



WEEK  
**TWO**  
MARCH 2024

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



### 4. MOVE THE BALL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic bins, and ball pit balls;  
Optional: Classroom chairs

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place twelve balls in two of the bins and place them approximately three feet apart in

your activity area. Divide children into two equal groups and have them sit in a straight, single-file line behind each bin of balls. Place the two empty bins at the end of each line.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children in both lines to pass all twelve balls from the front of the line to the back, one at a time while counting. Encourage the first child in line to pick up a ball and pass it over their shoulder to the friend behind them. Help children count. Repeat counting and passing all twelve balls. Celebrate the teamwork.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, let's play a fun pass-the-ball game! Come sit in a straight line behind these bins." (*Help divide the children into two teams and get them spaced correctly.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "The friend at the front will pick up one ball, say 'one,' and pass it over your shoulder to the friend behind you, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Then that friend will pass it over their shoulder to the next friend and so on. When the ball reaches the last person in line, put the ball into the empty bin right here. (*Point to the empty bins.*) Ready, friends? Let's go! Pick up one ball. Everyone, say, 'One!' One! Pass the ball! (*Pause.*) Pick another ball and pass it. This is number two. Shout, 'two!' Two! Great job! Keep passing! (*Continue with each of the twelve balls. If time allows, encourage children to rotate and the last person becomes the first person. Repeat as desired.*) That was a fun game! Everyone, shout, 'Go team!' with me. Go team!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job, friends! You worked as a team and passed all twelve balls. I'm so glad to know that Jesus loves us and wants us to follow Him, just like His first twelve friends. Jesus is such a good friend. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

## 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.



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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



**5. JESUS AND FRIENDS**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus and Friends" Activity Page, cardstock, crayons, blunt-tip preschool scissors, glue sticks, and a permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jesus and Friends" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color their paper. Ask children to cut on the dotted lines and glue the pictures in the marked spots around Jesus.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit at the table with me! Let's make a picture of today's Bible Story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at your paper and tell me what you see in the middle of your paper. (Pause.) That's right! It's a heart with Jesus inside! (Pause.) Color Jesus and the heart. (Pause.) Great! Now look at all the pictures on the side of your paper. Color those too. (Pause.) Take your scissors and cut on the dotted lines. (Help as needed.) Great job, everyone! Now glue the pictures around Jesus. (Pause.) Fantastic! These pictures are of Jesus' friends, the disciples. Let's count them together. One, two, three . . . twelve! You have one more thing to add to your picture, and that's you! Draw a picture of you on your paper. (Pause.) Amazing!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible Story, we learned about these twelve people—they were the first people who followed Jesus. This is Peter and Andrew. (Point.) They were fishermen. One day, while they were fishing, Jesus told them, 'Follow Me!' And they did! James and his brother John were fishermen too. (Point.) They were working with their dad when Jesus said, 'Follow Me!' And they did! In the next town, Jesus found a man named Philip! (Point.) Philip followed Jesus and brought his friend Nathanael (point) to follow Jesus too! Next, we have Matthew. (Point.) He was a tax collector and made a lot of bad choices. But Jesus still loved Matthew and wanted to be his friend. Jesus said, 'Come, follow Me.' And Matthew did! There was also Thomas and James . . . (point) . . . Thaddeus and Simon and Judas! (Point.) These were Jesus' twelve disciples! That was His first team. Go team! But 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! Yes! EVERYONE!! Yes, Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus wants everyone to follow Him.

**FOLLOW ME**  
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**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  
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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 from Week One in Bible, a 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. Place one card in your Bible at John 15:15. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead the children to do what you do as you move to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions, then encourage children to help you make a list of people in the journal.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

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**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to play a game of 'Follow the Leader' while we walk to our Small Group spot. Just do what I do and follow me! (*Do fun actions, like skip, pat your head, or flap your arms like a bird as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) You did a great job following me! Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

"In our Bible Story today, Jesus told twelve people to follow Him. Those twelve people became Jesus' friends, the disciples. Jesus wanted His disciples to help Him tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus wants EVERYONE to follow Him! It doesn't matter where you live, what you look like, what your job is, what language you speak, what you've done . . . Jesus wants EVERYONE to be His friend forever! And that means Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Yay! Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**

"We're learning a new Bible verse that will help us remember that Jesus wants everyone to be His friend. It says, '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.*) Stand up with me and let's say Jesus' words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. '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.*) We sound really good together! Go team! (*Give two thumbs up.*) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*)



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## (6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Today, we're going to make a list of people. It can be any person you can think of, because Jesus wants everyone to follow Him and be His friend! When I say your name, tell me the name of one person and I will write it in our journal." (Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at all the names! Let's use our list when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be friends with everyone. We pray that (read the list the children made) will follow Jesus. And I pray that (name each child) will follow Jesus too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."