



Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Bible Story Focus: I spy someone Jesus loves, no matter what.

Peter's Denial • Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19; Ephesians 2:8-9

Key Question: Who can believe in Jesus?

OPENING ACTIVITY

Pass It On

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Ball pit balls, two laundry baskets

What You Do:

Before the Activity: In the activity area, place all of the balls in one of the laundry baskets and set on one end of the row. Set the second, empty laundry basket at the opposite end.

During the Activity: Have the children go to the basket with balls. Encourage the child to pick up one ball and walk to the empty basket and put their ball in the basket. Continue till each child has a chance to put a ball in the other basket.

After the Activity: Gather all of the balls and baskets and set aside.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hi, everyone! There are so many sweet friends here today. Friends are so important, aren't they? Friends can help each other. I want us to work together to move ALL of these balls from this basket to the empty one on the other end. Let's line up with our friends."

During the Activity: "Let's work together to pass the balls, one at time, to the empty bin! Let's continue until we've moved every single ball."

After the Activity: "Great job, friends! I love how you worked together. Friends are so fun! We'll hear, today, about one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter. I can't wait!"

BIBLE STORY

Week 1 Video

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WK 1

CRAFT

Magnify

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Magnify” Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, sentence strips (long enough to wrap around a child’s head), glue sticks, heart stickers, and clear tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Magnify” onto cardstock and cut on the dotted lines, one cutout per child.

During the Activity: Help the children glue the magnifying glasses to the middle of the sentence strips. Encourage the children to place heart stickers on the magnifying glass and sentence strip.

After the Activity: Place the sentence strip around the child’s head and secure with the tape.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to make ‘I Spy’ hats!”

During the Activity: “First, we need to glue the magnifying glass to this long strip of paper (*point and do activity*). Great job! Let’s place hearts all over our hat.”

After the Activity: “Way to go! Let’s put on our hats. (*Wrap strips around children’s heads and secure with tape.*) With our hats, we can spy someone who Jesus loves. Jesus loves everyone! **Who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus!**”

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Story Order

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts

What You Need: “Large Bible Story Images” and “Small Bible Story Images” Activity Pages; cardstock; and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Large Bible Story Images” onto cardstock, one set of images per small group. Copy “Small Bible Story Images” onto cardstock and cut apart, one page per child.

During the Activity: Gather the children to sit in a circle in your activity area. Pass out a set of “Small Bible Story Images” to each child. Sit in the circle with the children with a set of “Large Bible Story Images.” Hold up each image and identify what’s happening in each picture. Work with the children to put the pictures in story order. Encourage the children to lay their set of images on the floor in front of them in story order.

After the Activity: Gather the sets of images from children and set aside for pick up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come sit with me! Let’s sit in a circle and talk about today’s Bible story.”

During the Activity: “Everyone, lay your pictures out on the floor in front of you. Do you see the numbers at the bottom of each picture? Can you put them in order: 1, 2, 3, 4? I have a set of the same pictures. Let’s look at each picture from the story and talk about what’s happening.

(Hold up Image #1.) “I see Peter and Jesus in this picture. What are they doing? *(Pause.)* Yes, fishing! Peter and Jesus were friends and spent a lot of time together.

(Hold up Image #2.) “Peter was standing around the fire with a group of people. When someone asked Peter if he knew Jesus, what did he say? *(Pause.)* That’s right, he said, ‘No.’

(Hold up Image #3.) “Jesus is looking at Peter, and Peter looks sad. Why was Peter sad? *(Pause.)* Peter was sad because he had said that he was not Jesus’ friend.

(Hold up Image #4.) “Peter and Jesus are on the beach, and they’re smiling! After Jesus died on the cross, He came back! He talked with Peter, and Peter knew that even though he’d messed up, Jesus STILL loved him, no matter what.”

After the Activity: “Great job, friends! Peter learned that Jesus loved him, no matter what! Guess what? Jesus loves us, too. I spy lots and lots of friends who Jesus loves. He wants to be our friend forever. Peter went on to tell everyone that Jesus is God’s son and that He wants to be our friend forever. He helped so many people believe in Jesus. And we can, too! Tell me, **who can believe in Jesus?** *[Bottom Line]* **I can believe in Jesus.**”

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

I Spy Hugs

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No Supplies

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children to sit in a circle with you in the activity area. Use the suggestions below to “spy” to give yourself a hug. Choose categories that will include as many children as possible so that everyone has the opportunity to give themselves a hug.

Categories:

Colors of clothing, type of shoes, hair or eye color, type of clothing (like shorts, jeans, dress), accessories (like eye glasses, a watch, a hat)

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Friends, come sit with me. I have this special heart. I’m going to call a friend who I spy with my little eye. If it’s you, come give our heart a big hug. Everyone have their listening ears ready? *(Pause.)* Great!

“I spy a friend with a *[color]* shirt on! Come give yourself a hug.

“I spy a friend wearing tennis shoes. Come give yourself a hug.

“I spy a friend with red hair. Come give yourself a hug.

“I spy a friend wearing a hat. Come give yourself a hug.” *(Replace with statements that apply to the children in your classroom.)*

After the Activity: “Great job, friends. I spy friends Jesus loves, no matter what! Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever. You can believe in Jesus because He loves you. **Who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus.**”

PRAYER ACTIVITY

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at John 20:31.

“Our Bible story, today, was about a man named Peter. Peter was a friend of Jesus, but when Jesus was taken away, Peter told people he didn’t even know Jesus. Do you know how many times Peter said he didn’t know Jesus? *(Pause.)* Three times! One, two, three!

“But Jesus loved Peter, anyway. That’s right. Jesus loved Peter, no matter what. You can read all about it, right here in the Bible. *(Hold up the Bible.)*

“And we know if Jesus loved Peter, no matter what, we can believe Jesus loves us, no matter what, too! That’s why when I ask you, **‘Who can believe in Jesus?’**, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can believe in Jesus.’** Ready? **Who can believe in Jesus?’**”

CHILDREN and TEACHER: **[Bottom Line] “I can believe in Jesus!”**

TEACHER: “You got it! And we’re going to keep practicing the same Bible verse this month.

“The Bible verse we are learning says that the stories in the Bible, like Peter’s, are written so we can believe in Jesus. The verse says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, John 20:31.

“Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

CHILDREN and TEACHER: *“These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God. (Rock baby.) John 20:31.” (Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with the motions a few times.)*

TEACHER: “Wow! You sound awesome! *(Give each child a high five.)*

“Do you think it was right or wrong for Peter to tell people he wasn’t Jesus’ friend? *(Pause.)* You’re right. It was wrong. But we all do wrong things, sometimes. Right? I know I have. One time I *(appropriately share a time when you made a wrong choice).*

“I think we should make a list of some of our wrong choices. Maybe, you had a bad attitude, or you didn’t share, or you said mean words to your brother or sister. Maybe, you didn’t obey your mom or dad, or you broke something and told people you didn’t. Whatever it is, we can use our list to thank God that Jesus loves us, no matter what. After all, Jesus wants to be our friend FOREVER!

“So, think of one wrong thing you have done, and I will make a list on the white board.

“Thank you for making this list with me. I know it’s hard to talk about the wrong things we have done, but the fantastic, amazing, wonderful news is that Jesus loves us, no matter what! Jesus will never,
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ever, EVER stop loving us! Let's use the list we made when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

TEACHER: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us, no matter what. Sometimes, we mess up and we don't even mean to do it. Other times, we choose to do the wrong thing, and we're sorry for that. We're sorry for doing things like *(read the list you and the children made)*. We are so thankful to have a friend like Jesus who will never stop loving us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."