



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Have you ever seen a bunch of preschoolers jumping in rain puddles? So many giggles! So much excitement! And do you know that feeling you get when you step outside and feel the sunshine on your face for the first time in a week? Pure happiness! Our preschoolers experience a wide range of emotions every day. They feel sad, happy, afraid, nervous, excited—sometimes all in the same hour!

Our preschoolers will grow up and experience a lot of different situations and emotions. We want children to know that Jesus is a friend that loves them at ALL times. A friend that will never leave them. That's why, this month, we are talking about THE best friend—the One who is ALWAYS a good friend. Rain or shine, **Jesus is always a good friend of mine!**

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
Peter Walks on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

STORY FOCUS
Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
Jesus Heals Ten Men
Luke 17:11-16

STORY FOCUS
Jesus is a good friend when I am excited.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
John 11:1-3, 20, 28-36

STORY FOCUS
Jesus is a good friend when I am sad.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Zacchaeus*
Luke 19:1-10

STORY FOCUS
Jesus is a good friend when I am happy.

**Monthly Story for Toddler Curriculum*

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
<p>"A FRIEND LOVES YOU ALL THE TIME." PROVERBS 17:17, NCV</p>	<p>WHO IS ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND?</p>	<p>JESUS IS ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND.</p>

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.



Preschool Large Group
January 2025
Week 3

STORY FOCUS:

Jesus is a good friend when I am sad.

Mary and Martha are friends with Jesus, but they are very sad because their brother, Lazarus, died. Jesus takes His friends, the disciples, with Him to visit Mary and Martha. When Mary and Martha see Jesus, they cry, and Jesus cries with them. Jesus is sad with Mary and Martha, because that's what good friends do, and Jesus is always a good friend.

MEMORY VERSE

“A friend loves you all the time.”
Proverbs 17:17

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BIBLE TRUTH

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
John 11:1-3, 20, 28-36

Jesus is a good friend when I am sad.

NOTES

- All **yellow highlighted text** are cues for audio and visual slides.
- You will do rules, worship, and the Bible verse from the stage, and the Bible story will be on video.

Big Group Game Materials:

-None needed

Preschool Teaching Outline: Week 3

1. Opener: Welcome kids, get them excited
2. Big Group Game: Drama game—Rain Storm
3. Worship
4. Intro: Rain or Shine
5. Bible Lesson Video: **Mary, Martha and Lazarus**
6. Application
 - a. Bottom line: **Jesus is always a good friend.**
 - b. Memory verse: **“A friend loves you all the time.” Proverbs 17:17**
7. Prayer
8. Small Groups



Preschool Large Group
January 2025
Week 3

OPENER

(Welcome kids.)

Show Slide: Preschool Countdown

Friends! I'm SO excited to see you today! My name is (your name), and it's my favorite time of the week! I love to sing and worship our amazing God with you! God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever! What a good, good friend! When I ask, **"Who is always a good friend?"** I want you to say, **"Jesus is always a good friend!"**

(Ask "Who is always a good friend?")

(Kids and leaders respond: "Jesus is always a good friend!")

Yes! Jesus is always a good friend!

BIG GROUP GAME

Jesus is always a good friend and loves us no matter what—Rain or Shine!

I like to play in the rain! Raise your hand if you like to play in the rain too. Cool! Let's play a rain game. Let's use our hands to see if we can create rainstorm sounds. Do what I do. Shhhhh....we have to be very quiet to start!

Activity 1: Rub your hands together. (This is the wind)

Activity 2: Tap one finger on the palm of your hand. (These are the first raindrops.)

Activity 3: Tap all 4 fingers. (Many more rain drops.)

Activity 4: Full out clapping. (It's getting more intense!)

Activity 5: Slap on the floor, or your thighs. (Thunder enters!)

After a big crescendo, repeat all the activities in reverse order as the storm dies down, until you're rubbing hands together. Then quietly stop, and there should be silence.

Wow, that sounded just like a rainstorm! Great job everyone!

WORSHIP

Before we hear our Bible story, everyone join in and let's worship! Stand up, and let's do our best singing and dancing, and let God know how much we love Him!

Show Worship: Jesus is My Best Friend

Show Worship: I Get Down

Great job, friends! Thanks for worshipping with me today! Now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (**Wiggle hands.**) so we can hear (**Cup hands behind ears.**) all about our Bible story!

INTRO

Show Series Graphic: Rain or Shine

(Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.)

This true story from the Bible is about two of Jesus' friends who were very sad. Their names were Mary and Martha. Let's visit Ollie and our friends to hear how Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha when they were sad.

BIBLE TRUTH

Show Video: Video_WK3

APPLICATION

Show Series Graphic: Rain or Shine

Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha, and Jesus cried too. Jesus was sad with Mary and Martha because that's what good friends do, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend.**

(Ask "Who is always a good friend?")

(Kids and leaders respond: "Jesus is always a good friend!")

Bible Verse

Show Verse: Proverbs 17:17

(Open Bible.) The Bible teaches us in Proverbs 17:17 that **“A friend loves you all the time.”**

Let’s learn our Memory Verse together. Everyone stand up! Are you ready? Watch me say it and do the motions, and then you can do it with me!

“A friend (Hook index fingers twice.)

Loves you (Cross arms over chest.)

All the time.” (Tap wrist.)

Proverbs 17:17 (Open hands like a book.)

(Practice verse a couple of times using whisper voices, silly voices, loud voices, slow, fast, etc.)

Great job, everybody! Now, let’s sit, bow our heads, and close our eyes so we can pray.

(Have kids sit back down, get quiet, fold hands, and close their eyes.)

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for reminding us today that Jesus is always a good friend! Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha when they were sad, and Jesus is a good friend to us when we’re sad too! We’re so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Thank You for giving us Jesus. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

Show Graphic: Small Group

And now it’s time for more Bible fun. There’s more to learn. Use our walking feet and find your small group.