

WEEK TWO – FEBRUARY 2025 – TODDLERS

Bible Story: The Twelve Disciples | Matt. 4:18-22, 9:9-10, 10:2-4; John 1:43-49

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!

LARGE GROUP

Story Time

Gather children at the tables to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

What You Need: Preschool Bible and "Story Pictures" Activity Pages copied on cardstock

What You Say:

"Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (hold up the Bible) begins with the disciples. (Hold up the picture of the disciples with Jesus folded behind.) They were friends of Jesus. (Unfold the paper to show Jesus.)

"Peter and Andrew were friends with Jesus. (Hold up the picture of Peter and Andrew.) They were brothers and fishermen. James and John were friends with Jesus too. (Hold up the picture of James and John.) They were brothers and fishermen too! Jesus had another friend named James. (Hold up the picture of the other James.) Matthew was a friend of Jesus. (Hold up the picture of Matthew.) He was a tax collector. Phillip and Nathanael were friends with Jesus. (Hold up the picture of Philip and Nathanael.) And Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon were friends with Jesus. (Hold up the picture of Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon.) The disciples were from different places. They had different families and different jobs. Jesus loved every one of them (hold up the picture of the heart) because [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone."

SMALL GROUP

Craft Time

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

What You Need: "Jesus Loves Car Tag" Activity Page, cardstock, washable ink pads in a variety of colors, yarn, hole punch, glue sticks, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

What You Do:

- Thread a piece of yarn through and knot.
- Write each child's name on their paper.
- Encourage children to fill the bus with fingerprints in different colors.
- Clean hands as needed.

What You Say:

"Look at this cool bus! Let's decorate it with our fingerprints. (Help children press their fingertips on the ink pad, then on their paper.) Great job! Now you can add different color fingerprints all over! (Pause.) Super-duper! You can hang your bus in your car, and while you're riding here and there, you can look for all the people Jesus loves because [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone."