



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend  
when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.


### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*

Play in the Rain

When I'm Sad 

Emotion Reflections

### LARGE GROUP

**20**  
MIN

#### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"My Friend Forever" and "Never Better"

Bible Story

Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*

Sing the Memory Verse

Sticker Story

Emotion Overload

What's the Weather?

Always a Good Friend

Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



#### 1. PLAY IN THE RAIN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Umbrella and pom-poms

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Scatter pom-poms on the floor in an open area of your room.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Open the umbrella and place it upside down on the floor in the middle of your area. Ask the children to collect as many pom-poms as they can and throw them into the umbrella. Once all the pom-poms have been collected and thrown into the umbrella, encourage the children to stand closely around the leader. Then, lift the umbrella over everyone's head and let the pom-poms fall out. Repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come stand over here with me. I have a super-fun activity for us today!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "See all the pom-poms on the floor? Let's collect them and throw them into this umbrella. (*Open the umbrella and place the umbrella on the floor upside down.*) Ready? Go! (*Pause.*) Keep going until all the pom-poms are collected and thrown into the umbrella. (*Pause.*) Okay, friends, come in close. (*Carefully lift the umbrella above everyone.*) Whoa! It's raining! Let's do it again! (*Repeat as desired.*) That was so much fun playing in the rain with you!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Sometimes rain can make us sad—like when we it rains so hard we can't go to the playground. In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear how Jesus is a good friend even when we're sad."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by singing "Rain, Rain, Go Away" together.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



### 2. WHEN I'M SAD\*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, shaving cream, baking sheets, and baby wipes

*\*Note: Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.*

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list shaving cream, and post at the door. Set the baking sheets on the table, one for every two children. Spray a small mound of shaving cream on each end of the baking sheet.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to spread out the shaving cream, then draw a happy face in it. Ask them to draw a heart around the happy face. Smooth out the shaving cream and ask children to draw a new emotion. Continue with the following emotions: afraid, excited, sad. Make sure you end on sad. Clean hands.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come find a spot at the table. Make sure you're sitting with another friend in front of a baking sheet with some shaving cream."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's flatten and spread out the shaving cream with one hand. (Pause.) Can you draw a happy face in the shaving cream? (Pause.) Good job. Draw a heart around the happy face. (Pause.) Okay smooth out the shaving cream. Now draw an afraid face. (Pause.) Draw a heart around that face. (Pause.) Smooth out the shaving cream, and draw an excited face. (Pause.) Nice, now draw a heart around the face. (Pause.) Smooth out the shaving cream one more time, and draw a sad face. (Pause.) Great job! Let's clean our hands. Sometimes we feel all these different emotions."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we'll hear about some sisters who were very sad and how Jesus was a good friend to them. Let's go hear all about it!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to be SOOO SAD as you walk. (Think of walking like Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh.)



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**3-5** YEAR  
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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning



### 3. EMOTION REFLECTIONS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Emotion Reflections" Activity Page, cardstock, preschool-safe floor mirror, and painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Emotion Reflections" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Tape "Emotion Reflections" picture to the mirror.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Line children up in front of the mirror. Then, encourage the children to make different emotions in the mirror one at a time.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, can you show me your happy face? Now, your sad face. What about an angry face? Now show me your silly face! (Pause.) Those were great faces!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Come line up over here with me. There's a picture of Jesus over there on the mirror. (Pause.) Let's go to the mirror one at a time and show Jesus our different faces. [Child's name], walk up to the mirror and make your best happy face. (Pause.) Great job! [Child's name], your turn! (Continue with each child doing different emotions.) That was fun showing Jesus all our faces."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In today's true story from the Bible, we're going to hear about a time when Jesus was a good friend to His friends who were sad. Let's go hear about it."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by chanting: "Jesus is a GOOD friend!"

