



## WEEK ONE – MARCH 2024 – PRESCHOOL

**Bible Story:** *Woman at the Well | John 4:1-30*

**Key Question:** Who wants to be your friend forever?

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus wants to be my friend forever.*

**Memory Verse:** *“I have called you friends.”– John 15:15 NIV*

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

**Series Overview:** Waiting to be picked by a team in grade school is agonizing. If you’re some of the last people chosen by a team, it means while everyone else is cheering, “Go team!” you’re probably thinking something like, “They don’t want me, and I don’t want to be here.” The truth is, we don’t all have the skills to hit home runs or run really fast. And that’s okay. What’s not okay is being unwanted. Thankfully, for all of us, Jesus wants everyone on His team! Jesus wants everyone everywhere to follow Him and be His friend forever. No matter what we can or can’t do, what we have done, what we look like, or where we live, Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend...forever! And that kind of Good News makes us all want to say, “GO TEAM!”

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

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**Opening Small Group Activity**

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

**What You Need:** “Hot or Cold” Activity Page; clear tape; container; cotton balls; painters tape

**What You Do:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Gather children around your circle
  - Tape pictures to the wall about three feet apart
  - Cut strips of packing tape to cover each picture with sticky side facing out and adhere to the wall with painters tape
  - Make a tape line on the floor a few feet away from the pictures + place the cotton balls next to the tape line
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - Call out different things that describe a hot or cold place
  - One at a time, children will toss their cotton ball at that picture
  - Repeat as desired
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Introduce the Bible story for today

**What You Say:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Hello, friends! I’m so happy to see you today! Come over and stand at this tape line with me.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “See these pictures on the wall? This is a picture of a hot place. (*Point.*) And this is a picture of a cold place. (*Point.*) Let’s play a game! I’m going to describe a place, and then you toss your pom-pom at the picture you think I’m describing. [Child’s name], are you

ready? Pick up one pom-pom and listen. (*Pause.*) If you were in this place, you would need a big jacket. Which picture do you think that matches? (*Pause.*) Yes! The cold place! (*Pause.*) Good job! Next friend, grab a pom-pom and listen. If you were in this place, you would wear short sleeves. Which picture do you think that matches? (*Pause.*) Yes! The hot place! (*Continue with each child.*) That was a fun game!”

- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “You did such a good job thinking about the places I was telling you about. Do we live in a hot place or a cold place? (*Pause.*) That’s right! Today in our Bible Story, we’re going to hear how Jesus loves us no matter where we live!”
- *TRANSITION*
  - Move to Worship and Story by encouraging children to fan themselves when you call “hot,” and shiver when you call “cold.”

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

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**Story Focus: Jesus wants to be friends with everyone everywhere.** The woman at the well had made wrong choices and those choices left her walking to a well, all alone, in the middle of the day. Top that with the fact that she was from a town where the people were not friends with the people in the town Jesus was from. So the woman was shocked when Jesus asked her for a drink of water. But soon, everything changed, because Jesus told her that He is God’s Son. Jesus wanted to be her friend forever because Jesus wants to be EVERYONE’s friend forever.

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

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**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*
  - Repeat the verse 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, join me over here. We have a brand-new Memory Verse and motions to learn! Everyone, listen and watch me. ‘I (*point up*) have called you (*two fingers on top of two fingers*) friends,’ (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15.” (*Open hands like a book.*)
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Now let’s do it together! Are you ready? ‘I (*point up*) have called you (*two fingers on top of two fingers*) friends,’ (*hook index fingers twice*) John 15:15. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again.” (*Repeat several times.*)
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Our Memory Verse teaches us that Jesus wants to be friends with everyone, everywhere! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Let’s say that one more time, friends. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”**

## 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; journal

#### What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Place “Memory Verse Card” in Bible at John 15:15
    - 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 help you make a list in the journal of different places within your community and all over the world
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal

#### What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Now we can sit down and 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, a woman carried a bucket to a well to get water. Who was waiting at the well when she got there? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus! Jesus wanted the woman to know that He is God’s Son, and He came to be her friend forever. What did the woman do when she heard the good news about Jesus? (Pause.) You’re right! She ran and told everyone to come and see Jesus so He could be their friend forever too, because Jesus wants everyone to be His friend forever! And that means YOU! Jesus wants to be YOUR friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** And we are going to learn a new Bible verse that will help us remember that Jesus wants to call everyone His friend. In this Bible verse, Jesus says, ‘I (point up) have called you (two fingers on top of two fingers) friends,’ (hook index fingers twice) John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.)”

*Stand up with me and let's say Jesus' words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'I (point up) have called you (two fingers on top of two fingers) friends,' (hook index fingers twice) John 15:15. (Open hands like a book.) Wow! (Clap.) That was really good! I love saying Jesus' words together! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.) Today, we're going to make a list of places. It can be somewhere close by—like your grandparents' house or your favorite place to eat—or it can be somewhere far, far away in the world! It can be anywhere because Jesus wants to be friends with people everywhere! So when I say your name, tell me the name of one place 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 at all of these places! Let's use our list when we pray. 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 friends with everyone, everywhere, like the people in/at (read the list the children made). Help us remember that Jesus wants everyone on His team, no matter where they live! We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen.”*