



WEEK ONE – JULY 2025 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Jesus Forgives Peter* | *Matt. 26:31-35, 69-75; John 21:15-17*

Key Question: *Who can do what Jesus says?*

Bottom Line: *I can do what Jesus says*

Memory Verse: *“Be kind and loving to each other.” – Ephesians 4:32, NCV*

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

Series Overview: This month, we will continue to live it out and discover how to love like Jesus with our preschoolers. Jesus showed us how to love in many ways as He helped people, was kind to them, forgave them, and was patient and gentle toward them. Jesus was consistently showing us what love looks like. There is another way we can learn how to love like Jesus and that is by doing what Jesus says. Jesus gave us very clear instructions on what to do, and then Jesus gave us the gift of His Holy Spirit to guide us and help us do it. That is why we want our preschoolers to learn that I can do what Jesus says . . . because they can! Preschoolers can do what Jesus says and show his love to everyone everywhere!

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Small whiteboards, dry-erase markers, paper towels

What You Do:

- Give each child a whiteboard, a dry-erase marker, and a paper towel.
- Ask children to draw a big circle on their whiteboard.
 - Then, ask children to draw the face inside the circle that matches the emotion that you call out.
- Let children show the emotion they drew.
 - Then, ask them to wipe that emotion away and listen for the next one.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Today you each have a whiteboard and a special marker. We’ll draw different emotions on the board.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Draw a big circle on your board. *(Pause.)* That’s going to be your face! Inside the circle, draw a scared face. *(Pause.)* Great job! Hold up your boards so that we can all see them. *(Pause.)* Nice work! Use your towel to wipe that scared face away! *(Pause.)* Yay! No more scared faces. The next emotion that we can draw is sad. Can you draw a sad face? *(Pause.)* Hold up your boards so that we can see! Let’s wipe away those sad faces! *(Continue by asking children to draw angry, and surprised faces.)* Are you ready for our last emotion? Everyone, draw a happy face. *(Pause.)* Hold up your boards! *(Pause.)* I love to see all these happy faces!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*

- “We’re going to hear about a lot of emotions in our Bible Story today. Let’s go hear all about it!”

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

Story Focus: Forgive one another

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, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32.” (*Open hands like a book.*)
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*

- “Now, let’s learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: ‘Be kind and loving.’ (*Cross hands over chest.*) Give yourself a hug, (*hug yourself*) and say: ‘Be kind and loving.’ (*Repeat with children.*) Great job!
- “The next part of our verse says: ‘To each other.’ (*Spread arms out.*) Put both arms out to your side like this (*stretch arms out to your side*) and say: ‘To each other.’ (*Repeat with children.*) Wonderful! Now let’s put that together. ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Great job!
- “Now the last part is: ‘Ephesians 4:32.’ (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you, open them like you’re opening a book, (*open hands like a book*) and say: ‘Ephesians 4:32’ (*Repeat with children.*) Great job! I think we’re ready to do it all together! Ready, friends? ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again!” (*Repeat several times.*)
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves everyone, and we can too because we can do what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.**”

Peter’s Story

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: “Peter’s Story Large,” “Peter’s Story Small,” and “Peter’s Story Fun at Home” Activity Pages; cardstock; scissors; sandwich-size resealable bags; and permanent marker

What You Do:

- Give each child a set of small story pictures, and ask them to put the story pictures in order, following the large set of story pictures.

- Once the activity is complete, help children place the cards in their bag along with a Fun at Home Note.
- Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Hey, friends! Come sit with me! I have a game for us to play today.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “I have a set of story cards for each of you. *(Give each child a set of cards.)* My large story pictures *(hold up the large pictures)* match the pictures on your cards. When I hold up one of my story pictures, I want you to look in your cards and find the one that matches. When you find the matching card, lay it down in front of you. Ready?
 - *(Hold up the number one picture—Peter and Jesus.)* This is a picture of Peter and Jesus. Find your matching card, and lay it down in front of you. *(Pause.)* Peter loved and followed Jesus. They were good friends.
 - “One night, Jesus was taken away by some angry soldiers. Jesus’ friends ran away because they were afraid, but Peter and one other disciple followed to see what would happen. Today, we’ll talk about what happened to Peter.
 - *(Hold up the number two picture—Peter and a girl talking.)* This is a picture of a girl asking Peter if he was friends with Jesus. Peter said no because he was afraid. Find your matching card, and lay it down next to your first card.
 - *(Hold up the number three picture—Peter and another girl talking.)* This is a picture of when another person asked Peter if he was friends with Jesus, and again Peter said no. Find your matching card, and lay it next to your second card.
 - *(Hold up the number four picture—Peter and group talking.)* This is a picture of when a group of people asked Peter if he was friends with Jesus, and Peter said no again. Find your matching card, and lay it down next to your third card. *(Pause.)* Peter felt so badly that he went

away and cried. Later, after Jesus died and came back, Jesus talked with Peter. Jesus forgave Peter and gave him an important job to do.

- *(Hold up the number five picture—Peter preaching to the crowd.)*
This is a picture of when Peter went and told everyone that Jesus loved them. Find your matching card, and lay it next to your fourth card. *(Pause.)* Jesus told Peter to go and tell others that Jesus loves them and to help them follow Jesus. And Peter did what Jesus said! Now you have the whole story in front of you!
- “Great job sequencing the story! Let’s put your cards in your bag with this note and you can play at home.”
- ***AFTER THE ACTIVITY***
 - “I’m so glad we got to hear Peter’s story. Peter helped people follow Jesus, just like Jesus told him to do. Now we can follow Jesus and do what Jesus tells us to do! And when we don’t do what Jesus says, Jesus will forgive us and help us try again, because Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever. Peter did what Jesus says, and we can too. ***[Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says,*** and you can do what Jesus says! ***Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!***”