

3-5's | W1

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Sweet Treat Freeze Dance

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Memory Verse with Motions

Stop and Go to Jesus

Jesus Loves All the Little Children

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Memory Verse Card



Bible Story

Jesus loves children.

Jesus and the Children • Mark 10:13-16

Key Question

Who loves you?

Bottom Line

Jesus loves me.

Memory Verse

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me" (Matthew 19:14 NLT).

5 min

Social

5 min

Sweet Treat Freeze Dance | Made to Move

What You Need

 "Sweet Treat Freeze Dance" Activity Page	Several
 Cardstock	Several
 Music player	1
 Upbeat preschool worship songs	Several
 Painter's tape	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Sweet Treat Freeze Dance" on cardstock, one set for every four children. Arrange on the floor in an open area of your room, creating a winding path. Secure each picture with tape.

During the Activity: Start the music and encourage children to move around the path however they like: walking, marching, rolling, crawling, or skipping. When the music stops, ask children to freeze on a sweet treat. Call out a specific treat and do a silly movement. Anyone standing on that sweet treat should copy your movement then everyone does the movement together until the music starts again. Keep playing until everyone has had a chance to try each movement. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Encourage children to adapt moves for example: arm movement instead of jumps, chair spins instead of standing spins.
- Show the sweet treat picture cards as you call them out to help children with language differences follow along.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, look at all the sweet treat pictures on the floor! Wow! I see cupcakes and ice cream cones, lollipops and cookies ... yum! We're going to play freeze dance around these pictures. When the music starts, you move around the pictures and when the music stops, you stop."

During the Activity: "Everybody ready to play? (*Start the music.*) Hooray! Here we go! Move around anyway you'd like. (*Pause the music.*) Everybody freeze on a sweet treat! Look at the picture you are standing on ... If you are standing on a cupcake, move your hand/foot/body around in a circle. (*Pause.*) Fantastic! Now everybody, move your body like that. (*Start the music.*) There's the music, let's start moving! (*Continue with the following movements for the remaining sweet treats: ice cream cones-pretend to lick the ice cream; lollipops-tap your foot/hand; and cookies-jump, hop, or raise your hands in excitement. Repeat as desired.*) That was so much fun!"

After the Activity: "You guys were great sweet treat movers and freezers! Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about a time when children wanted to be near Jesus. And guess what? Jesus wanted to be with them too! Let's go hear our story!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by choosing a sweet treat to move like.

20 min

Groups

5 min

Memory Verse with Motions | Made to Move

What You Need

 "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF	Several
 Cardstock	Several
 VELCRO® dots	Several
 Scissors	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

During the Activity: Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.
- Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 'Jesus said (tap finger to middle of each palm) "Let the children (point to children) come to me,"' (move hands toward self) Matthew 19:14." (Open hands like a book.)

During the Activity: "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Jesus said.' (Tap finger to middle of each palm.) Put one hand out straight in front of you with your palm up, like this, (extend one arm in front of you, palm up) and touch the center of your palm with the middle finger of the opposite hand. Then, switch hands, put the other hand straight in front of you, and tap the center of that palm with the middle finger of the opposite hand like this, (tap middle finger in the center of the outstretched palm, then repeat with the other hand) and say: 'Jesus said.' (Tap finger to middle of each palm.) (Repeat with children.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Let the children.' (Point to children.) Get your pointer fingers ready and point to all our friends like this (point to children) and say, 'Let the children.' (Repeat with children.) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'Jesus said (tap finger to middle of each palm) 'Let the children.' (point to children) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Come to me.' (Move hands toward self.) Put both hands out and wave them towards yourself like this (wave hands toward self like motioning to come close) and say, 'Come to me.' (Repeat with children.) Nice job! Now let's put that together. 'Jesus said (tap finger to middle of each palm) 'Let the children (point to children) come to me,' (move hands toward self)

"Now the last part is: 'Matthew 19:14.' (Open hands like a book.) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (open hands like a book) and say: Matthew 19:14 (Repeat with children.) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'Jesus said (tap finger to middle of each palm) "Let the children (point to children) come to me,"' (move hands toward self) Matthew 19:14. (Open hands like a book.) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (Repeat several times.)

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves all children, and Jesus wants to be our friend forever! That's such an awesome thing, Jesus loves you (point to children) and **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. That's right! This time when I ask, I want you to say it loud and proud. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!"**

What You Say:

5 min

Stop and Go to Jesus | Made to Move

What You Need

👤	"Stop and Go to Jesus" Activity Page	2
👤	Cardstock	2
👤	Painter's tape	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Stop and Go to Jesus" Activity Page on cardstock, two sets per Small Group. Tape one stop sign to a wall and one heart to the opposite wall. Set the other stop sign and heart near the middle of the area to use during the game.

During the Activity: Show children both signs and explain what they mean. Encourage children to walk, march, skip, crawl, or roll toward the signs to answer the question. Hold up the heart or stop sign to direction their movements and ask children to continue to that side. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Hold up the stop sign or heart sign as you say the words "Stop" or "Go" for children who process better visually.
- Pair children who need extra help with a buddy.

5 min

Jesus Loves All the Little Children | Made to Think

What You Need

👤	"Jesus Loves the Little Children" by Amazing Kids Music	1
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What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cue "Jesus Loves the Little Children". Sit together with the children.

Before the Activity: "In our Bible Story, the disciples told the children to stop and not go to Jesus. But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me! Come stand with me. Today we're going to play a game to remember that Jesus always wants us to come to Him!'"