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



### 1. SING THE MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather in your activity area, and say the Memory Verse with the motions together.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead children to sing the Memory Verse to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come gather here with me! We're learning a great Memory Verse this month! Let's do the motions as we say it together. '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.*) Great job!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, let's sing our Memory Verse together. I'll sing it through one time, then we can sing it together.

*(Sing to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down.")*

"A friend loves at all times.

"At all times.

"At all times.

"A friend loves at all times.

"Proverbs 17:17.

"Now let's sing it together! (*Repeat the song several times.*) That was fantastic, friends!"

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and loves us all the time—when we're afraid, or excited, sad, or happy.

**Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.** Let's say that one more time, friends! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend."**



**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME**

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES**

**MADE TO CREATE**  
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft



**2. STICKER STORY**

**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Sticker Story Page," "Disciples Sticker," "Jesus Sticker," and "Mary and Martha Sticker" Activity Pages; cardstock; Avery® #5163 or equivalent; Avery® #5160 or equivalent; Avery® #22807 or equivalent; permanent marker, and crayons

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is always a good friend?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Sticker Story Page" on cardstock, one per child. Copy "Disciples Sticker" on Avery® #5163 or equivalent, one sticker per child. Copy "Jesus Sticker" on Avery® Label #5160 or equivalent, one sticker per child. Copy "Mary and Martha Sticker" on Avery® Label #22807 or equivalent, one sticker per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a copy of "Sticker Story Page." As you review the Bible Story, give each child a "Jesus Sticker," a "Disciples Sticker," and a "Mary and Martha Sticker." Instruct children to match the stickers to the blank shapes on their paper. When the stickers are in place, encourage children to color the rest of their picture.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Who wants to make a sticker story? (Pause.) Come sit with me and I'll show you how!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "First, you'll need a story page. Now, look for three blank spaces on your story page. I have story stickers for you to put in those spaces. Are you ready to make your sticker story? Here we go!"

"Our Bible Story was about two sisters named Mary and Martha. (Hand out stickers.) This Mary and Martha sticker is shaped like a circle. Look for the blank space on your story page that is shaped like a circle and put the Mary and Martha sticker on it. (Help as needed.)

"Mary and Martha were sad because their brother Lazarus had died. Jesus heard what happened and took the disciples with Him to see Mary and Martha. Look for the blank space on your story page that is shaped like a big rectangle and put the disciples sticker on it. (Help as needed.)

"When Jesus saw how sad Mary and Martha were, He cried too. This Jesus sticker is shaped like a tall rectangle. Look for the blank space on your story page that is shaped like a tall rectangle and put the Jesus sticker on it. (Help as needed.) You did it! You made your sticker story! Now you can color the rest of your story page."



WEEK  
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-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha when they were sad. Jesus will be a good friend to you when you are sad because **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO THINK**

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



**3. EMOTION OVERLOAD**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Butcher paper, permanent marker, and self-inking heart stamps or heart stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Create four columns on the

butcher paper. At the top of each column, draw the following emoji faces—happy, sad, excited, afraid. Set the heart stamps or heart stickers on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Point out the emotions on the chart on the butcher paper and name each one. As you talk about each emotion, lead the children to add a heart sticker or stamp to that column. Repeat with each column, allowing the children to add to each column until you've covered all four emotions.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come find a spot at the table!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Do you see all the emotions here at the top of the page? Can you find the sad face? (Pause as children respond.) Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're sad? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus loves us when we're sad because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column.

"Can you find the smiley face? (Pause as children respond.) Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're happy? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus loves us when we're happy because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column.

"Can you find the afraid face? (Pause as children respond.) Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're afraid? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus loves us when we're afraid because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column.

"Can you find the excited face? (Pause as children respond.) Yes! Tell me: Does Jesus love us when we're excited? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus loves us when we're excited because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Add a heart to this column."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, Jesus cares about you and He will be a good friend when you feel sad, when you feel happy, when you feel excited, and even when you feel afraid. **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!** One more time! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is always a good friend?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.





PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



**4. WHAT'S THE WEATHER?**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "What's the Weather?" Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; dress-up items for the following weather: rain, snow, sun, wind; and large bin

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "What's the Weather?" on cardstock and cut, three sets per Small Group. Place all the dress-up items in the bin, and place it on one side of your activity area. Gather the children to stand on the opposite side with you.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children line up in front of you. One at a time, show a child one of the weather cards, identify the weather they see, and then send them to the bin to find a dress-up item you'd wear for that weather. Continue until every child has a turn.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come stand here with me! What's the weather like today? (Talk about the weather happening outside.) Let's play a game and dress for the weather!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Line up here, one friend behind the other. I'll show you a weather card. Then I want you to run to the dress-up bin and find an item of clothing you'd wear for that weather, put it on, then run back so another friend has a turn. [Child's name], here is your card. (Show one card.) It's [weather]! Run to the bin and pick out something you would wear in [weather]! (Pause.) Super-super! Now run back! (Continue with each child. Return pieces to the box as needed.) That was so much fun!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Rain or shine, no matter the weather and no matter how we're feeling, **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is always a good friend?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO CREATE**  
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft



**5. ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Always a Good Friend Label" Activity Page, Avery® Label #5160 or equivalent, canvas panels, craft glue, washable paint in a variety of colors, smocks, squeegees, butcher paper, baby wipes, painter's tape, and a permanent marker

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is always a good friend?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Always a Good Friend Label" on label paper, one label per child. Write each child's name on their label. Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure. Draw a large heart outline on each child's canvas with the craft glue. Allow the craft glue heart outline to dry overnight. Place a canvas at each spot, and tape the canvas to the table. Help children put their smocks on.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to pick three or more colors of paint and add a few dots of each color along the top of their canvas. Encourage children to place their squeegee at the top of their canvas and pull down without lifting up to drag the paint across the canvas. Clean hands as needed. Remove each child's canvas from the table and hold it up for them to put their label on the back of their canvas.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit at the table with me. We have a fun painting project for today! Come get a smock on to cover your clothes."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "You can pick three (or more) colors for your painting. I'm going to add dots of each paint color to the top of your canvas. To paint, put your squeegee at the top of your canvas above the paint, then pull it straight down without lifting up. (Pause.) Wow! Amazing! Let's clean your hands. (Pause.) You have a beautiful heart on your painting! Hearts make us think of love and as our Memory Verse says: 'A friend loves you all the time.' Proverbs 17:17. I'm going to hold up your picture and I want you to add your label to the back. Nice job! Let's let these dry so they're ready for you to take home."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible Story, Mary and her sister Martha were sad because their brother, Lazarus, was sick, and he died. Jesus took His disciples with Him to where Mary and Martha lived. When Jesus got to Mary and Martha, they were very sad, and they cried. Jesus was sad with Mary and Martha and Jesus cried too, because that's what good friends do, and **Jesus is always a good friend**. Jesus cares about you, and Jesus will be a good friend when you feel sad, when you feel happy, when you feel excited, and even when you feel angry. **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**"



WEEK  
**THREE**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **sad**.

**MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS**  
**JOHN 11:1-3, 20, 28-36**

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

Encourage the children to pretend they're crying as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things that make them sad.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're sad like Mary and Martha were in our story. Can you pretend you're sad, and cry like me? (*Pretend to cry.*) Okay, now follow me. (*Pretend to cry as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay! We made it! We can show our happy faces now (*smile really big*) and sit down, so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Jesus went to see His friends Mary and Martha because He knew they were sad. What did Jesus do when He saw Mary and Martha crying? Did He tell them to stop being sad? (*Pause.*) No, Jesus was a good friend and was sad with them. **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.** That means Jesus always loves us too, because the Bible verse we're learning says: '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.*) Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. '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.*) That means Jesus loves you all the time, and Jesus loves me all the time, because **Jesus is always a good friend!**"

