jesus to love us and show us how to love others. Please help *(say each child's name)* and me *(read the list the children made)* and love like Jesus everywhere we go. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."