



WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *The Man With Leprosy* | *Matthew 8:1-3; Mark 1:40-45*

Key Question: Who does Jesus love?

Bottom Line: *Jesus loves everyone*

Memory Verse: *“Be kind and loving to each other.” – Ephesians 4:32*

Basic Truth: *Jesus wants to be my friend forever.*

Series Overview: There is a food truck for just about every kind of food, and when the food trucks are lined up, the whole community comes out. Some people like noodles. Some people like tacos. Some people like hot dogs. And others head straight for the funnel cakes! Next time you see a row of food trucks look around at all the people in line. Take time to thank Jesus because Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves the sour as well as the sweet; the spicy as well as the mild; the simple as well as the complicated; your favorites and your not-so-favorites. Jesus loves everyone!

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Explore: an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

What You Need: Magnetic wand; pipe cleaners; Little People figures

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Make hearts out of pipe cleaners, several for each child.
 - Place the Little People figures around your small group space.
 - Ask children to form a line
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Give the first child a magnetic wand
 - Encourage the child to use the magnet to pick up one pipe cleaner heart and place it around a Little People figure
 - Continue until every child has had a turn and all the Little People figures have hearts around them
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Introduce today's Bible story by pointing out the differences between the Little People figures and how Jesus loves everyone

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - "Friends, let's get in a line here, please. Look at all the hearts we have here. Hearts remind me of love."
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - "I have a magnet here for you, and there are Little People figures around the room. Use the magnet to pick up a heart and take it to the Little People figures. [Child's name], it's your turn. Ready? Go! Take a heart to a person! (*Pause.*) Wonderful! Okay, [child's name], it's your turn." (*Repeat until every child has had a turn and every Little People figure has a heart.*)
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*

- “Look at all the people you brought some love to! Some are old, some are young. This one has [color] hair, and this one has [color] hair. And you brought some love to ALL of them! In today’s Bible Story, we’ll hear about Someone who loves EVERYONE! Let’s go find out Who it is.”

9:15 - 9:45 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: Jesus loves everyone. Jesus touches a man who asks for help and heals him of all his boo-boos and with leprosy. He was not someone everyone loved...or even liked, really. In fact, people stayed away from him because they didn’t want to get what he had. A person with leprosy lived a very lonely and painful life. But then one day, this man meets Jesus. And Jesus does not run away. Jesus loves the man and makes him well. Why? Because Jesus loves everyone.

9:45 – 10:05 | 11:45 – 12:05 – SMALL GROUP

Memory Verse With Motions

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Review]

Move: an activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you
 - Repeat several times
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*

- Review the Bottom Line

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come join me over here. We have a brand- new Memory Verse and motions to learn! Everyone, listen and watch me. I’ll say our new Memory Verse. Then we can do it together. ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32.” (*Open hands like a book.*)
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Now let’s do it together! Are you ready? ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again.” (*Repeat several times.*)
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Our Memory Verse teaches us to be kind and loving to each other because Jesus loves everyone! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!** Let’s say that one more time, friends. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!** Great job!”

Journal + Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: “Memory Verse Card” Activity Page; scissors; Bible; pen

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Place “Memory Verse Card in Bible at Ephesians 4:32
 - Keep this card in your Bible all month long
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Encourage the children to make their happiest faces as you lead them to your small group spot
 - Sit down and gather the children around you

- Review the Memory Verse and motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list of a time when they had a boo-boo
- *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! I want everyone to show me your happiest happy face. (*Look around.*) I see some very happy, happy faces! Today we’re going to walk to our Small Group spot with our happy faces! Follow me! (*Make a happy face as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Okay, happy friends with happy faces, it’s time to sit down so we can 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 did something to make a man very, VERY happy! What did Jesus do? (*Pause for response.*) Yes! Jesus loved the man and made his boo-boos go away! That was a very kind and loving thing Jesus did. We can be kind and loving to everyone too. And the Bible verse we are going to learn will help us. It says, ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*) Stand up with me and let’s say that together! Just say what I say and do what I do. ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*)
 - “You did it! (*Clap.*) Way to go! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today we learned that Jesus loved a man who had boo-boos all over his skin, because **Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!** That’s right! And that means Jesus loves us when we have boo-boos! Let’s make a list of boo-boos we’ve had. You may even have a boo-boo right now. Think about it, and when I say your name, tell me about one of your boo-boos, 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*
 - “Look! We’ve all had a boo-boo. And Jesus loves us, just like He loved the man in our Bible Story. Let’s pray and talk to God about it. 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 sending Your Son, Jesus, to love everyone. Everyone gets sick and has boo-boos, like (*read the list the children made*), so it's really great to know that Jesus loves us when we do. Help us to love everyone, like Jesus does. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."