



WEEK
TWO
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

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" and "He Is Alive"

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

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HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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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.



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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.



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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!"

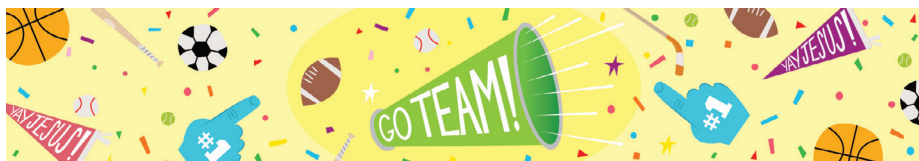
STORYTELLER: "And Peter and Andrew followed Jesus!

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!"



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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!"



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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.



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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, the introductory sketch, and the Bible story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story. If you are pulling your children to a rug on one side of your preschool space, you may benefit from using the Rug Script.

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

A Worship 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 adult or teenager who relates well to preschoolers to tell the Introductory Sketch. If possible, use the same person for an entire month, as the Host role stays the same each month.

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
- "He Is Alive," available on the *Amazing* album on [OrangeKidsMusic.com](https://www.OrangeKidsMusic.com)

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

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

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.

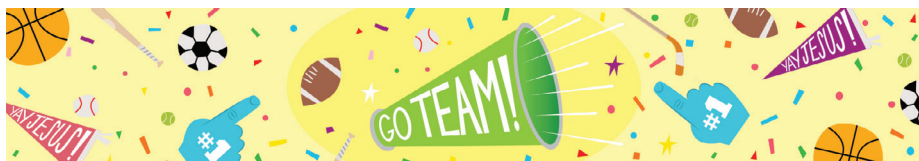
2. INTRO/OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Soccer ball
- Small soccer net

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set up the soccer net on one side of your storytelling area.



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GETTING READY

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

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Jesus" Activity Page
- "Jerseys" Activity Page
- 11" x 17" paper
- Cardstock
- People paper cutouts, 12 per Large Group (*such as* <https://a.co/d/6fQp97u>)
- Spring-loaded clothespins
- Two chairs, preferably barstool height
- Twine
- Glue Dots® or tape
- 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:

- Enlarge and copy the "Jesus" Activity Page onto 11" x 17" paper and cut out, one per Large Group.
- Copy the "Jerseys" Activity Page onto cardstock and cutout, 12 jersey cutouts per Large Group.
- Tie or tape two 6'-8' lengths of twine onto the top half of the chairs. One length of twine should be taut while the other hangs below the other.
- Use a clothespin to put the Jesus cutout in the center of the display.
- Pin six people cutouts on either side of the Jesus cutout.
- Just before Large Group, put a Glue Dot® or loop of tape on the chest of each people cutout.
- *Option: Copy the Optional 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 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