



WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Jesus + The Children | Luke 18:15-16*

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

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

What You Need: “Heart Match-Up” Activity Page; Scissors

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Gather children around your circle
 - Set the puzzle pieces on the ground and mix up the pieces
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Encourage the children to work together to complete the puzzles
 - Switch puzzles and repeat as desired
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Talk about how hearts remind us of love and that **Jesus loves everyone**

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come find a spot at our circle .”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “We have several puzzles to put together! Let’s work together to put the pieces together. (*Pause.*) What do you see? (*Pause.*) Hearts! That’s right. Now, mix the pieces up and move to the next spot to work on that puzzle. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was so fun! What do hearts remind you of? (*Pause.*) Love! That’s right!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about someone very special who Jesus loves. Let’s go find out who it is!”
- *TRANSITION*

- Move to Worship and Story by saying: “Jesus loves, [child’s name]!”
Continue with each child. Then finish by saying: “**Jesus loves everyone!**”

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

Large Group Overview: Jesus loves me. Jesus tells His friends, the disciples, to let the children come to Him. Parents were bringing their children to Jesus so He could bless them. The disciples, thinking they were doing what was best, told the parents to go away. I mean, Jesus is super important and has super important things to do. He can’t be bothered with children, right? Wrong. Jesus quickly tells His disciples to let the children come to Him and don’t make it hard for children to get to Him. Why? Because Jesus loves everyone.

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

Jesus + The Children

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Gather with children and spread out a little bit in your circle space
 - Head out one activity page to each child
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Ask children to color, cut the pictures along the bottom of the page, and glue them around the picture of Jesus

- Encourage children to draw a picture of themselves around Jesus
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Ask the children to hold up their completed pictures as you say the Bottom Line together

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Come sit with me! Let’s make a picture to help us remember what we learned in our Bible Story today.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “In our Bible Story today, some mommies and daddies brought their children to see Jesus. When the children tried to get close to Jesus, Jesus’ friends, the disciples, told the children to go away. What did Jesus say when His disciples did that? (*Pause.*) You’re right! Jesus told them to let the children come to Him! Jesus loves all children, because **Jesus loves everyone**. Look at the children at the bottom of your picture. Color the children and cut them out. (*Pause.*) Glue all the children around Jesus because Jesus wants all children to come to Him! (*Pause.*) And since **Jesus loves everyone**, and you are a child, you can draw a picture of you by Jesus too!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Okay everyone, hold up your pictures. (*Pause.*) All the children are with Jesus, 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; heart stamp; reward stickers

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*
 - Review the Memory Verse and motions, then write each child’s name in the journal as you say it out loud
 - Let each child put a heart stamp by their name as you say, “Jesus loves, [name of child]”
- *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!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - *“(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) “In our Bible Story today, we learned that Jesus wants all children to be His friend forever because **Jesus loves everyone**. That means Jesus loves you and you and you and you . . . (Point to each child.) And now Jesus wants us to love everyone the way **Jesus loves everyone!** “That’s why we have been learning this Bible verse. 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 one time 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.) That was fantastic! Let’s sit down so anyone who wants to say that Bible verse can give it a try. I have my stickers ready! (Give each child the opportunity to try and say the Bible verse.) Everyone, clap for [child’s name]! Here is your sticker! (Say this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.) I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/handstamp. One, two, three! (Pause to look.) Yay! (Clap.) “Now, let’s sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.) Today we’re going to do something very special in our prayer journal. When I write your name, you get to put a heart stamp by your name, because Jesus loves you. Listen for your name! (Remember to*

print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.) Jesus loves, [child's name]. Come put a stamp in the journal.” (Continue with each child.)

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**

- *“(Hold up the journal.) “Look at all of the children Jesus loves! 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 Jesus to love (read each child’s name). Please help (say each child’s name) love others the way you love them. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*