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

“Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today we’re going to make a list of things that make us sad in our journal. It’s not fun to think about what makes us sad, but it’s good to remember that Jesus is a good friend when we’re sad. So, when I say your name, tell me one thing that makes you sad, and I will write it in our journal.” (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Everyone feels sad sometimes for lots of different reasons. (*Hold up journal.*) Let’s use our list when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, sometimes we feel sad when things like (*read the list the children made*) happen. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend when we’re sad. Knowing that Jesus loves (*say each child’s name*) all the time is the best feeling! We love You, God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

*Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.*

#### 1. PLAY IN THE RAIN

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Umbrella
- Pom-poms

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Scatter pom-poms on the floor in an open area of your room.

#### 2. WHEN I'M SAD\*

**Made to Play:** An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- \*"Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Shaving cream
- Baking sheets, one for every two children
- Baby wipes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list shaving cream, and post at the door.
- Set the baking sheets on the table, one for every two children.
- Spray a small mound of shaving cream on each end of the baking sheet.

### 3. EMOTION REFLECTIONS

**Made to Imagine:** An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Emotion Reflections" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Preschool-safe floor mirror
- Painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Emotion Reflections" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Tape "Emotion Reflections" picture to the mirror.

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

*Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.*

#### 1. SING THE MEMORY VERSE

**[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]**

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed



## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### 2. STICKER STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**Made to Create:** An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Sticker Story Page" Activity Page
- "Disciples Sticker" Activity Page
- "Jesus Sticker" Activity Page
- "Mary and Martha Sticker" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Avery® Label # 5163 or equivalent
- Avery® Label #5160 or equivalent
- Avery® Label #22807 or equivalent
- Permanent marker
- Crayons

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Sticker Story Page" on cardstock, one per child.
- Copy "Disciples Sticker" on Avery® #5163 or equivalent, one sticker per child.
- Copy "Jesus Sticker" on Avery® Label #5160 or equivalent, one sticker per child.
- Copy "Mary and Martha Sticker" on Avery® Label #22807 or equivalent, one sticker per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

### 3. EMOTION OVERLOAD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Think:** An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- Permanent marker
- Self-inking heart stamps or heart stickers, several per child

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Create four columns on the butcher paper.
- At the top of each column, draw the following emoji faces—happy, sad, excited, afraid.
- Set the heart stamps or heart stickers on the table.

### 4. WHAT'S THE WEATHER?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "What's the Weather?" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Dress-up items for different kinds of weather
- Large bin

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "What's the Weather?" on cardstock and cut, three sets per Small Group.
- Gather several items of clothing for the following weather:
  - Rain—raincoat, rain boots, umbrella, etc.
  - Snow—winter coat, mittens/gloves, snow boots, etc.
  - Sun—a bathing suit, sunglasses, flip-flops, etc.
  - Windy—a windbreaker/jacket, hat with straps for under the chin, etc.
- Place all the dress-up items in the bin.
- Place the bin on one side of your activity area.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### 5. ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND

#### [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Create:** An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Always a Good Friend Label" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- Canvas panels
- Craft glue
- Washable paint in a variety of colors
- Smocks
- Squeegees
- Butcher paper
- Baby wipes
- Painter's tape
- Permanent marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Always a Good Friend Label" on label paper, one label per child.
- Write each child's name on their label.
- Cover the table with butcher paper and tape to secure.
- Draw a large heart outline on each child's canvas with the craft glue.
- Allow the craft glue heart outline to dry overnight.
- Place a canvas at each spot, and tape the canvas to the table.

### 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

#### [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**Made to Reflect:** An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at [bit.ly/3B4Z71j](http://bit.ly/3B4Z71j).)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at [bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh](http://bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh).)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place it in the Bible at Proverbs 17:17. *Note: Keep the Memory Verse Card in your Bible all month.*

#### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App**.

#### FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. [bit.ly/FL\\_RainOrShine](http://bit.ly/FL_RainOrShine)