



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Following Fun

Follow Jesus

Find the Team

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Never Better"

Bible Story

Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Memory Verse Megaphone

Catch and Follow

Come Be Friends

Go Team Headband

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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. FOLLOWING FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Playground ball

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children on one side of
the activity area with you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Roll the ball and encourage
children to follow where it goes. Ask a different child to pick up the ball and
return it each time. Roll the ball in different directions each time.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Come stand with me over here. Let's play
a following game with this ball."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to roll the ball, and then I want you to
follow where it goes. Here we go! (*Roll the ball.*) Follow the ball. Great job!
[Child's name], pick the ball up and bring it back to me. (*Pause.*) Which way
will the ball go this time? (*Roll the ball.*) Follow the ball! Great job following,
everyone." (*Repeat as desired.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun. You all did a great job following the
ball. In our story today, we're going to hear about a team of people who followed
Jesus."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by encouraging the children to follow
what you do as you move to the designated area.

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

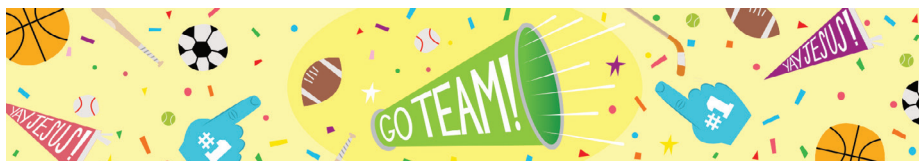
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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. FOLLOW JESUS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Follow Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, butcher paper, Little People® figures, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Follow Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Cover a table or lay the

paper on the floor. Place the picture of Jesus at one end of the paper and draw different types of lines all over, leading to Jesus.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to use the Little People® figures and move them down the lines until they reach Jesus. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce that in our Bible Story today, we'll hear how Jesus told those He met to follow Him.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Today we're going to take our Little People® friends on a walk down these lines."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Okay, friends! Does everyone see Jesus at the end of our paper? (Pause.) Great! Let's walk our Little People friends down the lines to Jesus! Pick one and start walking! You made it to Jesus! You followed the path to Jesus—great job! Take your person back to the beginning, and pick another friend to follow Jesus. (When they reach Jesus, have them return and place the Little People figures back in the pile or hand it off to a friend. Repeat until each child has had an opportunity to go.) Great job, friends! You all did so well helping all the people follow Jesus."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we're going to hear a story about following Jesus! I can't wait to hear it!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by playing 'Simon Says.'

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

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15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



3. FIND THE TEAM*

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster;" "Find the Team" Activity Page; cardstock; large, shallow plastic bin; green rice or green paper shreds; and scissors; *Optional:* raw white rice, gallon resealable bags, green food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and air-tight storage container

BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants everyone to follow Him.

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

Note: Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: *Option: Make green rice if you do not already have green rice from previous activities. Divide rice into bags, add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice out on wax paper to dry, one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour rice into container. Save for future use. Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list rice, and post at the door. Copy "Find the Team" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group. Fill the bin with rice or shreds and hide the cutouts inside.*

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to dig and find all twelve disciples. Celebrate and return all to the bin to repeat the activity.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce that we will learn more about these twelve people we found in the bin in our Bible Story today.

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come join me at the table. Look at this big bin! It looks like it's full of grass!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus had a team of friends called the disciples. I think they're all hiding in the bin. Let's try to find them all. Dig around. (Pause.) Wow! You found [name]. Let's keep going and see who else you find. (Repeat until all twelve are found.) Great job finding the team. Let's make sure we have them all. Count with me 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, . . . 12! Yay, we found all of Jesus' very first team!" (Repeat as desired.)

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so much fun finding all of the people who were on Jesus' very first team! Today we're going to hear a story about these twelve guys and when they followed Jesus."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by counting the friends as they walk.



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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



1. MEMORY VERSE MEGAPHONE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Megaphone Sticker" Activity Page, Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent, disposable paper cups with paper handles, heart stickers, craft knife, and permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Megaphone Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child. Write each child's name on their cup. Cut the bottom off each cup.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to add their Memory Verse sticker and heart stickers to their cups. Show children how to hold the cup by the handles and say the verse together several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Do the motions as you say the verse one more time and review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me over here! Let's do the motions as we say our verse together. Everybody ready? '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.*) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I have something neat for us to make today to say our verse with—it's a megaphone! Put this special sticker on your cup. It has our Memory Verse on it. (*Pause.*) Now add some of these heart stickers. (*Pause.*) Great! Everyone hold your cup like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Put it up to your mouth and let's say the words to our verse. 'I have called you friends,' John 15:15. Wow! One more time! (*Repeat.*) That was fantastic!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say our verse one more time, but with the motions this time. '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.*) Nice job.

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

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2. CATCH AND FOLLOW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Playground ball

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to line up in a straight line in your activity area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants everyone
to follow Him.

