



WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2025 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Follow Me | Matthew 4:18-22*

Key Question: *Who does Jesus love?*

Bottom Line: *Jesus loves everyone*

Memory Verse: *“Love each other in the same way I have loved you.”- John 15:12*

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

Series Overview: Have you ever been on a bus filled with people? There are grandparents, kids, teenagers, people going to the store, people going to work, people going to school. They may not know each other, but do you know what they all have in common? Jesus loves every one of them. Every. Single. One! Think about it this way, if Jesus was driving a bus, everyone would be invited to get on. EVERYONE! This month, you get to tell preschoolers that Jesus loves them. Jesus loves their family. Jesus loves their friends. Jesus loves everyone! And Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! So, crank up that bus! Get those wheels turning! There is a great big world that needs to hear that Jesus loves everyone!

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | 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: Heart plates

What You Do:

- Gather children in an open area.
- Give each child a paper plate.
- Have them place the paper plate on the ground and place one foot on it.
- Ask them to move the plate by sliding that foot back and forth.
- Explain to them they will use their plate as a skateboard to go all kinds of places together.
- Demonstrate how to “skate” around the room by pushing with one foot while the other slides with the plate.
- Once they feel confident in the movement, pretend to travel to different locations in the room.
 - Repeat as desired.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Have you ever been skating or skateboarding? *(Pause.)* Skating and skateboarding are a lot of fun! Today, we’re going to use these neat plates *(hold up the heart plates)* to skate with!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Alright, take your paper plate and put it on the ground, friends. *(Pause.)* Place one of your feet on your plate. Now, slide it back and forth like this. *(Demonstrate)* Let’s try using our plate as a skateboard. Push with this foot *(point to your foot that is not on the plate)* and let this foot slide on the plate like it is a skateboard. *(Pause.)* I think

we're ready to move around the room now. Let's skate to the beach. Follow me! *(Pause.)* Look, there are some people fishing. Let's say, 'hello' to the fishermen! *(With children.)* Hello, fishermen! Let's skate over there to the park! Follow me! *(Pause.)* Great job! Now, let's skate to the grocery store over there! Follow me! *(Pause.)* You are great skaters! Where should we go now? *(Pause.)* Great! Let's go! *(Repeat as desired.)* That was fun skating with you today!"

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
 - "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about some of the first people who followed Jesus—and they were fishermen!"

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 – LARGE GROUP

Story Focus: Jesus says, "Follow me." Jesus chooses the first four of His twelve disciples. Jesus didn't go to the synagogue filled with religious leaders to find them, and He didn't go to the powerful political leaders to find them. Jesus went to a fishing village and tells four fishermen named Peter, Andrew, James, and John: "Follow Me." And they do! Why four fishermen? Because Jesus loves everyone.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 – SMALL GROUP

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:

- Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children

- Repeat the verse with the motions and invite the children to do it with you.
- Repeat several times.
- Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. ‘Love (*cross arms over chest*) each other in the same way (*point to others*) I have (*point up*) loved you,’ (*cross arms over chest*) John 15:12.” (*Open hands like a book.*)
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Now, let’s learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: ‘Love.’ (*Cross arms over chest.*) Cross both arms over your chest like you’re giving yourself a hug (*cross arms over chest*) and say, ‘Love.’ (*With children.*) ‘Love.’ (*Cross arms over chest.*) Great job!
 - “The next part of our verse says: ‘Each other in the same way.’ (*Point to others.*) Pointer finger up and point to all your friends like this, (*point to others*) and say: ‘Each other in the same way.’ (*With children.*) ‘Each other in the same way.’ (*Point to others.*) Wonderful! Now let’s put that together. ‘Love (*cross arms over chest*) each other in the same way.’ (*Point to others.*) Great job!
 - “The next part says: ‘I have.’ (*Point up*) Pointer finger up, like this (*point up*) and say: ‘I have.’ (*With children.*) ‘I have.’ (*Point up.*) Can we do all three together? ‘Love (*cross arms over chest*) each other in the same way (*point to others*) I have.’ (*Point up.*) Nice job!
 - “The next part says: ‘Loved you.’ (*Cross arms over chest.*) Cross both arms over your chest like you’re giving yourself a hug (*cross arms over chest*) and say, ‘Loved you.’ (*With children.*) ‘Loved you.’ Now let’s put it all together. (*With children.*) ‘Love (*cross arms over chest*) each other in the same way (*point to others*) I have (*point up*) loved you.’ (*Cross arms over chest.*) Super-duper!
 - “Now the last part is: ‘John 15:12.’ (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you’re opening

