

April Week 4 / May Week 1



April 26th/27th  
and May 3rd/4th

# Overview Card

## A Place for Us

**Key Question:**

Who is your good friend?

**Bottom Line:**

Jesus is my good friend.

**Memory Verse:**

"A friend loves at all times."

Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**Bible Story:**

Jesus wants to be with me forever.

A Place for Us

John 14:1-4

**Coloring Page:**

Jesus makes a promise.

**Music:**

We're All Singing

Great Big God

Give Your Heart to Jesus

**Bible Lesson:**

God's Story for Me

The Ascension

Pages 441 to 445

**Service Time:**

70 minutes

**Story Time:**

*God gave us Heaven*

by Lisa T. Bergren

**April Memory Verse -**  
**"A friend loves at all times."**  
**Proverbs 17:17 NIV**

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# ACTIVITY

## A Place for Us

### Duck, Duck, Goose Memory Fun—Clubhouse

**What You Need:** No Supplies Necessary

**What You Do:**

Ask the children to review the memory verse with you. Tell the children that we are going to use the memory verse to play the game of duck, duck, goose. Explain that the word PROVERBS (at the end of the memory verse) will be the signal to chase IT. Chose a child to be IT. Seat the remaining children in the circle. IT walks around the circle outside of the children. IT walks around the circle, tapping each child on the head while saying one word of the memory verse as he taps a child on the head. As he reaches a child of his choice, IT says, “PROVERBS” as he taps the child’s head (a child may repeat the memory verse over and over again before deciding to say “PROVERBS”). That child must get up from his spot and chase IT around the circle. The child who arrives at the empty spot first sits down. The other child becomes IT. Continue to play as long as children are interested.

**What You Say:**

“A good friend loves at all times and Jesus is a good friend. **Who is your good friend?** (Pause.) **Jesus is my good friend.** And that means Jesus loves you all the time!”

**April Memory Verse -**  
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# ACTIVITY

## A Place for Us

### Hop the Hoops—2's, 3's and 4's

**What You Need:** Four Hula-Hoops™.

**What You Do:** Place the Hula-Hoops™ in a row on the floor. Show the children how to jump from one hoop to another while saying one word of the Memory Verse each time they hop to a different hoop.

*(Options: Zigzag the hoops, put more distance between each hoop, jump sideways rather than straight forward, etc. Keep changing it up and playing as long as the children are interested.)*

#### **What You Say:**

*During the activity:* "Watch what I can do! *(Jumping from hoop to hoop as you say each word of the Memory Verse)* **A friend– loves– at– all times!** Can you jump from hoop to hoop while saying **A friend– loves– at– all times!** Sure you can!"

*At the end of the activity:* "A good friend loves at all times and Jesus is a good friend. **Who is your good friend?** *(Pause.)* **Jesus is my good friend.** And that means Jesus loves you all the time!"

**April Memory Verse -**  
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# ACTIVITY

## A Place for Us

### Building Houses

**What You Need:** Different types of building blocks such as LEGOs<sup>®</sup>, wooden blocks, and box blocks. (Another option would be to use playdoh instead of the building blocks)

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Distribute the different kinds of blocks in stations around the play area.

*During the activity:* Allow the children to play freely with the blocks. Encourage the children to play and build houses together.

*At the end of the activity:* Ask the children to work together and put the blocks away.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* “There are so many different kinds of blocks in our room today. I bet we can build a lot of different kinds of houses with this many blocks!”

*During the activity:* “Can you work together with your friends and see how many different kinds of houses you can build? (*Pause.*) Working with a friend always makes things easier and more fun.”

*At the end of the activity:* “Wow! These houses are AH-MAZING! In our Bible lesson we heard about another AH-MAZING house! And even better it is an AH-MAZING house that you and I can live in! Do you remember where it was?”

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# ACTIVITY

## A Place for Us

### Celebration

**What You Need:** Music player and the songs from Singin' Praise Tots CD.

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Play fun songs from Singin' Praise Tots CD.

*During the activity:* Encourage the children to dance and be silly. Continue as long as there's interest.

**What You Say:**

*Before the activity:* "I am so excited that Jesus has made such a special place for us! I just want to CELEBRATE! When I celebrate I like to dance and be silly! Let's dance!"

*During the activity: (Play music.)* "Will you dance with me? *(Dance with the children.)* Show me your cool dance moves! We have a lot to celebrate because Jesus has a special place for us!" *(Continue as long as there's interest.)*

*At the end of the activity:* "I am so glad that Jesus is my friend and that He has a special place for me. Jesus loves us so much and wants to be everyone's friend!"

