



WEEK
FIVE
JULY 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. FOREVER AND EVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool toys like blocks, cars, toy food, etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set all items in the center of the floor of your activity area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is preparing a place for us.

HEAVEN
JOHN 14:3;
REVELATION 21:3-5

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to gather the blocks and make one long line on the floor. Once they've lined up all the blocks, select another item like cars, and have them continue the line by adding cars. Continue in the same way to make the line go on "forever." After most of the items have been lined up, congratulate them on their line and lead them to clean up.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how today's Bible story is about how Jesus wants to be with us forever.

MEMORY VERSE

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

EPHESIANS 5:2, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come gather with me! I see a big pile of toys in the center of the floor."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you think you can make a long line that goes on forever? Let's start with the blocks and start the line here. (*Indicate a spot on one side of your classroom.*) Line up all the blocks. Wow, you used all the blocks. Let's use the cars now. (*Continue with several toys.*) Looks like we can't make the line go on forever because we're out of time. You did a great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, we'll hear how Jesus wants to be with us forever. Come with me."

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling on children to form a single file line then stop and stand with a friend to make a line, two-by-two. Stop every so often to switch between a single file and two-by-two line as you travel.

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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



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MEMORY VERSE

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1. PARTY BANNER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Party Banner” Activity Page, light colored cardstock, dot markers, stamps, washable ink pads, scissors, hole punch, yarn, and permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Party Banner” on light-colored cardstock and cut, one set per child. Punch holes as indicated in each paper. Cut yarn in 36-inch lengths, one per child. Thread the yarn through the holes for each set and knot the yarn at the end pieces. Write each child’s name on their banner.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to decorate the banner pieces with markers and stamps.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to do the motions as you say the memory verse together. Talk about how Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s make a party banner to celebrate that Jesus loves us so much that He is preparing a special place for us.”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Use the markers and stamps to decorate the pieces of your banner. (Pause.) Your banner has the words of our memory verse on it. (Point to each piece of the banner as you read the words.) ‘Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us,’ Ephesians 5:2. Nice job. These look great!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s do the motions as we say our verse together. ‘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.) One more time. (Repeat.) We can love like Jesus because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



4. SOUND THE HORN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Happy Face" Activity Page; cardstock; a party horn; painter's tape; music player; and this month's music

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Happy Face" on cardstock, one per small group. Tape to the wall or floor in an open area of the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Play music and encourage children to dance. When the horn sounds, have children run to the happy face and say, "Jesus wants to be my friend forever." Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how in heaven, we will be happy all of the time because we will be with our friend, Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, join me here at the happy face. I'm going to play some music while you dance around the room. When I blow this party horn (*Demonstrate.*), I want you to run back to this happy face."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Start the music.*) "There's the music! Dance around the room, friends! (*Blow the horn.*) Did you hear the horn? (*Pause.*) Run to the happy face! (*Pause.*) **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Awesome! Let's dance! (*Repeat as desired.*) Great job running back to the happy face each time. Tell me again, **who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus is heaven, getting it ready for all His friends. Isn't that amazing? I'm so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and wants everyone to know that He wants to be their friend forever, too. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

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MEMORY VERSE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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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" paperclipped in Bible, journal, a fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or handstamp

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 Bible at Ephesians 5:2.

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 an elephant and stomp all the way to our Small Group spot. Ready. Set. Move like an elephant! (*Stomp like an elephant and pretend your arm is an elephant trunk as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) We made it! 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, we learned about heaven. Heaven is a wonderful place because Jesus will be there and Jesus is the best friend we will ever have. The best news is that Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever! That means Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

SGL: "And when Jesus is your friend forever, He will help you love people the way He loves you. That is what the Bible verse we've been learning is about. 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.*)"

"Just like we hopped like a bunny or jumped like a frog or stomped like an elephant, we can walk and love like Jesus! Let's stand up and say our 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.*)

SGL: "That was sooooo good! Now I need everyone to sit down. Anyone who wants to try to say that verse can give it a try. I have my [stickers/handstamp]

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PRELUDE

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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

ready! *(Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)* Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! *(Repeat with each child as they try the Bible verse.)*

"Okay everyone, when I count to three, I want you to stand up and show me your [sticker/handstamp]. One, two, three! *(Pause.)* Yay! *(Clap.)*

"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 our favorite places. It can be anywhere you've been that you really love. So think of all the places you've been to. 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.)* These are some great places! Now I'll write 'Heaven' in big letters, because anywhere with Jesus is the best place ever! Okay, let's pray. 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 making places like . . . *(read the list the children made)*. These are all really great! But we know Jesus is in heaven, right now, getting a place ready for us that will be better than we can ever imagine. There will be no more sadness or sickness. Everyone will have everything they need. And best of all, we will be with You and Your amazing love forever and ever and ever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."