



WEEK ONE – JANUARY 2025 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Peter Walks On Water* | Matthew 14:22-33

Key Question: *Who is always a good friend?*

Bottom Line: *Jesus is always a good friend.*

Memory Verse: *“A friend loves you all the time.” Proverbs 17:17, NCV*

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

Series 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!

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: Stretchy Band

What You Do:

- Ask children to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Encourage each child to grab hold of the stretchy band, and move their arms in a circle as if they are rowing a boat. Sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” together.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Hello, hello friends! It’s wonderful to see you today! Come join me over here, and let’s sit in a circle together.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “I have this really cool band, and it’s super-stretchy! We’re all going to hold the band. *(Make sure everyone has a hold of the band. Reposition your circle closer or farther back as needed.)* Now, follow me. Stretch the band out in front of you like this, *(demonstrate)* then bring it back to your lap like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Let’s try it together. Out in front of you, back to your lap. Again. Out in front of you, back to your lap. *(Repeat a few times.)* Great! You’ve got it! This reminds me of rowing a boat! Let’s sing the ‘Row, Row, Row Your Boat’ song while we row. Ready?
 - Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream!

- *(Repeat as desired.)*
- “That was fun! Everyone, stand up while holding the band. Let’s squish in together to make the band really small. *(Pause.)* Great job, friends! You can let go of the band.”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Today in our story, we’re going to hear about some of Jesus’ friends, the disciples. They were out in a boat, rowing or paddling like we were. I wonder if they sang any songs while they rowed.”

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

Story Focus: Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid. Jesus’ friends, the disciples, are on a boat in the water, and they see something coming toward them. They are all afraid until Jesus says, “Don’t be afraid.” Peter, being the bold one of the bunch, hops out of the boat and begins walking on the water toward Jesus. But, when Peter hears the wind blowing and sees the waves getting bigger, he feels afraid and begins to sink! Jesus holds His hand out and pulls Peter up, helping Peter back in the boat. Jesus is a good friend to Peter when Peter is afraid, because Jesus is always a good friend.

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! Let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this: ‘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.*)”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Now, let’s learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: ‘A friend.’ (*Hook index fingers twice.*) Pointer fingers up like this. (*Point both pointer fingers up in the air in front of you.*) Now hook your two fingers together like this, (*cross your fingers right over left, then bend both to create a hook*) then cross them the other way. (*Cross your fingers left over right, then bend both to create a hook.*) Great, let’s do that together. Pointer fingers up, hook your two fingers together, then cross them the other way. Say, ‘A friend,’ with me. (*With children*) ‘A friend.’ (*Hook index fingers twice.*)
 - “The next part of our verse says: ‘Loves you.’ (*Cross arms over chest.*) Cross both arms over your chest like you’re giving yourself a hug (*cross arms over chest*) and say: ‘Loves you.’ (*With children.*) ‘Loves you.’ (*Cross arms over chest.*) Wonderful! Now let’s put that together. ‘A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you.’ (*Cross arms over chest.*) Great job!
 - “The next part says: ‘All the time.’ Pointer finger up, and tap the top of your other arm at the wrist, like you’re wearing a watch (*tap wrist*) and say: ‘All the time.’ (*With children.*) ‘All the time.’ (*Tap wrist.*) Can we do all three together? ‘A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time.’ (*Tap wrist.*)
 - “Now the last part is: ‘Proverbs 17:17.’ (*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: ‘Proverbs 17:17.’ (*With children.*) ‘Proverbs 17:17.’ (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!

- “I think we’re ready to do it all together! Ready, friends? ‘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.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again!” (*Repeat several times.*)
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and loves us all the time—when we are afraid, or excited, sad, or happy. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend.** Let’s say that one more time, friends! **Who is always a good friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend.**”

How I Feel

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: “How I Feel Chart” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Give each child an Activity Page.
- Point to each of the four zones and identify each emotion.
- Ask the children to put their finger on their chart to show how they’re feeling today.
- Remind the children that Jesus is a good friend no matter how we’re feeling!
- Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come find a spot at the table.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*

- “We have all kinds of emotions. Sometimes, we’re happy. (*Point to the green section of the chart.*) Sometimes, we’re sad. (*Point to the blue section.*) Sometimes, we’re excited. (*Point to the red section.*) And sometimes we’re afraid. (*Point to the yellow section.*) Look at the paper on the table. How are you feeling today? Point to the section that best describes how you’re feeling today. (*Pause as children respond.*) Happy or sad or excited or afraid, **[Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend.** I’m so glad that Jesus is a GOOD friend who loves us no matter how we’re feeling!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “You can take these charts home to help you think about how you’re feeling! I want you to remember that no matter how you’re feeling, Jesus is a GOOD friend! He loves you always. **Who is always a good friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend!**”