



WEEK THREE – 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, butcher paper, and washable markers

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. (*Draw twelve stick people spaced out.*) They were friends of Jesus. (*Draw stick figure Jesus next to the twelve stick people.*)

“Peter and Andrew were friends with Jesus. (*Draw some fish next to Peter and Andrew.*) They were brothers and fishermen. James and John were friends with Jesus too. (*Draw some fish next to James and John.*) They were brothers and fishermen too! Jesus had another friend named James. (*Draw a colored shirt on James.*) Matthew was a friend of Jesus. (*Draw Matthew with a bag of money.*) Matthew was a tax collector. Phillip and Nathanael were friends with Jesus. (*Draw different colored shirts on Philip and Nathanael.*) And Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon were friends with Jesus. (*Draw different colored shirts on Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon.*) The disciples were from different places. They had different families and different jobs. Jesus loved every one of them (draw a heart around all the disciples) 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: “I Can Follow Jesus” Activity Page, cardstock, washable ink pads, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

What You Do:

- Write each child's name on their paper.
- Encourage children to fill in the ovals leading to Jesus with their fingerprints.
- Clean hands as needed.

What You Say:

*“Look, there's a path on your paper leading to Jesus. Let's fill the path with your sweet fingerprints. Hold up one finger and dip it on the ink pad. Then, press it on your paper in one of the ovals. (Pause.) Keep going! Press your finger on the ink pad again as you need to until you fill in the whole path. Great job! [Child's name], you can follow Jesus because Jesus loves you. **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.**”*