During the Activity: "Everybody look. We have a stop sign on that wall. (Point.) And a heart on that wall. Hearts make us think of love. Our game has three questions, one answer will lead you to the heart, one answer will lead you to the stop sign and the other question will have you jump up and down. Ready to play? Here's our first question. Who did the grown-ups bring to Jesus? (Pause for answers.) The children! Everybody, jump up and down! (Pause.) Good job! But what did the disciples say? (Pause for answers.) Stop! That's right! (Hold up the stop sign and have children move to the stop sign.) But friends, what did Jesus say? (Pause for responses.) That's right! Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me!' (Hold up the heart.) Everyone move to the wall with the heart. (Pause.) Super job everyone! (Repeat as desired.) Great job, friends! That was a fun way to remember our story!"

After the Activity: "Grown-ups brought their children to be near Jesus, to hear Him teach but the disciples said to stop! But Jesus loves all the children and wants them near, so Jesus called the children to Him because He loves them. Jesus loves you, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me! Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**"

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, we learned that Jesus wanted all the children to come to Him. Jesus loves *all* children, no matter where they live, what they look like, or what language they speak. This song will help us remember that!"

During the Activity: "Let's use our hands to say these special words in sign language. Say what I say and do what I do. **Jesus.** (Touch middle finger to opposite palm, then switch.) Let's do that again. **Jesus.** (Touch middle finger to opposite palm, then switch.) Great! The next special word is **Loves.** (Cross arms over chest.) One more time! **Loves.** (Cross arms over chest.) Fantastic! The last special word is **Children.** (Motion hands outward from chest.) Again! **Children.** (Motion hands outward from chest.) Fantastic! Now let's sign and when we do, you can sign

During the Activity: Teach children the ASL signs for **Jesus** (*touch middle finger to opposite palm, then switch*), **Loves** (*cross arms over chest*), **Children**. (*Motion hands outward from chest.*) Use the signs as you sing the song together. Repeat a little faster, encouraging children to join in with words they remember.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Repeat the song several times; familiarity builds confidence for all learners.

5 min

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 "Memory Verse Card"	1
 Cardstock	1
 Bible	1
 Journal	1
 Fun-shaped pen	1
 Scissors	1
 Heart stickers	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Matthew 19:14. Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.

Encourage children to give themselves a big hug as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions. Write each child's name in the journal. As you read each child's name, encourage them to add a heart sticker next to their name.

those special words. Ready, let's sing and sign! (*Sing the song and sign those special words.*) Jesus loves *all* the little children. Great job friends!"

After the Activity: "That was beautiful! Jesus wants all the children to come to Him because Jesus loves all the children, that means He loves YOU. **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!** One more time! **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!"**

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to give ourselves the biggest hugs we can. Wrap your arms around you and give a little squeeze. Follow me and keep giving yourself little squeezes as you hug yourself. Great work! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, we heard a story about Jesus, His friends, the disciples, and some people who came to hear Jesus teach. The people who came to be with Jesus and hear Him teach were not just grown-ups, but some children were also there! Children just like you! (*Point to all the children.*)

"But there was a problem! The disciples, Jesus' friends, told the grown-ups to take the children away! But Jesus loves EVERYONE! Grown-ups AND children too! Jesus called the children to Him and blessed them. Jesus made sure that the children knew that He loved them. No matter where you live, Jesus loves you! Jesus loves everyone ... which means Jesus loves you **and [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**

"Hey! That reminds me of the new Bible verse we are learning today! It says, 'Jesus said (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) "Let the children (*point to children*) come to me,"' (*move hands toward self*) Matthew 19:14." (*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! 'Jesus said (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) "Let the children (*point to children*) come to me,"' (*move hands toward self*) Matthew 19:14.'" (*Open hands like a book.*) Yay! (*Clap.*)

"Let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) We're going to make a list of all your names in our prayer journal. Then we can use the 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: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

Jesus loves [child's name] (*write child's name*). And Jesus loves [child's name] (*write child's name*). And Jesus loves... (*Continue with each child.*) Jesus loves all the children, each and every one of you! (*Point to all the children.*) When I read your name in our list, I want you to add a heart sticker next to your name because hearts make us think of love and Jesus loves you! (*Point and read each child's name pausing to give each child time to add their sticker.*) Great job everyone!"

After the Activity: "This is a list of very special people, it's a list of all our Small Group friends! (*Hold up journal.*) Let's pray and thank God for you. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, Thank You for Jesus, and how He loves [child's name], and [child's name] and... (*say this with each child's name*). We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Sweet Treat Freeze Dance | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. "Sweet Treat Freeze Dance" Activity Page	Several
2. Cardstock	Several
3. Music player	1
4. Upbeat preschool worship songs	Several
5. Painter's tape	1

Memory Verse with Motions | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF	Several
2. Cardstock	Several
3. VELCRO® dots	Several
4. Scissors	1

Stop and Go to Jesus | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. "Stop and Go to Jesus" Activity Page	2
2. Cardstock	2
3. Painter's tape	1

Jesus Loves All the Little Children | Made to Think

1. "Jesus Loves the Little Children" by Amazing Kids Music	1
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Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. "Memory Verse Card"	1
2. Cardstock	1
3. Bible	1
4. Journal	1
5. Fun-shaped pen	1
6. Scissors	1
7. Heart stickers	Several