



WEEK TWO – FEBRUARY 2025 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Matthew | Matthew 9:9-10*

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: Brown butcher paper; yellow circle sticky notes; scissors; painters tape

What You Do:

- Place the circle sticky notes all around the room—on tables, chairs, walls, toys, etc.
- Encourage children to collect a “coin” (yellow circle sticky note) and place it on the bag shape.
- Repeat until all the coins are on the bag shape.
- Reset and repeat as desired.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Look, friends! I have this big empty bag on the wall, and I need to fill it up with gold coins. Can you help me?”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “When I count to three, I want everyone to go look for one (*hold up one finger*) coin. Once you find it, bring it over and add it to the bag. One . . . two . . . three—go collect! (*Pause.*) Great job! Did everyone put a coin in the bag? (*Pause.*) Super! But wait! I see more coins, and our bag has more room! One . . . two . . . three—go collect! (*Repeat as desired.*) Wow! Look how full our bag is now! Thank you for helping me collect all those coins!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Today we’re going to hear a story about a man whose job was to collect money from people.”

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

Story Focus: Jesus loves everyone. Matthew is a tax collector. That means his job is to collect money from people, but he takes more money than he should. That makes people very mad! But Jesus loves Matthew and wants to be his friend so He tells Matthew: “Follow Me!” And Matthew follows Jesus! Jesus has dinner at Matthew’s house and a lot of people show up. Some people ask, “Why would Jesus want to be friends with someone who makes bad choices?” Because Jesus loves everyone.

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

BIG Heart Verse

[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: Painter’s Tape

What You Do:

- Create a large heart on the floor with tape.
- Gather the children together around the heart.
- Do the motions as you say the Memory Verse together.
- Say the Memory Verse including each child’s name as you say it, and invite them to jump into the heart and stand with you.
- When everyone is in the heart, say the verse with the motions as a group.
- Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*

- “Friends, come stand with me. Can you tell me what shape this is on our floor? *(Pause.)* Yes, it’s a heart, and hearts remind us of love! I want everyone to stand on the tape and face me. We’re going to use this great, big heart to say our verse. Let’s do the motions as we say the verse together. ‘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.)* Fantastic!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Now, I’m going to say the Memory Verse and I’m going to call each friend’s name, so you need to have your listening ears on. When I say your name, jump into the heart and stand with me until we get EVERYONE in the heart. Here we go! [Child’s name], jump into the heart. *(Pause.)* ‘Love everyone the same way I have loved you.’ John 15:12. *(Continue with each child.)* Yay! We’re all inside the heart!! Hooray! One more time with the motions. ‘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.)* Great job, friends.”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “The Bible teaches us to love each other the way Jesus loves us. We can love our friends, our family, our neighbors—EVERYONE—just like Jesus because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”

Jesus Loves Brainstorm

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Butcher paper, washable markers, heart stamps, washable ink pads in a variety of colors, and baby wipes

What You Do:

- Lay the butcher paper on the table.
- Draw an outline of a large heart on the butcher paper.

- Along the top of the page, write: “JESUS LOVES . . .”
- Read the title at the top of the page “JESUS LOVES . . .” to the children.
- Encourage them to take turns naming people Jesus loves as they add a heart by pressing the stamp onto the ink pad and then onto the heart outline.
- Encourage the children to continue to name people Jesus loves and adding hearts to the paper.
 - Clean hands as needed.
- Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come find a spot at the table.”
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- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Here at the top of the page it says, ‘JESUS LOVES . . .’ Do you see this big heart? Hearts make us think of . . . love! That’s right! Let’s take turns naming people Jesus loves! When I call on you, name someone Jesus loves, then press this stamp onto the ink pad like this! Then, press the stamp inside the heart like this. (*Demonstrate.*) [Child’s name], tell me someone Jesus loves. (*Pause.*) Fantastic! Stamp a heart inside this big heart. (*Pause.*) [Child’s name], tell me someone Jesus loves. (*Continue with each child, and repeat as desired.*) Look at all these hearts inside this big heart! These hearts are all the people you named. Jesus loves every single one of them and more because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Jesus loved Matthew and He loves you too! Tell me: **Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! One more time! Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”