

July Week 4
Garden
Ready, Set, Move!
July 23

CRAFT/ACTIVITY

We are the Church

SUPPLIES: Butcher paper with the words I AM THE CHURCH printed in bold letters at the top, hand stamp pads, baby wipes, wall tape

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Gather children around the table with the butcher paper poster.**
 - *“Friends, in our Bible story today, we learned that the very first church was a group of people who wanted to love like Jesus. We can love like Jesus, too! We can share, we can be kind and be a friend, and we can pray.”*
- ⇒ **Get stamp pads open and have the baby wipes ready. Ask each child to choose a color and press their hand on the stamp pad. Put handprints on the poster. Use baby wipes to wipe hands clean. **If any child is uncomfortable with getting ink on their hands you can trace the outline of their hand on the poster.**
 - *“We are going to make a beautiful banner to hang up to remind us that we are all the church – that we can all share and be kind and pray. Let’s add our handprints the poster. After you put your handprint on the paper, I am going to write your name underneath it.*
- ⇒ **Complete activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Sharing is loving like Jesus. Being a friend is loving like Jesus. Helping others is loving like Jesus. This is what the very first church was like. They loved like Jesus, and we can too! When we love like Jesus, people will know that Jesus wants to be their friend forever!*
 - **Who wants to be your friend forever?**
 - **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”**

After the poster is complete, use the wall tape to hang it up outside the classroom. Hand parents the parent note at pick up. You can encourage them to have their child stand in front of the poster and snap a picture!

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ACTIVITY #1

Cheering You On

SUPPLIES: Pop open tunnel

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Open the tunnel up on the floor and have children line up at one of the openings.**

- *“Today in our true story we learned about the early church. People in the early church loved like Jesus. They treated each other with kindness. And they cheered each other on!”*
- *Today we are going to take turns cheering each other on. Let’s line up so we can take a turn going through the tunnel!”*

⇒ **Have one child at a time crawl through the tunnel. They will crawl through the tunnel while everyone else cheers them on.**

- *“[Child’s name], it’s your turn to crawl through the tunnel while everyone cheers! And friends, we are all going to cheer as they crawl through. Are you ready? Crawl! Woohoo!!!!*
- *YAY! Great job! [Child’s name] can love like Jesus!*

⇒ **Repeat until every child has a turn.**

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“We can cheer on our friends to love like Jesus because Jesus LOVES us! He is the best friend ever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***

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ACTIVITY #2

Parachute

SUPPLIES: Parachute, heart squishies

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children circle up around the parachute and grab a handle. Toss the hearts on the parachute.**
 - *“Friends, today in our true Bible story we learned about how the people in the early church loved one another like Jesus loved them. We can do that, too! These hearts remind us that we can spread the love of Jesus! Are you ready? Let’s send this love all over! Ready, set, move!”*
- ⇒ **Pop all of the hearts out.**
 - *“People in the early church loved like Jesus by sharing! We can share, too!*
 - ***Friends, who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***
- ⇒ **Gather all the hearts back up and play again.**
 - *“People in the early church loved like Jesus by being kind!*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***
- ⇒ **Repeat and play a third time.**
 - *“People in the early church loved like Jesus by praying for each other!*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***
- ⇒ **Play with parachute as long as children are interested.**
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Jesus wants to be your friend forever and help you love like Him, too!*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY JULY WEEK 4

Here are some ideas to try in a group or one-on-one.

2-year-olds are all at different stages of development! Some are ready to answer big questions and say the memory verse, while others aren't ready to talk yet. Even if they aren't ready to answer, they are listening!

READ A BIBLE STORY or STORY BOOK

⇒ *Jesus Loves Me*

○ By Debby Anderson

ASK A QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?
Jesus wants to be my friend forever!

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said, ‘Come follow me.’”

SAY A PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you for making me.
Thank you for loving me.
Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.
Amen.