



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

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

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

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.

- Weather Moves
- Match the Shape Trees
- Make the Weather 

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"My Friend Forever" and "Best Friend"

- 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.

- Cup Watch
- Happy Faces
- Rays of Sunshine
- Climbing
- Up in the Tree
- 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
FOUR
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. WEATHER MOVES

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children in an open area of the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to move their bodies and pose like different weather conditions.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, come over here with me! We're going to use our bodies to pretend to be different kinds of weather. Make sure you have plenty of room. Are you ready?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I want you to use your body to pretend to be a big, bright sun. Make your arms like a great big circle, and stand up high on your tip toes. Now spread your arms out like sunshine rays. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now let's be sad, gray rain clouds. Lean your body over and sway your body slowly back and forth. *(Pause.)* Great job! Can you be rain? Let your fingers be the rain drops! Raise your arms and bring them down with your fingers wiggling like rain drops falling. *(Pause.)* Wonderful! Okay, our last movement is a thunderstorm. Thunderstorms are big and loud. Let's stomp like thunder, clap like lightning, and sway like the wind! *(Pause.)* You sure do have great moves. You did a great job pretending to be the weather."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we're going to learn about Someone who is always a good friend, rain or shine, no matter the weather!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by leading children to act like their favorite weather while they walk.

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. HAPPY FACES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Smiley-face disposable plates, jumbo craft sticks, and masking tape; *Optional:* "Happy Face" Activity Page, yellow cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make a happy-face plate for yourself by taping a smiley-face disposable plate to a jumbo craft stick. *Option:* Instead of smiley-face disposable plates, copy "Happy Face" on yellow cardstock and cut, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a smiley-face plate or a happy-face cutout. Assist the children as they tape their face to a craft stick. Review the Bible Story using the smiley faces.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

BIBLE STORY

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

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: (Hold a smiley-face plate on a stick in front of your face.) "Hey, friends! Come sit with me! We're going to talk about today's Bible Story!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, everyone is going to make a happy face on a stick, because Zacchaeus was happy in our Bible Story! (Give each child a smiley-face plate or a happy-face cutout, and a craft stick. Assist with taping when needed.) Okay everyone, hold up your happy face! (Hold up your happy face.) Wonderful! You can put your happy face down now, but get ready to hold them up every time you hear me say the word, 'HAPPY!' Are you ready?"

"Our story was about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. People did not like him because he took money that wasn't his. One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town. Zacchaeus was so HAPPY (hold up your happy face) that he climbed a tree so he could see Jesus! (Put your happy face down.) Jesus went to the tree Zacchaeus was in and told him to come down because He wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house! Wow! Zacchaeus was so HAPPY (hold up your happy face) Jesus wanted to go to his house, that he quickly climbed down the tree! (Put your happy face down.) Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus at his house. This made Zacchaeus very HAPPY! (Hold up your happy face, and then put it down.) Zacchaeus went and gave back all the money he took. This made lots of people very HAPPY!" (Hold up your happy face, and then put it down.)

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus when Zacchaeus was happy. Zacchaeus learned how to be a good friend by spending time with Jesus, because **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"



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, journal, fun-shaped pen, and rewards stickers or handstamp

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.

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folder and on Pinterest.

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.

Encourage the children to cheer for Jesus 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 feel happy.

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 cheer for Jesus while we walk to our Small Group spot, because **Jesus is always a good friend!** Let me see your happy faces! (*Look around.*) Fantastic! Follow me, and let's cheer for Jesus! (*Clap and cheer for Jesus as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay for our good friend, Jesus! Now that we're at our spot, we can sit down and 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, Zacchaeus was happy because Jesus was a good friend to him. Then Zacchaeus was a good friend and made lots of people happy! Jesus was always a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will always be a good friend to you too. That's why every time I ask: **Who is always a good friend?** We say: **Jesus is always a good friend!** Let me hear you say it! **Who is always a good friend? 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

"And the Bible verse we've been learning will help us remember that Jesus loves us all the time, because it 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.*) Everyone, stand up, and let's 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.*)

"You sound SO good! (*Clap.*) I think you're ready to try and say that verse by yourself! I want everyone to sit down, and we'll take turns saying that Bible verse. Who wants to go first? I have my stickers/hand-stamp ready! Yay, [child's name]! (*Give two thumbs-up.*) Here is a (*sticker/stamp*) for you! (*Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*)

"I'm very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/stamp. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Yay! (*Clap.*)

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our story, Zacchaeus was happy because Jesus wanted to spend time with him. Think about some things that make you happy. When I say your name, I want you to tell me one thing that makes you happy, and I'll write it in our journal. We can use our list when we pray." (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Look at all of these happy things! (*Hold up journal.*) Just reading this list makes me smile! See? (*Smile really big.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You that **Jesus is always a good friend**. Knowing that Jesus wants to be our friend forever makes us the happiest! Thank You for other things that make us happy too, like (*read the list the children made*). We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."