

April 21, 2019

Bible Focus: God sent Jesus to be my friend forever.

Easter • *Matthew 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7*

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NIV

Key Question: Who is your friend?

Bottom Line: Jesus is my friend.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (4:30, 5:45) (7:45, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

4:30, 9:00 & 11:30

- Roll and Come Back

5:45, 7:45 & 10:15

- The "Come Back" Tunnel

Bible (4:45, 6:00) (8:00, 9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

All Service Times

- Small Group Time
- Prayer

Journaling (5:05, 6:20) (8:20, 9:35, 10:50, 11:05)

All Service Times

- Bible Presentation in the Sandbox

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (5:15, 6:30) (8:30, 9:45, 11:15, 12:15)

4:30, 9:00 & 11:30

- Sequence

5:45, 7:45 & 10:15

- Tomb Craft

All Service Times

- Dismiss–Parent CUE

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Social (Introductory Activities, 15 minutes)

Let one teacher lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

4:30, 9:00 & 11:30

Roll and Come Back

What You Need: Inflatable ball

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Sit in a circle with the children.

During the Activity: Roll the ball to one child and instruct him to roll it back to you. Continue the activity until each child has had the ball rolled to him and he has rolled it back.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's play a game with our friends!"

During the Activity: (Sit in a circle.) "I am going to roll the ball to you and you can roll it back to me. *(Do activity.)* Great job!"

After the Activity: "The ball went away, but then it came back! Today we are going to hear about someone who went away but then came back. I am so excited to hear our Bible Truth today."

Transition

5:45, 7:45 & 10:15**The “Come Back” Tunnel**

What You Need: A preschool tunnel

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Set up the tunnel in an open area of the room.

During the Activity: Line up the children in front of the tunnel. Let them take turns crawling in, and then encourage them to come back out. Repeat so that each child has a turn in the tunnel.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Everyone gather here with me. Let’s line up in front of our tunnel. I want you to take turns. One at a time, a friend will climb through the tunnel. But once you get to the end, I want you to come back through the tunnel to all your friends. Are you ready? Let’s go.”

After the Activity: “Everyone came back! You are great crawlers. In our Bible Truth today, we’ll hear about someone who went away but then came back. I can’t wait for you to hear all about it!”

Transition

Bible (Large Group, 20 minutes)

After children have participated in Social, gather them for a large group time that includes interactive worship, introductory sketch and Bible Truth.

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Journaling (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

Journaling is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests.

Give each child a cup of Chex cereal to snack on while you take them through the following exercise.

What you Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17. Journal and a fun-shaped pen. Reward stamps.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Raise your hand if you can count to three. (*Pause for response.*) Count to three with me!”

CHILDREN and SGL: “One! Two! Three!”

SGL: “Did you know that Jesus is the best friend we will ever have. Do you know why Jesus is the best friend we will ever have? Jesus loves us at all times, just like it says in the Bible verse we have been learning.

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

“It says: *A friend loves at all times, Proverbs 17:17 (Nlrv).*”

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

“Let’s stand up and say this verse together with the motions. Ready?”

CHILDREN and SGL: “*A friend (hook your pointer fingers together) loves (hug yourself) at all times (stretch your arms out to each side with your palms facing up as you turn in a circle), Proverbs 17:17.*” (*Open your hands like a book.*) (*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

SGL: “I think you’ll be ready to say that all by yourself next time! Make sure you practice at home. Now let’s sit down so we can write in our journal and pray.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Today we are going to make a list of our friends. Guess which friend’s name goes at the top in super big letters? JESUS!

(Write “JESUS” across the top of the page in your journal.)

“Now, when we make our list of friends to pray for, we will remember that Jesus is our friend, too—the BEST friend! **Who is your friend?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is my friend!”

SGL: “Okay, when I say your name, tell me one friend and I’ll write their name in our prayer journal.

(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.)

“Now we have a list of our friends to pray for, including the best friend EVER: JESUS! 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 so many great friends. Thank You for *(read the list the children made)*. We want to say a very, very, VERY special thank You for our good friend Jesus. Jesus is the best friend we will ever have. Thank You that He made a way for us to be with You forever and that Jesus came back just like He promised. I pray *(name each child in your small group)* will believe that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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Groups (Application Activities, 15 minutes)

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today’s Bible Truth and Bottom Line.

4:30, 9:00 & 11:30

Sequence

What You Need: “Sequence” Activity Pages and wall tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Spread the pictures on the floor in the activity area.

During the Activity: Have the children sit in front of the pictures. Ask the children to work together to place pictures in order according of the Bible Truth. The sequence is: Jesus, angry men, closed tomb, number three, and Jesus outside the tomb. Hang the pictures on a wall in the correct order.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We have heard an amazing Bible Truth about how Jesus went away and CAME BACK!”

During the Activity: “I have pictures from our Bible Truth. (*Point.*) Let’s work together and see if we can put them in the correct order of the Bible Truth. Which one do you think is first? (*Pause.*) The picture of Jesus is first! Jesus told His friends that He was leaving but that He would come back. (*Hang the picture on the wall.*) Great job! Which picture is next? (*Pause.*) The picture of the angry men. The angry men took Jesus away. (*Hang the picture on the wall.*) Do you know what happened next? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus was in the tomb. (*Hang the picture on the wall.*) How many days was Jesus in the tomb? (*Pause.*) YES! (*Hang up the picture of the number three.*) The last picture is of Jesus standing outside the tomb. Jesus CAME BACK!” (*Hang the picture on the wall.*)

After the Activity: “Great job, friends! Our Bible Truth tells us that Jesus came back and wants to be our friend FOREVER! **Who is your friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is my friend!**”

5:45, 7:45 & 10:15

Tomb Craft

What You Need: “Tomb” and “Stone” Activity Pages, white paper, 16-oz. clear plastic cups (one per child), clear tape, and completed sample craft

What You Do:

During the Activity: Help the children tape the tomb cutout inside one of the cups. Tape the cutout to the side of the cup so that when the cup is placed upside down the cutout is right side up. Be sure the bottom of the cutout is flush with the opening of the cup. Do the same thing with the “Stone” cutout with the second cup.

After the Activity: Turn both cups upside down. Place the stone cup on top of the tomb cup so that they are stacked. Invite the children to twist the top cup so that the stone covers Jesus in the tomb. Then ask the children to twist the top cup to move the stone to show that Jesus came back.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to make a super cool craft today!”

During the Activity: “We have a cutout of the tomb that Jesus was in and the stone that closed the tomb. We are going to use these cups to make the tomb open and close! Super cool!” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Great job! Twist the top cup to close the tomb with the stone. Now let’s count to three. One, two, and three! Three days later the stone moved and (*twist cups to move the stone*) Jesus came back! Jesus is our friend! **Who is your friend?** **[Bottom Line] Jesus is my friend!**”