

April 3-5's | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 3

Today's Bible Story: Great Commission • Matthew 28:16-20
I can tell others about Jesus.

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

On the Move

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

Parachuting Memory Verses

Bible Story Actions

Go and Tell a Friend

Journal and Prayer



Bible Story

Great Commission • Matthew 28:16-20
I can tell others about Jesus.

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

On the Move | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Large sheet of butcher paper 1
-  Washable markers in various colors Several
-  Toy cars 1
-  Masking tape 1
-  Baby wipes Several



EveryChild Tips

- Use larger, chunkier cars that are easier to grip.

20 min

Groups

5 min

Parachuting Memory Verses | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Parachute 1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cover table with butcher paper and secure with tape. Remove the lids to each marker and tape to the back of several toy cars, making sure the marker tip touches the paper.

During the Activity: Invite children to "drive" the cars around the paper, creating a trail of color. Encourage children to switch cars and drive some more. Clean hands as needed.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Welcome, friends! We're going to drive these cool cars all around the table to make some super cool art."

During the Activity: "Pick a car and get ready to drive! As you move your car, look what happens! (Demonstrate.) The marker is drawing colorful lines. They look like a road! Vroom, vroom! Let's drive our cars all over the paper. Let's go here, and there, and everywhere! Look at all the colorful roads we are making together! You can go anywhere!"

After the Activity: "Wow, look at this amazing paper! Your cars went everywhere! In our Bible Story today, Jesus tells His friends something very important to do wherever you go. Let's go hear what He said!"

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: Say the Memory Verse with the motions together.

During the Activity: Choose one child to sit gently in the middle of the parachute. The other children will walk slowly in a circle, causing the parachute to turn and gently spin the child in the middle. As you walk, say the Memory Verse together. Stop, let the child out, and choose a new child to sit in the middle.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come stand in a circle around the parachute, and let's say our verse and do the motions. 'I (point up) have called you (point

to others) friends,' (hook index fingers twice) John 15:15.' (Open hands like a book.) Great job! Now grab the parachute and we'll play a fun game!"

During the Activity: "Okay, [Child's name], you get to be the first one to ride in the middle! Sit right here. Now, everyone else, let's hold on tight and walk in a circle. As we walk, let's say our verse. Ready? 'I have called you friends.' 'I have called you friends.' Great job! Let's stop and let [Child's name] have a turn." (Continue until several children have had a turn in the middle.)

After the Activity: "That was a fun way to remember Jesus' words! He called his friends, friends, and Jesus calls us friends, too! He wants us to remember that **[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

Bible Story Actions | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Spread out in an open area.

During the Activity: Lead the children in simple actions to retell the story of the Great Commission. Do the actions together as you tell the story.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's use our bodies to tell our Bible Story today! Just do what I do!"

During the Activity: "After Jesus came alive again, His friends went to a mountain to meet Him. Let's make a mountain. (*Stand with feet wide and arms up in a point.*) When His friends saw Jesus, they were so happy that they worshipped Him! Let's bow down to worship Jesus. (*Bow.*) Then Jesus told them a very important thing to do. Jesus said, 'GO!' Let's all march in place. (*March.*) Jesus said, 'Go and tell EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE about Me.' Let's point all around the room to show EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE. (*Point all around.*) Jesus gave them this very important job because He loves everyone. Let's give ourselves a big hug. (*Hug yourself.*) Put your hands by your mouth like you are going to share a very important message (*cup hands by mouth*) and say, **[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."**

After the Activity: "You all did a great job telling the story with your bodies! Tell me who wants to be your friend forever?**[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Jesus gave His friends a great plan: Go and tell everyone about Him! That's a message for us, too! We can go and tell everyone, everywhere about Jesus!"

5 min

Go and Tell a Friend | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Divide the children into two groups, standing on opposite sides of the room, facing each other (like Red Rover).

During the Activity: Explain that you will choose one child to cross over to the other team. That child will pick one friend from the other team, give them a high-five, and say, "Jesus wants to be your friend forever!" Then, the child who was just picked goes to the other side. They will pick another friend to give a high-five and say, "Jesus wants to be your friend forever." Continue back and forth, sending one child at a time to "go and tell" a friend until everyone has had a turn or two.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's play a game called 'Go and Tell a Friend'! It's all about sharing the good news that Jesus wants to be our friend forever."

During the Activity: "Okay, everyone, I'm sending [child's name] to go and tell [child's name] the good news that 'Jesus wants to be your friend forever!' Great job! Now, [Child's name], you go to the other side and pick a friend to tell the good news, 'Jesus wants to be your friend forever!' We will go back and forth across the room until everyone has had a chance to tell someone the good news. Wow! That was a really fun way to tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus wants to be your friend forever!"

After the Activity: "You all did a wonderful job going and telling your friends the best news! Jesus went on a mountain and told His friends a very important message. Jesus said to go everywhere and tell everyone that He loves them and wants to be their 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 *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible 1
-  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.*

Encourage the children to march with you 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 all the different places they go.

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 march all the way to our Small Group spot. *(March as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)* March ... march ... march ... we made it! Whew! Good moving! 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 went up a mountain to tell His friends a very important message. Jesus told His friends to go everywhere and tell everyone that He loves them and that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Wow! That is a very important job! The world is a BIG place, and Jesus wants everyone in the entire world to know about Him. The best news is that Jesus wants to be OUR friend forever! And Jesus wants us to share that news with everyone, everywhere too! Yes! Jesus wants to be your friend forever, and **[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.**

"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 His friend! Jesus called me friend and Jesus called you, and you, and you friend! And that is the message we can share with everyone, everywhere! 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 told His friends to go everywhere and tell everyone about Him. Let's make a list of all the places we go. Then we can use the list when we pray and to help us remember to tell people about Jesus wherever we go. When I say your name, tell me the name of one place you like to go, 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: "We go to a lot of different places! (*Hold up journal.*) Do you know what? Jesus wants you to tell everyone about Him in ALL of those places! What an important job!! Let's pray 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 all of the places we get to go, like (read each place on the list), please help us remember to tell people about You everywhere we go! We are so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Supplies

On the Move | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Large sheet of butcher paper | 1 |
| 2. Washable markers in various colors | Several |
| 3. Toy cars | 1 |
| 4. Masking tape | 1 |
| 5. Baby wipes | Several |

Parachuting Memory Verses | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Parachute | 1 |

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies

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