

**April
Week 5**



Overview Card



Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: Who is your friend?

Bottom Line: Jesus is my good friend.

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NlrV

Bible Story: Jesus wants to be with me forever.

A Place for Us • John 14:1-4

God Made Me

God Loves Me

Jesus Wants To
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ARRIVAL ACTIVITY

Busy Builders



What You Need: LEGO® building blocks, cardboard bricks, wooden blocks—anything the children can use to build a house. You will also need a timer with an alarm.

What You Do: Tell the children you are going to set your timer. Their job is to build a house with the blocks before your timer goes off. When they hear the buzzer sound (make your timer buzz so they can hear it), they must stop building so you can take a look at their houses. The children can build alone or chose to build with friends.

(Note: Give younger children more time to build. Allow the children to play again if they are interested. You can decrease the building time each time you build to make it more challenging.)

What You Say:

At the start of the activity: “Raise you hand if you think you can build a house with these blocks. (Look around.) Okay, raise your hand if you think you can build a house with these blocks before my timer buzzes. (Make the timer buzz.) Sure you can! When I say, ‘go,’ your job is to build a house with these blocks. You can work by yourself or with a friend. I’ll give you a hint. You can build faster if you work with friends. Are you ready? When I say ‘go,’ you can start building your house. When you hear the timer buzz (make the timer buzz), you have to stop building. One, two, three, go!”

At the end of the activity: “You did a great job building houses out of these blocks. Houses are important because we all need somewhere to live, right? Our Bible story today is about how Jesus is making a special place for us to live with Him forever!”



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Freeze! Game



What You Need: A CD player and a CD of fun, dancing music.

What You Do: Tell the children to wiggle and dance when they hear the music. When the music stops, they must freeze in whatever position they are in, no matter how silly. Say the Bible verse together while everyone is frozen. When the music begins playing again, everyone will unfreeze and begin dancing and wiggling. (Continue playing as long as the children are interested.)

What You Say:

At the start of the activity: “Who’s ready to dance and wiggle with me? Come on! It’s going to be fun. The only thing you have to remember is when the music stops, we have to freeze, like this (freeze like a statue) and say our Bible verse. ‘A friend loves at all times,’ Proverbs 17:17. When we hear the music, we can dance and wiggle again. Come on, everyone! It’s time to dance and wiggle!”

Each time the music stops: “Freeze! ‘A friend loves at all times,’ Proverbs 17:17.”

At the end of the activity: “Jesus is a good friend because He loves us at all times. Who is your friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is my good friend!”



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Work Together Game



What You Need: Two large beach towels and two stuffed animals.

What You Do: Divide the children into two groups and give each group a towel. Place the stuffed animals on the opposite side of the room from the children. Tell each group to hold the towel by the ends. Making sure everyone has a piece of the towel, direct kids to lift their towel about 3 feet off the ground. Instruct them to pull it tight. Encourage them to walk the towel over to the stuffed animal as they work together. When they reach the animal, have an adult place the animal on the towel and tell them to rush back to where they started without letting the animal fall. Repeat by placing the animal back to the original spot. Repeat until the children lose interest.

What You Say: “Wow! You all worked together so well! Things go so much smoother when we work together with our friends. Friends are SO important! In our story today, Jesus had to leave His friends. That made them sad, just like you would be if one of your friends had to leave. Jesus is **EVERYONE'S** friend, and He left to do something very special. He made a place for all His friends in heaven! That is a true friend! Who is your friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is my good friend!”



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Watercolor Craft



What You Need: Watercolor paints, cardstock page,

Stuck Like Glue for 4s/5s

What You Need: A CD of fun preschool music and a CD player.

What You Do: Divide the children into pairs. Show them how to interlock their arms. Tell the children to pretend that they and their partner's arms are glued together. When the music starts, instruct them to dance while stuck together. After a few minutes, stop the music and pick another body part to "glue" together, such as a leg, an elbow, or the head. Start the music again and encourage kids to dance.

What You Say: "We are all so silly! It is so much fun to be silly with our friends. We could not have danced like that all by ourselves. We needed our friends to dance with us. It is very nice to do things with our friends. Today we are going to hear a story about how Jesus liked to do things with His friends, but then something AMAZING happened! I cannot wait to find out what it was! Are you ready for our Bible story today?"



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A Place For Us Jesus Wants to Be With Me Forever John 14:1-4

STORYTELLER: "Our story today is exciting! It is about a special place that Jesus is working on right now. Our story begins with Jesus; His close friends, the disciples; and you and me. It's true! You and I are in today's Bible story. I know it's true because it's right here in the Bible (opening the Bible), and we know the Bible is always true, right? Right! So let's get started. I know you want to know your part in today's story.

"Jesus' close friends, the disciples, loved Jesus a lot. And when I say a lot, I mean A LOT! They had spent so much time with Him. I mean, they were together every day—breakfast, lunch, and dinner; morning and night. They had watched Jesus feed the hungry and make sick people all better. They had heard Jesus teach all kinds of amazing things and tell so many wonderful stories. (Pause briefly.) Jesus had become their really good friend.

"Hey, raise your hand if you have a really good friend you like hanging out with all the time. (Look around with your hand raised.) Me too. I think we all have someone special we like spending time with. Jesus and the disciples were like that. They were together ALL the time.

"Things were about to change, though. Jesus was leaving His friends to go away for a long time. They did not want Him to go away. This made them all very sad. Can you make a sad face? (Make a sad face as you look around at the children.)

"Then Jesus told them some good news. (Lean into the children.) Now this is where you and I come in. (Stand back up straight.) Jesus told His friends not to let their hearts be sad. He wanted them to trust God and trust Him.

"Then came the BEST news. Are you ready for this? (Pause dramatically.) Jesus told His friends that He was going away to make a special place where they could all be together ... FOREVER! And this wasn't just a special place for them, but it's a place for you and you and you and you—ALL of us! Jesus left His friends to go and build a special place for all of us to live together with Him FOREVER! All those sad faces turned onto glad faces! Let me see your glad faces! (Look around at the glad faces while smiling really big.)

"This is the most AMAZING, AWESOME, SPECTACULAR, WONDERFUL, BESTEST news EVER! It makes me want to yell, 'YAHOO!'

"My heart is so full of love knowing that, right now—I mean right this very second—Jesus is getting our special place with Him all ready. Being with Jesus forever will be like the best party ever! What a friend! What a GOOD friend! Who is your friend?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] "Jesus is my good friend."

STORYTELLER: "One more time. Who is your friend?"

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER [Bottom Line] "Jesus is my good friend."

STORYTELLER: "Let's pray.

"Jesus, thank You for going away so You could build a special place for us to live with You forever. You truly are the best friend a person could ever have. We love You, Jesus. Amen."