

First Look™ (Mill City Church)

Curriculum for Preschoolers

We want preschoolers to take a first look at who God is and understand . . .

God made me.

God loves me.

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Choose an engaging adult or older sibling to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command attention through animated storytelling. Consider sending the script to a grandparent or aunt/uncle. They can tell the story online! These scripts are written to be “told” and not “read.” Reading through it before hand will guarantee success.

Additionally, look to our resources page (millcitychurch.com) for an animated video with this same Bible story. Preschoolers love repetition. Feel free to use all or just some of the resources. There is no wrong answer in how to do this friends!

Today’s Bible Story: Jesus taught us how to love one another.
Early Church • Acts 2:42-47

Memory Verse: “How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”
Ephesians 3:18, NIV

Key Question: Who wants to be your friend forever?

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

STORY

What You Need: Bible

LEADER:

“I’m REALLY glad you’re here because it’s time to hear a TRUE story from the Bible. Are you ready to hear it? If you are, say, ‘I’m ready!’”

CHILDREN: “I’m ready!”

LEADER: “Today’s true story from the Bible begins with Jesus’ friends who wanted to LOVE people like Jesus loved them. Everyone, make a heart with your hands like this and hold it out in front of you.

Put hands together to make a heart: four fingers from both hands curled for the top, two thumbs pressed together to form the bottom.

“Yes! They wanted to LOVE (*make a heart again*) people like Jesus loved them. So, do you know what they did? Ask me, ‘What did they do?’”

CHILDREN: “What did they do?”

LEADER: “Well, I’m glad you asked. They SHARED.

“If someone needed a coat, they gave him one of theirs. (*Make a heart with your hands.*) Awesome, right?”

“If someone needed a place to stay, they shared their home! (*Make a heart with your hands.*) Amazing!”

“If someone didn’t have something to eat, they would give her food! (*Make a heart with your hands.*)

“Jesus’ friends were super sharers because that is how Jesus loved people. He shared with everyone. Jesus’ friends spent lots of time together. They ate, talked, and laughed. They loved (*make a heart with your hands*) each other because Jesus loved them.

“And do you know what else they did? They praised God. This showed everyone that they were friends with Jesus.

“I want to do that, too! I want to be a friend like Jesus. I want to share with my friends so they know Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.

“Raise your hand if you want to be a friend like Jesus. (*Pause and look at one side of the room.*) You do? (*Look to the other side of the room.*) You guys, too? Raise them as high as you can!”

“Yes! Let’s do it. Let’s be friends like Jesus and share so that everyone knows how much Jesus loves them. Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?**”

CHILDREN: [*Bottom Line*] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

LEADER: “Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [*Bottom Line*] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

LEADER: “That’s the truth! Okay friends, it’s time to pray. Let’s close our eyes and talk to God together.”

PRAYER

LEADER: “Jesus, thank You for being such a good, good friend. Help us love others by sharing and helping this week. We LOVE You. Thanks for being our friend, Jesus. Amen.”

1. Repeat the Beat

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Preschool rhythm instruments or items from your kitchen

What You Do:

During the Activity: Invite the children to have a seat behind the instruments with their hands behind their backs. Sit on the floor with the children (with your own instrument) and explain that you will play a simple rhythm on your instrument that they will copy. Make sure they understand that after each round, they need to put their hands back behind their backs so they can hear the next pattern.

Patterns:

Tap/ Tap tap/ Tap/ Tap
Tap/ Tap/ Tap/ Tap
Tap tap/ Tap/ Tap tap/ Tap
Tap/ Tap/ Tap tap/ Tap
Tap/ Tap tap/ Tap/ Tap tap
Tap tap/ Tap/ Tap/ Tap

After the Activity: Encourage the children to place their hands behind their backs again as you collect the instruments and set aside for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, have a seat behind one of these instruments. Let’s put our hands behind our backs so we listen carefully!”

During the Activity: “Great job, friends. Listen as I play a simple pattern. I want you to repeat the beat. Ready? (*Play a simple four beat pattern like those listed above.*) That’s it! Good listening, friends.”
(*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: “That was so fun. You listened closely so you could repeat the beat. You did what I did. Today, we’ll learn how to LOVE like Jesus. He really knows how to love. Let’s go!”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to clap or pat different patterns as you travel.

2. I Can Help

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Stickers, paper, tape, marker

What You Do:

During the Activity: Tape some paper to the wall at preschooler level. Draw three large hearts going across. Write “Food” in the first heart, “Clothes” in the second heart, and “Home” in the third heart. Give each child some stickers. As the leader reviews the Bible story, they will invite the children to place their stickers in the appropriate hearts.

After the Activity: Talk about how Jesus showed us that helping each other is one way to love one another.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hi, friends! I need your help filling these hearts with things that show people we love them. Will you help me?”

During the Activity: “Jesus showed us that helping people is one way we can love people. I gave you some stickers that show ways we can help people. The first way we can help people and show them we love them is by giving them food when they’re hungry. Look at your stickers. When I say your name, you can put your sticker in this heart. *(Point to the food heart and allow each child the opportunity to put their stickers inside the heart.)* Good job!

“A second way we can help people and show them we love them is by giving them clothes to wear when they don’t have what they need. When I say your name, you can put your clothes stickers in this heart. *(Point to the clothes heart and allow each child the opportunity to put their clothes stickers inside the heart.)* Wonderful!

“Another way we can help people and show them we love them is by giving them a place to live or helping make their home better. Look at your stickers and things that go with a home. When I say your name, you can put your home stickers in this heart. *(Point to the home heart and allow each child the opportunity to put their home stickers inside the heart.)* Look at all of the ways Jesus taught us to love one another and be a good friend, just like Him!”

After the Activity: “Jesus is such a good friend that He taught us how to be a good friend, too! I am so happy that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**”

3. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Bible, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll take the longest steps we can while we walk to our small group spot. Do what I do and follow me! *(Take big, long steps as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*

“Those were some really long steps! But nothing is LONGER than Jesus’ love for you and me. Right? Right! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)*

“Our Bible story, today, was about how we can love others the way Jesus loves us. Do you remember how we can love people? *(Pause.)* We can love them by giving them the food, clothes, or a home that they need. When we give people what they need, we are loving them and being a good friend, just like Jesus!

“The Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember just how much Jesus loves people. It says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“‘How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,’ Ephesians 3:18. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“Wow! That’s a lot of love! Let’s stand up and say that Bible verse together with the motions.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “How wide *(hold arms out wide)* and long *(raise one hand high and hold one hand low)* and high *(jump)* and deep *(crouch)* is the love *(hug yourself)* of Christ,” *(point up)* Ephesians 3:18. *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: “And because Jesus loves us SO much, He wants to be our friend forever and ever and EVER! **Who wants to be your friend forever?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line]** “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

SGL: “One more time! **Who wants to be your friend forever?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line]** “Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”

SGL: “Good job! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“Since everyone needs clothes, and giving people clothes when they need them is one way we can love like Jesus, I thought we could make a list of clothing. It can be socks, shoes, a coat, shirt . . . anything that you wear. When I say your name, tell me one kind of clothing, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name! *(Say each child’s name and write down what they*

say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“This is a great list of clothes! Let’s pray that we will love people the way Jesus loves us and help them have the clothes they need. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, thank You for giving us the clothes we need. Help us give people *(read the list the children made)* so they will have clothes and know how much Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”