



WEEK TWO – FEBRUARY 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *The Unloved Woman* | John 8:2-11

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

Imagine: an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine + role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: Butcher paper, permanent marker

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Write “Recipe for a Friend” at the top of the paper + tape the paper to the wall
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Ask the children to each say one thing that makes a good friend
 - Then ask if a friend needs a little or a lot of that “ingredient”
 - Write down what they say on the paper as a recipe
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Read the recipe to the group and talk about how Jesus loves each one of us
 - Take a picture of the recipe and post it in your respective GroupMe

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come sit over here and help me. I am writing a recipe. A recipe tells us what something is made of. A recipe is usually for food, but today I want to know what a good friend is made of.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “I will start. I think a good friend needs to be funny. I will say a friend needs one cup of fun. (Write like a recipe on the paper.) What do you think a friend needs to have, [child’s name]? (Wait for a response. You may need to help them.) Yes, a friend needs to be (helpful, kind, sweet, happy, silly etc.). Do you think a friend needs a lot of that or a

little? (Wait for their answer and write it on the paper.) Great, let's add it to our recipe." (Continue with each child.)

- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - "Wow! Look at our recipe for a friend. (*Read the recipe.*) Hearing the ingredients for a friend that you all said, I think each of you can be a good friend! In our Bible Story, we're going to hear about a woman who needed a good friend. I can't wait to hear our story!"
- *TRANSITION*
 - Move to Worship and Story by calling out the friend ingredients you came up with and having children line up accordingly. For example, say: "If you are funny, line up. If you are happy, line up."

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

Large Group Overview: Jesus is a friend to everyone. Jesus is a kind and loving friend to a woman who had done something wrong. We call her the unloved woman because she experienced anything but love from the religious leaders. Instead of love, she received judgment, hate, anger, embarrassment...until she was dragged to the feet of Jesus. What does Jesus give the woman? Love, grace and compassion. Why? Because Jesus loves everyone.

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

Share the Love

[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: Plush Heart Pillow

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Stand in a circle with the children
 - Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together using the Memory Verse Card in your Bible
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Encourage children to sit down where they are in the circle
 - Say the verse as you pass the heart around the circle
 - Repeat as desired
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Review the Bottom Line

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Hi, friends! Let’s make a big circle. (*Pause.*) Great! Let’s do the motions as we say our verse together. ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Now stay in the circle and sit down where you are. What is this? (*Hold up plush heart.*) It’s a heart! We’re going to pass the heart around the circle as we say our Memory Verse. Are you ready? (*Start passing the heart.*) ‘Be kind and loving to each other,’ Ephesians 4:32.” (*Continue until the heart gets back to the leader. Repeat as desired.*)
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Our Memory Verse teaches us to be kind and loving to each other, just like Jesus! Jesus was always kind and loving to everyone He met. We get to be just like Jesus when we are kind and loving to others. We can love everyone 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!**”

Please Step Forward

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Ask children to line up on one side of your activity area as you stand on the opposite side
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Play a game similar to “Mother, May I?”
 - Call out a series of questions and then call for the children to take one step forward
 - Once most of the children are within a step or two of you, call out the last question: “If you’ve ever made a mistake, take one step forward.”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - When all the friends make it to you, celebrate!
 - Then talk about the woman in our story who had made lots of mistakes; but, Jesus still loved her

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, go stand on this side of the room and I’m going to stand on that side. We’re going to play a game! If you agree with what I say, take a step towards me.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Here we go! Everyone, listen and get ready to move. If you like chicken nuggets, take one step forward. *(Pause.)* If you have a dog, take one step forward. *(Pause.)* If you like ice cream, take one step forward. *(Pause.)* If you have a sister or brother, take one step forward. *(Pause.)* If you love to give hugs, take one step forward. *(Continue with different statements until most children are within a step or two of you.)* If you’ve ever made a mistake, take one step forward. *(Pause.)* Now freeze where you are and look around. Did everyone step forward? *(Pause.)* Yes! Everyone stepped

forward because we ALL make mistakes! But that’s okay because Jesus loves us even when we make mistakes!”

- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “The woman in our Bible Story today made lots of mistakes and the people who brought her to Jesus thought she should be punished. Jesus didn’t punish the woman like the people wanted. Jesus told her to go and make good choices. Jesus was kind and loving to the woman when no one else was because **Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**”

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; 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*
 - Sit down and gather the children around you
 - Review the Memory Verse and motions, then encourage the children to make a list of people they can be a friend to
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “It’s almost the end of Small Group time! We are going to review our Bible story and verse one more time! Alright, one, two, three, sit down with me!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) “Being a friend is one way we can love people. Jesus is a friend to everyone, because **Jesus loves**

everyone. Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone! In our Bible Story, today, Jesus was teaching a crowd of people about God. There was a woman who was very sad. She had made a lot of bad choices and now no one wanted to be her friend. Some people who didn't like the woman brought her to Jesus and said, "Jesus, this woman has done bad things!" Wow! They were definitely not this woman's friend. And they thought Jesus wouldn't want to be her friend. But Jesus did love her and wanted to be her friend. Jesus didn't punish the woman like the people wanted. Jesus told her to go and make good choices. Jesus was kind and loving to the woman when no one else was. We are being a friend when we are kind and loving too!

- “The Bible verse we are learning 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 sound wonderful!” (*Give high fives.*)
- “Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today we learned that Jesus is a friend to everyone, because **Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!** That’s why we are going to make a list of people we can be a friend to. When I say your name, tell me one person you can be a friend to, like Jesus, and I will write them 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 at all of these people! Let’s use our list when we 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 sending Jesus to be a friend to everyone. Please help us be a friend, like Jesus, to (*read the names in the journal*). **Jesus loves everyone**, and so should we. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”