a book (*open hands like a book*) and say: ‘John 15:12.’ (*With children.*) John 15:12. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job! I think we’re ready to do it all together! Ready, friends? ‘Love (*cross arms over chest*) each other in the same way (*point to others*) I have (*point up*) loved you.’ (*cross arms over chest*) John 15:12. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again!” (*Repeat several times.*)

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
 - “Jesus said those words, and we can read them in the Bible. The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves everyone and that Jesus wants us to love others the way He loves us. **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.** Let’s say that one more time, friends! **Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.**”

It’s a Match

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “It’s a Match Jesus” and “It’s a Match Fishermen” Activity

Pages; cardstock; hole punch; yarn; and scissors

What You Do:

- Put on the Jesus lanyard and hold one set of the fishermen cutouts.
- Each child will wear one of the fishermen lanyards.
 - (There will be duplicates if you have more than four children.)
- Pretend to be Jesus as you hold up each of the fishermen pictures.
- When you hold up a picture, say: “(Peter, Andrew, James, or John), follow me.”
 - Encourage children with pictures that match the one you are holding up to come stand with you.
 - Continue until all the “fishermen” are standing with you.
 - Then lead the children to follow you around the room.

- Assist the children in changing lanyards and continue playing as long as time and interest allow.
- Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Hey, everyone! Come over here with me. We’re going to play a matching game!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “First, everyone needs a lanyard. *(Put on the Jesus lanyard and give out a fisherman lanyard to every child.)* Great! Now we’re ready to play! I’m going to pretend to be Jesus, from our Bible Story *(point to the Jesus lanyard you’re wearing)* and you get to be the fishermen from our Bible Story! *(Point to the children’s lanyards.)* When I hold up a picture of one of the fishermen from our story, I want you to look at your picture and see if it matches. If it’s a match, you will come stand with me. Ready? Let’s play!
 - *(Hold up Peter.)* “Peter, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are Peter, come stand with me. *(Pause.)* Hello, Peter! *(Hold up Andrew.)* Andrew, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are Andrew, come stand with me. *(Pause.)* Hello, Andrew! *(Hold up James.)* James, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are James, come stand with me. *(Pause.)* Hello, James! *(Hold up John.)* John, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are John, come stand with me. *(Pause.)* Hello, John! Okay Peter, Andrew, James, and John, follow me! *(Lead the children around the room.)* Good job! Sit down and we will play again. Only this time, you get to be a different fisherman! *(Repeat as desired.)* That was a fun matching game!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen. Jesus told them to follow Him because Jesus loved them. **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”

Draw Me On The Bus

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Poster board or butcher paper, permanent marker, sticky notes, and washable markers or crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a sticky note and ask them to draw a picture of themselves on the sticky note.
- Once they have finished, add their picture to the bus windows so it looks like they are riding the bus.
- Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come find a spot at the table.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “What do you see on the paper? *(Pause.)* Yes, a bus! But there aren’t any passengers on the bus, so let’s fix that! *(Pass out a sticky note to each child.)* I want you to draw a picture of yourself on this sticky note. *(Pause.)* Great! Now let’s add you to the bus! Wow! Look at all the people on the bus. I see . . . *(point to each sticky note as you name each child)*! Everyone is on the bus!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “The words on our bus say **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone**. It’s true! **Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”