



WEEK THREE – MARCH 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Washing Feet | John 13:3-17*

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!”

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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*
 - Gather children around your circle
 - Ask the children to join you in an open area of your room to play “Follow the Leader”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Choose one child to be the leader first
 - Encourage that child to lead the line of children around the activity area
 - Then choose a different child to be the leader and repeat the activity until each child has a turn to be the leader
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Introduce today’s Bible story

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come join me over here! Let’s play ‘Follow the Leader!’”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “[Child’s name], will you be our first leader? We’ll follow you around the room doing what you do. Ready? Let’s follow and see where we go! Great job, friends! Now it’s time for a new leader to take a turn! [Child’s name], come be our leader and we will follow. (*Repeat with each child.*) Great job! You are all wonderful leaders!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*

- “Today in our Bible Story, we’re going to hear about the most wonderful Leader of all!”
- *TRANSITION*
 - Move to Worship and Story by continuing the activity as you walk to the story area. You can lead or allow a child to lead.

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

Story Focus: Jesus is a good friend. Jesus does something unexpected to show His friends, the disciples, what it looks like to be a good friend. He didn’t show them how to defend someone in battle or how to convince a person to stop doing wrong. Instead, Jesus got a bowl of water and a cloth. Jesus got on His knees and washed His disciples’ dirty, smelly feet. Jesus did this to teach them—and us—how to be a good friend. Every time we think of others and put them first, we are being a good friend like Jesus.

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

Good Friend Like Jesus

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: an activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Butcher paper; markers

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Lay the butcher paper in the center of your space
 - Write GOOD FRIEND in large letters at the top of the page
 - Gather the children to sit around the paper in your SG space
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*

- Ask Children to list ways to be a good friend like Jesus
- As they call out answers, write them down in large block letters or draw simple pictures to illustrate each on the butcher paper
- If they need some prompting, give a few answers to help them:
 - Good friend listens
 - Good friend helps
 - Good friend shares
- Talk about each of the ways listed
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Review the Bottom Line: **Jesus wants to be my friend forever**

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come sit with me at the table. Look at this piece of paper: it says ‘good friend.’ Who do we know is a good friend? (*Pause.*) Jesus! That’s right!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “We’ve been talking about how Jesus was a good friend. Can you name some ways we can be a good friend like Jesus? Raise your hands and I’ll call on you one at a time. (*Write or draw children’s answers.*) Look at this awesome list! These are great ideas! We can be a good friend like Jesus when we (*read some of the answers from their list.*)”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “I’m so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever. **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 ways they can be a good friend
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Now let’s 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, Jesus did something with His friends’ feet. What did Jesus do? (Pause.) Yes, Jesus washed His friends’ feet. Jesus washed His friends’ feet to show them how to be a good friend. And when we put others first and love people the way Jesus loves us, we are a good friend like Jesus! Jesus is the best because Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Let’s stand up and say the Bible verse we’ve been learning. 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.) Now let’s say that 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.) I love knowing that Jesus is our friend! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and

talk to God. (Open journal.) Since Jesus wants us to be a good friend like Him, we're going to make a list of ways we can be good friends. When I say your name, tell me one way you can be a good friend and I will write it in our journal. (Suggestions: Pray for a friend; make a get-well card; let a friend go first in line; share food/toys; say kind words; give a hug; etc. Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**

- *“Wow! (Hold up journal.) These are wonderful ways to be a good friend! 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 show us how to be a good friend. Help us to love others the way Jesus loves us and do things like (read the list the children made). We want to be a good friend, like Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen.”*