**Who is your good friend? (Pause.)** Yes, yes, yes! **Jesus is my good friend!"**

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# ACTIVITY

## A Place for Us

### My Friend Jesus

**What You Need:** “Jesus and Me” from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, markers, and crayons.

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Make a copy of “Jesus and Me” from the Activity Pages on white cardstock for each child.

*During the activity:* Give each child a copy of “Jesus and Me.” Instruct them to draw a picture of themselves standing with their good friend Jesus.

**What You Say:**

*During the activity:* “Jesus is your good friend. **Who is your good friend?**

*(Pause.)* **Jesus is my good friend.** That’s why I want you to draw a picture of YOU standing beside Jesus. Look at the colors you’re wearing, your hair color, your eye color ... make the picture look as much like you as you can.”

*At the end of the activity:* “I love the pictures you drew! Way to go! You can take them home and put them on your fridge to remind you that Jesus is your good friend! **Who is your good friend? (Pause.) Jesus is my good friend!**”

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# ACTIVITY

## A Place for Us

### Work Together—2's, 3's and 4's

**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 lesson 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?** (Pause) **Jesus is my good friend!**”

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# ACTIVITY

## A Place for Us

### In the Bag - Clubhouse

**What You Need:** Several bean bags, bulls-eye target and post-its with values written on them.

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Tape the bulls-eye target on the floor with the painter's tape. Write point values on the post-it notes and attach to the bulls-eye.

*During the activity:* Divide the children into two teams. Let children take turns trying to hit the bulls-eye with the beanbags. Tell the children that they can earn beanbags by answering questions from any of the lessons this month (Entry Celebration, Easter and a Place for Us.)

**What You Say:**

*During the activity:* "We will take turns seeing who can get their beanbag into the center of the circle like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Ready to try? (*Pause.*) Good! However, in order to get a bean bag your team will have to answer a question about all of the things we learned this month! Ready?? Let's Start...."

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# CRAFT

## A Place for Us

### Memory Verse Picture Frame

**What You Need:** Picture frames, markers and/or stickers, magnets and memory verse

**What You Do:** Have the children decorate the picture frame with markers and/or stickers.

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* “Next week, we will have a new Memory Verse for the month. Let’s learn it together! Watch me very closely and do what I do and say what I say. Are you ready?”

*During the activity:* “My God (push both palms up into the air) will meet (bring both hands together in front of you in a clap/clasp on the word ‘meet’) all (do jazz hands from above your head and down to each side) your needs’ (jump and land with your hands on your hips and your feet planted like a cheerleader), Philippians 4:19. (Open hands like a book.) Awesome job! Let’s try it again! (Repeat as long as there’s interest.)

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# SMALL GROUP

## A Place for Us

### Small Group Time

**What you Need:** Bible, Dry Eraser Board and Marker, and Stickers

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "We've talked a lot about how Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever?"

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

**SGL:** "That's right! Jesus wants to be your friend forever! That's why Jesus left us. He went to prepare a place for us so we can live with Him forever. Just like we have to build our houses and move the furniture in before we can live in them, Jesus had to go get our new home with Him all ready. Now THAT is a good friend! **Who is your good friend?**"

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "Jesus is my good friend!"

**SGL:** "I don't know exactly what our home with Jesus will look like, but I know it will be wonderful because Jesus loves us. Remember our Memory Verse? 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. Let's say it together and then anyone who wants to say it for a sticker can give it a try!"

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "'A friend (*hook your pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times' (*stretch your arms out to each side with your palms facing up as you turn in a circle*), Proverbs 17:17." (*Open your hands like a book.*) (*Repeat as many times as desired.*)

**SGL:** "Yay! I am so proud of you! I hope you always remember how much Jesus loves you and that He wants to be your good friend forever!"

"It's time to pray now. I think this time we should tell Jesus thank You for all He's done for us. We can tell Him thank You for being a good friend, for making a way for us to be with God forever, for coming back, for going to prepare a place for us, or for just always loving us. We can tell Him thank You for all kinds of things, because **Jesus is my good friend. Who is your good friend?**"

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "Jesus is my good friend!"

**SGL:** "Who wants to go first?"

*Write down the children's names on your dry erase board. Remember to print the words so they can recognize their names and letters.*

### Prayer

**SGL:** "God, we have so much we want to say thank You for. Thank You for (*read what the children listed*). You sent us the perfect friend when You sent Jesus. We love Him and we love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

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