



WEEK  
**TWO**  
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
RUG

## 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.*

Score a Goal!

Counting the Twelve

The Twelve Disciples

### 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.*

Friends

Story Soccer

Soccer Drills

Move the Ball

Jesus and Friends

Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

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## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND  
INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, 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; *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "Never Better," available in the  
Media Package if you subscribe or from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com)*

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

**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.

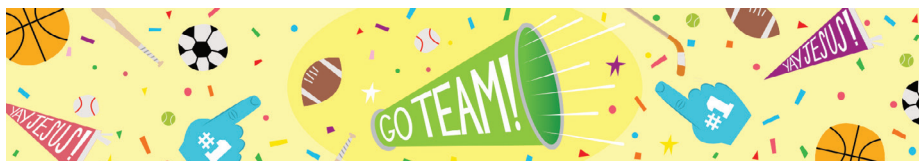
"Jesus' love is bigger, as big as it gets! I'm SO glad Jesus loves us and wants to  
be our friend forever. Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

**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.

"Great job! 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!"



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## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

**LEADER:** "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 who followed Jesus. They were called the disciples.

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 01)*

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

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

**CHILDREN AND LEADER:** "Follow Me!"

**LEADER:** "And Peter and Andrew followed Jesus!

*(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 LEADER:** "Follow Me!"

**LEADER:** "And James and John followed Jesus too!

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 03)*

"In the next town, Jesus found a man named Phillip! Phillip followed Jesus and brought his friend Nathanael to follow Jesus too!

*(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 LEADER:** "Follow Me!"

**LEADER:** "And Matthew did! Matthew followed Jesus!

*(Option: Display Story Image W2 05)*



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

Option: If using the Story Images, have children count as you point to each disciple. If not using the Story Images, skip to the line: "Jesus had twelve disciples."

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

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

**LEADER:** "We did it! Jesus had 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 LEADER:** "**Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

**LEADER:** "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!"

### PRAYER

**LEADER:** "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."

**[Transition]** "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

*Lead small group to first activity.*



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## GETTING READY

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

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

### WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

### STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

#### 1. WORSHIP

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)
- Instruments or music player
- "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, placed in Bible at John 15:15

##### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- This month's worship song, "Never Better," included in your monthly files

##### OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for "Never Better," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from [OrangeKidsMusic.com](http://OrangeKidsMusic.com)

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Download song and have it ready to use.

#### 2. BIBLE STORY

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

##### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W2 01
- Story Image W2 02
- Story Image W2 03
- Story Image W2 04
- Story Image W2 05

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- *Option: Copy the Story Images on cardstock or download them to display on a screen.*

#### SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

**WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY:** First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at [OrangeStore.org](http://OrangeStore.org) or as part of your monthly Media Package.

#### FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. [bit.ly/FL\\_GoTeam](http://bit.ly/FL_GoTeam)