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children to play a game of toss and catch with you. Take turns calling each child's name and then tossing the ball to them. Each time a child catches the ball say, "Follow me, [child's name]." Direct the child to bring you the ball and stand behind you. Continue doing this until every child is standing behind you. Repeat the activity.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around you as you hold the ball. Ask every child to put one hand on the ball while you say the Bottom Line together.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Who wants to play a game with me? Great! Everyone, line up against the wall. I have a ball we can play catch with."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When I say your name, get ready to catch the ball. After you catch it, wait for me to say, 'Follow me.' And then you will bring the ball to me and stand behind me. Here we go!"

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be
your friend forever?

"[Child's name]! (Toss the ball.) Yay! You caught it! [Child's name], follow me! (Guide the child to bring the ball to you and stand behind you. Repeat with each child until all the children have joined you.) Everyone did it! Go team! Now line back up and let's play again!" (Repeat as desired.)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was fun! Now I want everyone to come stand around me and put one hand on the ball. In our story today, Jesus told people to follow Him because He wanted to be their friend forever. Jesus wants EVERYONE on His team! And guess what! Jesus wants YOU to follow Him and be His friend forever too! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** One more time! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.



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an activity that uses a preschooler's
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3. COME BE FRIENDS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pop-up tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set the tunnel in an open area of the room.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants everyone
to follow Him.

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have children stand on one side of the tunnel while you stand on the other side. Call each child one at a time to come to you through the tunnel.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today we heard a great story about how Jesus created His first team by calling twelve friends to come and follow Him. We can follow Jesus too."

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, I want you to stand on this side of the tunnel and I'll go to the other side. Wait and listen for your name. When you hear your name, crawl through the tunnel to me. Ready? Jesus said: '[Child's name], come be My friend!' [Child's name], crawl through the tunnel and let's high-five! (Pause.) Awesome! Jesus wants to be [child's name] friend! (Continue with each child.) Great job, friends! That was so much fun!"

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be
your friend forever?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, we can all follow Jesus. He wants us to come follow Him and be His friend. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Say it again! Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.



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25 MINUTES

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an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



4. GO TEAM HEADBAND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Go Team Headband" Activity Page; cardstock; people stamps, stickers, and/or die cuts; washable ink pads; dot markers; sentence strips; stapler; clear tape; glue sticks; scissors; baby wipes; and a permanent marker

BIBLE STORY

Jesus wants everyone to follow Him.

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

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Go Team Headband" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their sentence strip.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Measure each child's strip around their head and cut as needed. Encourage children to glue their heart to the middle of their strip, then decorate the strip with markers, stickers, stamps, and/or die cuts. Connect the ends and secure with stapler. Make sure the back of the staple faces out. Place a piece of tape over the staples. Encourage children to wear their headbands as you review the Bible Story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have called you friends."

JOHN 15:15, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit down with me at the table! Let's make a super-cool headband that will help us remember today's Bible Story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Before you get started decorating your headband, let's measure it around your head and make it just right. (*Measure and cut each child's sentence strip.*) Alright! You are ready to decorate! Take the heart and glue it to the middle of your strip. (*Pause.*) Good job! Now use the markers and all of these people stickers, stamps, and cutouts to fill your strip of paper. (*Pause.*) Wow! Great job decorating your headband with all these people! (*Connect the ends and cover the staples with tape.*) Everyone put your headbands on. Let's review today's Bible Story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we learned about the first twelve people who followed Jesus! They were called the disciples. These guys were fishermen, brothers, friends, and even a tax collector. Jesus asked all of them to follow Him and they did! These twelve people were Jesus' first team! Go team!"

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.

"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! Yes! EVERYONE!! Everyone, shout: 'Goooo team!' Goooo team!"

Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever. One more time. Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever."



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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age-appropriate and hands-on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible Story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

1. FOLLOWING FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Playground ball

2. FOLLOW JESUS

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Follow Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Butcher paper
- Little People® figures
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Follow Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Cover a table or lay the paper on the floor.
- Place the picture of Jesus at one end of the paper and draw different types of lines all over leading to Jesus.

3. FIND THE TEAM*

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- "Find the Team" Activity Page
- Cardstock

- Large, shallow plastic bin
- Green rice or green paper shreds
- Scissors
- *Optional: raw white rice, gallon resealable bags, green food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and air-tight storage container*

WHAT YOU DO:

- *Option: Make green rice if you do not already have green rice from previous activities. Divide rice into bags, add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice out on wax paper to dry, one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour rice into container. Save for future use.*
- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list rice, and post at the door.
- Copy "Find the Team" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Fill the bin with rice or shreds and hide the cutouts inside.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. MEMORY VERSE MEGAPHONE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

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:

- "Megaphone Sticker" Activity Page



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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

- Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- Disposable paper cups with paper handles
- Heart stickers
- Craft knife
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Megaphone Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child.
- Write each child's name on their cup.
- Cut the bottom off each cup.

2. CATCH AND FOLLOW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Playground ball

3. COME BE FRIENDS

[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:

- Pop up tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the tunnel in an open area of the room.

4. GO TEAM HEADBAND

[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:

- "Go Team Headband" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- People stamps, stickers, and/or die cuts
- Washable ink pads
- Dot markers
- Sentence strips
- Stapler
- Clear tape
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Baby wipes

- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Go Team Headband" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their sentence strip.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_GoTeam