



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend
when I am **sad**.

MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS
JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

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.

Play in the Rain

When I'm Sad 

Emotion Reflections

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"My Friend Forever" and "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.

Sing the Memory Verse

Sticker Story

Emotion Overload

What's the Weather?

Always a Good Friend

Journal and Prayer

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.



WEEK
THREE
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

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. PLAY IN THE RAIN

WHAT YOU NEED: Umbrella and pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Scatter pom-poms on the floor in an open area of your room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Open the umbrella and place it upside down on the floor in the middle of your area. Ask the children to collect as many pom-poms as they can and throw them into the umbrella. Once all the pom-poms have been collected and thrown into the umbrella, encourage the children to stand closely around the leader. Then, lift the umbrella over everyone's head and let the pom-poms fall out. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand over here with me. I have a super-fun activity for us today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "See all the pom-poms on the floor? Let's collect them and throw them into this umbrella. (*Open the umbrella and place the umbrella on the floor upside down.*) Ready? Go! (*Pause.*) Keep going until all the pom-poms are collected and thrown into the umbrella. (*Pause.*) Okay, friends, come in close. (*Carefully lift the umbrella above everyone.*) Whoa! It's raining! Let's do it again! (*Repeat as desired.*) That was so much fun playing in the rain with you!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Sometimes rain can make us sad—like when we it rains so hard we can't go to the playground. In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear how Jesus is a good friend even when we're sad."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by singing "Rain, Rain, Go Away" together.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

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Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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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



1. SING THE MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS
JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather in your activity area, and say the Memory Verse with the motions together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead children to sing the Memory Verse to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come gather here with me! We're learning a great Memory Verse this month! Let's do the motions as we say it together. 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's sing our Memory Verse together. I'll sing it through one time, then we can sing it together.

(*Sing to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."*)

"A friend loves at all times.

"At all times.

"At all times.

"A friend loves at all times.

"Proverbs 17:17.

"Now let's sing it together! (*Repeat the song several times.*) That was fantastic, friends!"

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and loves us all the time—when we're afraid, or excited, sad, or happy.

Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend. Let's say that one more time, friends! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend."**



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



3. EMOTION OVERLOAD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, permanent marker, and self-inking heart stamps or heart stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Create four columns on the

butcher paper. At the top of each column, draw the following emoji faces—happy, sad, excited, afraid. Set the heart stamps or heart stickers on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the emotions on the chart on the butcher paper and name each one. As you talk about each emotion, lead the children to add a heart sticker or stamp to that column. Repeat with each column, allowing the children to add to each column until you've covered all four emotions.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come find a spot at the table!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you see all the emotions here at the top of the page? Can you find the sad face? *(Pause as children respond.)* Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're sad? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus loves us when we're sad because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column.

"Can you find the smiley face? *(Pause as children respond.)* Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're happy? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus loves us when we're happy because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column.

"Can you find the afraid face? *(Pause as children respond.)* Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're afraid? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus loves us when we're afraid because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column.

"Can you find the excited face? *(Pause as children respond.)* Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're excited? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus loves us when we're excited because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, Jesus cares about you and He will be a good friend when you feel sad, when you feel happy, when you feel excited, and even when you feel afraid. **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!** One more time! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**"

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-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

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JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36

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 Proverbs 17:17. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

Encourage the children to pretend they're crying as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things that make them sad.

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

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're sad like Mary and Martha were in our story. Can you pretend you're sad, and cry like me? (*Pretend to cry.*) Okay, now follow me. (*Pretend to cry as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay! We made it! We can show our happy faces now (*smile really big*) and sit down, so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Jesus went to see His friends Mary and Martha because He knew they were sad. What did Jesus do when He saw Mary and Martha crying? Did He tell them to stop being sad? (*Pause.*) No, Jesus was a good friend and was sad with them. **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.** That means Jesus always loves us too, because the Bible verse we're learning says: 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) That means Jesus loves you all the time, and Jesus loves me all the time, because **Jesus is always a good friend!**

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

“Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today we’re going to make a list of things that make us sad in our journal. It’s not fun to think about what makes us sad, but it’s good to remember that Jesus is a good friend when we’re sad. So, when I say your name, tell me one thing that makes you sad, 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: “Everyone feels sad sometimes for lots of different reasons. (*Hold up journal.*) 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, sometimes we feel sad when things like (*read the list the children made*) happen. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend when we’re sad. Knowing that Jesus loves (*say each child’s name*) all the time is the best feeling! We love You, God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

5. ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND

[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:

- "Always a Good Friend Label" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- Canvas panels
- Craft glue
- Washable paint in a variety of colors
- Smocks
- Squeegees
- Butcher paper
- Baby wipes
- Painter's tape
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Always a Good Friend Label" on label paper, one label per child.
- Write each child's name on their label.
- Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure.
- Draw a large heart outline on each child's canvas with the craft glue.
- Allow the craft glue heart outline to dry overnight.
- Place a canvas at each spot, and tape the canvas to the table.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place it in the Bible at Proverbs 17:17. *Note: Keep the Memory Verse Card in your Bible all month.*

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_RainOrShine