



## 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 4

### STORY FOCUS:

**Jesus is a good friend when I am happy.**

Zacchaeus is a tax collector which means his job is to take money from people. One day, Zacchaeus hears that Jesus is coming to the town where he lives. Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus so badly that he climbs a tree to get a better view. When Jesus sees Zacchaeus, Jesus tells him to come down and that He is going to Zacchaeus' house. Wow! Zacchaeus is so happy that Jesus is his friend that Zacchaeus wants to love people the way Jesus loves him. So, Zacchaeus gives back all the money he had taken from the people! Jesus is a good friend to Zacchaeus when he was a tax collector and when he was a happy to love people like Jesus does, because Jesus is always a good friend!

### MEMORY VERSE

“A friend loves you all the time.”

Proverbs 17:17

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's son.

### BIBLE TRUTH

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus is a good friend when I am happy.

## 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.

## Teaching Outline: Week 4

1. Opener: Welcome kids, get them excited
2. Big Group Game: **Let's Climb!**
3. Worship
4. Intro: **Rain or Shine**
5. Bible Lesson Video: **Zacchaeus**
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 4**

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**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!

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**BIG GROUP GAME**

Can I tell you something? I LOVE to play outside. One of my favorite things to do outside is climb trees! Raise your hand if you have ever tried to climb a tree. (Pause for responses.) So fun! Let's do something fun. Let's pretend to climb a tree right now. Here's one!

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**Show Graphic: Tree**

Everyone stand up. We'll start at the bottom like this.

(Crouch down and then reach up high and pretend to climb up a tree.)

Let's climb! Reach up high! Keep climbing! Great job everyone!

Wow! We are up so high. Look at all the things we can see up here!

Look through hands like binoculars. List things you might see from up high is a tree.)

Ok! Let's climb back down. Be careful! (Pretend to climb back down and sit down.)

Great climbing everyone! The man in our Bible story today also sees something exciting when he climbs up a tree!

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## WORSHIP

But before we hear our 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: I Get Down**

**Show Worship: Jesus is My Best Friend**

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!

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## INTRO

**Show Series Graphic: Rain or Shine**

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

Our true story from the Bible begins with a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus. Let's visit our friends at the Clubhouse to find out what Zacchaeus did!

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## BIBLE TRUTH

**Show Video: Video\_WK4**

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## APPLICATION

**Show Series Graphic: Rain or Shine**

Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see Jesus, and Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house! That made Zacchaeus SO happy!

Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will always be a good friend to you and me too! Jesus is a good friend when we're afraid. Jesus is a good friend when we're excited. Jesus is a good friend when we're sad. And Jesus is a good friend when we're happy! **[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!”)

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## 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, 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.)

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## PRAYER

Dear God, we love You. Thank You for Jesus, our friend forever! We know that Jesus loves us and is our friend always! He was a friend to Zacchaeus, and He is a friend to us too. Help us to remember this big truth—that **[Bottom Line] Jesus is ALWAYS a good friend.** In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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## SMALL GROUP TIME

### Show Graphic: Small Group

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