



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants everyone to follow Him.

FOLLOW ME
MATTHEW 9:9-12;
LUKE 5:1-11

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, 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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Never Better," included in your monthly files; and "He Is Alive," available on [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com); *Optional Dance Moves Videos for "Never Better," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com), and "He Is Alive," available from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com)*

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Friends, I'm SO excited to see you today! My name is [your name]. We're learning about Jesus, the best friend ever! Did you know that Jesus wants to be your friend forever? It's true!

"When I ask, '**Who wants to be your friend forever**, I want you to say, '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**' **Who wants to be your friend forever?**'"

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! Let's sing about Jesus, the best friend ever. Stand up and sing with me."

Lead children in singing "Never Better," this month's worship song.

"Jesus' love is bigger, as big as it gets! I'm SO glad Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever. Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever?**'"

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "You've got it! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** The Bible teaches us that Jesus said, 'I (point up) have called you (two fingers on top of two fingers) friends;' (hook index fingers twice) John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.) Jesus says that to you and me! Let's learn our Memory Verse together. Let's say it together.

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

"Jesus is the BEST because He loves us. Jesus saved the day. Let's sing about how Jesus is alive!"

Lead children in singing "He Is Alive."

"Thanks for worshipping with me today! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*), so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"
Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Soccer ball and soccer net

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

HOST: "Hello, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! My name is [your name]. I'm glad you're here."

Hold up the soccer ball.

"I love playing soccer. Have you ever played soccer? Did you have a soccer coach? A soccer coach teaches you everything about soccer. First, to get ready, you stretch."

"Can you stretch? Stand up with me. Now reach down and touch your toes."

Lead children to touch their toes, then stand back up.

"Great job! Then we practice running. Can you run in place?"

Lead children to jog in place.

"Good running! You can sit down now. Then to play the game, a coach will tell you to follow the ball. If the ball goes this way, (*point left*) I run this way."

Roll ball to your left and chase it.

"If the ball goes that way, (*point right*) I run that way."

Lightly kick ball so it rolls to the right and chase it.

"Then, when I'm close to the net, I can kick the ball in the net."

Kick the ball into the net.

"Being on the soccer team is so much fun! I'm going to practice my dribbling! See you later, friends."

Storyteller enters as Host exits with the soccer ball.



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus" and "Jerseys" Activity Pages, 11" x 17" paper, cardstock, 7" people cutouts, spring-loaded clothespins, two chairs (preferably barstool height), twine, Glue Dots® or tape, and Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

Preset the prepared display in the storytelling area. Just before Large Group, put a Glue Dot® or loop of tape on the chest of each people cutout.

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible and jersey cutouts, as Host exits.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Today's true story from the Bible is about the first twelve people . . .

Gesture to the twelve people cutouts clipped to the display.

". . . who followed Jesus.

Point to the Jesus cutout that is in the center of display.

"They were called the disciples.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 01)

"Peter and Andrew (*point*) were fishermen. One day, while Peter and Andrew were fishing, Jesus told them, 'Follow Me!'

Note: As you name disciples and put a jersey on the people cutouts, we suggest starting with people cutouts closest to the Jesus cutout and working your way out in a balanced fashion.

"Everyone, pull out your pretend megaphones and say, 'Follow Me!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Follow Me!"

STORYTELLER: "And Peter and Andrew followed Jesus!

Attach jersey cutouts on two people cutouts.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 02)

"James and his brother John were fishermen too. They were working with their dad when Jesus said, 'Follow Me!' Pull out your pretend megaphones again and say, 'Follow Me!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Follow Me!"



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

STORYTELLER: "And James and John followed Jesus too!
Attach jersey cutouts on two people cutouts.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 03)

"In the next town, Jesus found a man named Phillip! Phillip followed Jesus . . .

Attach a jersey cutout to one people cutout.

". . . and brought his friend Nathanael to follow Jesus too!

Attach a jersey cutout to one people cutout.

(Option: Display Story Image W2 04)

"Next, we have Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector and had made a lot of bad choices. But Jesus still loved Matthew and wanted to be his friend. Jesus told Matthew, 'Come, follow Me.' Pull out your pretend megaphones again and say, 'Follow Me!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Follow Me!"

Attach a jersey cutout to one people cutout.

STORYTELLER: "And Matthew did! Matthew followed Jesus!"

(Option: Display Story Image W2 05)

"There was also Thomas and James . . . Thaddeus and Simon and Judas!

Attach a jersey cutout to the last five people cutouts.

"Do we have all twelve disciples? Let's count them! Ready?"

Tap each disciple as you lead the children to count out loud.

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve!"

STORYTELLER: "We did it! These were Jesus' twelve disciples! That was His first team. Go team!
But that's not all of this story, because Jesus isn't done yet!"

"Jesus wants YOU to be on His team too . . . and your friends . . . and your family . . . because Jesus loves everyone, and Jesus wants everyone to be His friend forever! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

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

STORYTELLER: "You've got it! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** [Transition] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for the disciples who chose to follow Jesus! Thank You for sending Jesus and that we can follow Him too! He is the BEST friend ever. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible, leaving the display in the storytelling area.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Disciples and Jesus cutouts on display (from Story)

Host enters carrying the soccer ball as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus wants everyone to follow Him and be His friend forever."

"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!"

Point to the disciple figures on the display.

"The disciples were the first twelve people to follow Jesus and be on His team. And I love that we can all be friends forever with Jesus! Go team! **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.