

April 3-5's | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 2

Today's Bible Story: Breakfast on the Beach • John 21:1-14

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: "I have called you friends." • John 15:15 NIV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Hot Potato

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

Keepy Uppy

Picasso Bible Story

Friend, Friend, Forever!

Journal and Prayer



Bible Story

Breakfast on the Beach • John 21:1-14

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question

Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse

"I have called you friends." • John 15:15 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

Hot Potato | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Toy fish or a beanbag 1
-  Music player and upbeat preschool music 1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Encourage children to come sit on the floor in a circle with you.

During the Activity: Explain that you will pass the "fish" around the circle while the music is playing. When the music stops, whoever is holding the fish can pretend to take a little nibble before you start the music again.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and sit in a circle with me! We're going to play a game with this fish! (*Hold up the toy fish.*)"

During the Activity: "We're going to pass this fish to our friends while the music plays. When the music stops, if you're holding the fish, you can pretend to take a tiny bite! *Nibble, nibble!* Ready? (*Start music and pass the fish.*) Pass it to your friend! Quick! (*Stop the music.*) Oh, [Child's name] has the fish! Let's see you pretend to take a nibble! Yummy! Okay, let's play again!" (*Repeat several times so different children get a turn.*)

After the Activity: "That was so fun! The fish in our game reminds me of a special breakfast Jesus made for His friends on the beach. We are going to hear all about that breakfast with Jesus in our Bible Story today!"

20 min

Groups

5 min

Keepy Uppy | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  One Mylar balloon Several
-  Drinking straw Several

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.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Inflate the balloon with air by inserting the straw into the opening. The balloon should self-seal after removing the straw. Gather the children in a circle. Say the Memory Verse with the motions together.

During the Activity: Toss the balloon into the air. Explain that the goal is to keep it from touching the floor. Each time someone taps the balloon, the group says the next word of the Memory Verse.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come join me over here and let's do the motions as we say our verse together. 'I (*point up*) have called you (*point*

to others) friends,' (hook index fingers twice) John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.) Great job!"

During the Activity: "This game is called Keepy Uppy! We have to work together to keep this balloon from touching the floor. Every time one of our friends taps it, we'll say one word of our verse. Ready? (Toss the balloon.) 'I' ... (child taps) ... 'have' ... (child taps) ... 'called' ... (child taps) ... 'you' ... (child taps) ... 'friends!' You did it! Let's play again! Let's see how many times we can say our verse before the balloon touches the ground!" (Repeat as time and interest allow.)

After the Activity: "Great teamwork! Jesus called His friends, 'friends!' And He calls you His friend, too. That's because **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Who wants to be your friend forever? - **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

5 min

Picasso Bible Story| Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"Picasso Bible Story" Activity Page	1
	"Picasso Story Pieces" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Cube-shaped tissue box	1
	Crayons	Several
	Clear tape	1
	Scissors	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Picasso Bible Story" on cardstock, one per child. Copy "Picasso Story Pieces" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group. Tape one cutout to each side of the tissue box. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Roll the die and talk about the picture it lands on. Encourage children to draw that picture on their paper. Continue until all six items have been rolled and drawn, then review the Bible Story.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's all be artists and draw our Bible story today! Everyone gets a paper that shows the beach."

During the Activity: "We'll take turns rolling this die. (*Hold up the die.*) Whatever picture it lands on, we all will draw it on our paper! [Child's name], you roll first! (*Child rolls.*) It's the campfire! Let's all draw some flames on the campfire. (*Pause.*) Jesus made a fire to cook breakfast. Okay, who's next? (*Continue through all the pieces: the disciples, the fish cooking, the sun, the waves in the water, briefly retelling the story part for each.*) Look at your pictures! You drew the whole story! Jesus surprised His friends and made them breakfast to show them He would always be their friend."

After the Activity: "You are all amazing artists! Your pictures show the special breakfast Jesus made for His friends. He did that because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever?-[**Bottom Line**] **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

5 min

Friend, Friend, Forever! | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit in a circle, facing in.

During the Activity: Play a game of Duck, Duck, Goose, but change the words. The child who is "it" walks around the circle, gently tapping each friend on the head saying, "Friend ... friend ... friend ..." until they choose one to say "FOREVER!" on. Then that child chases the tapper around the circle to try and tag them before they sit in the empty spot.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's play a game! We're going to play a special version of Duck, Duck, Goose."

During the Activity: "Instead of saying 'duck,' we're going to tap our friends and say, 'Friend.' And instead of 'goose,' we'll say, 'FOREVER!' because Jesus wants to be our friend forever! Are you ready? (Choose a child to start.) Okay, walk around and tap your friends. 'Friend ... friend ... FOREVER!' Run! (Play for several rounds.)"

After the Activity: "That was so much fun! Jesus is the best friend, and He wants to be our friend not just for a little while, but FOREVER! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Who wants to be your friend forever?**[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

5 min

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in 1 Bible
-  Journal 1
-  Fun-shaped pen 1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at John 15:15. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

Encourage the children to pretend they are swimming to Jesus 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, then ask the children to help you make a list in the journal of their friends.

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today, we are going to pretend we are swimming. Can you move your arms like this? (*Demonstrate a simple swimming motion.*) Let's swim all the way to our Small Group spot. (*Pretend you are swimming as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Just keep swimming, just keep swimming ... we made it! Now we can 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, Jesus made breakfast for His friends, the disciples, on the beach. Do you remember what happened on Easter? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! Jesus died on the cross and came back to life three days later so He could be our friend forever! When His friends saw Jesus on the beach, they were so excited! Jesus cooked for them, told them He would be their friend forever, and told them He had special things for them to do with Him. The best news is Jesus wants to be our friend forever and has special things for us to do too! Yes! Jesus wants to be your friend forever and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

"The Bible verse we are learning talks about how Jesus wants to be our friend. It says, '**I**(*point up*)**have called you**(*point to others*)**friends.**'(*hook index fingers twice*)**John 15:15.**(*Open hands like a book.*) Did you hear that? Jesus called us friend! Jesus called me friend and Jesus called you, and you, and you friend! Jesus wants to be your friend forever and **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever** too! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! '**I**(*point up*)**have called you**(*point to others*)**friends.**'(*hook index fingers twice*)**John 15:15.**(*Open hands like a book.*)

"Yay! (*Clap.*) I'm so happy that **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our Bible Story, Jesus went to the beach and made a special breakfast for His friends, the disciples.

Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me the name of one friend, 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: "You have some wonderful friends! *(Hold up journal.)* Do you know what? Jesus wants to be friends with all of your friends and with YOU! Let's pray for our friends and talk to God. 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 giving us friends like *(read each friend's name on list)* and thank You for the best friend, JESUS! We are so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Supplies

Hot Potato | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Toy fish or a beanbag | 1 |
| 2. Music player and upbeat preschool music | 1 |

Keepy Uppy | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|----------------------|----------|
| 1. One Mylar balloon | Several |
| 2. Drinking straw | Several |

Picasso Bible Story | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. "Picasso Bible Story" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. "Picasso Story Pieces" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. Cardstock | 1 |
| 4. Cube-shaped tissue box | 1 |
| 5. Crayons | Several |
| 6. Clear tape | 1 |
| 7. Scissors | 1 |

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible | 1 |
| 2. Journal | 1 |
| 3. Fun-shaped pen | 1 |