



WEEK FOUR – 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, “Jesus and the Disciples” Activity Page, cardstock, blocks or craft rolls, tape, and a foam heart cutout

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. (*Start lining up the disciples taped to blocks or craft rolls, or the Little People® figures.*) They were Jesus’ friends. (*Place the “Jesus” figure at the front of the line.*)

“Peter and Andrew were friends with Jesus. (*Pick up the first and second person after the “Jesus” figure.*) They were brothers and fishermen. James and John were friends with Jesus too. (*Pick up the third and fourth person after the “Jesus” figure.*) They were brothers and fishermen too! Jesus had another friend named James. (*Pick up the fifth person after the “Jesus” figure.*) Matthew was a friend of Jesus. (*Pick up the sixth person after the “Jesus” figure.*) Matthew was a tax collector. Phillip and Nathanael were friends with Jesus. (*Pick up the seventh and eighth person after the “Jesus” figure.*) And Thomas, (*pick up the ninth person*) Judas, (*pick up the tenth person*) Thaddeus, (*pick up the eleventh person*) and Simon were friends with Jesus. (*Pick up the last person.*) The disciples were from different places. They had different families and different jobs. Jesus loved every one of them (*put the heart with 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: “Bus Driver Hat” Activity Page, cardstock, sentence strips, dot markers, glue sticks, scissors, stapler, clear tape, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

What You Do:

- Write each child's name on their sentence strip.
- Encourage children to decorate their bus driver hat and glue it onto a sentence strip.
- Measure sentence strips around each child's head and staple the ends together with the bend closure facing out.
- Place a piece of tape over the staple closure(s).
 - Clean hands as needed

What You Say:

We're going to make super-fun bus driver hats today! Use the markers to decorate your hat. (Pause.) Great job! Let's glue it to your sentence strip. (Help children rub glue on the back of their hat and position it in the middle of their strip.) Now I'll measure it around your head and secure the ends. (Measure sentence strips around each child's head and staple the ends together with the bend closure facing out. Tape over the staples.) Now you have your very own bus driver hat to wear home today and remember that Jesus loves you, your family, and your friends . . .
[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.