

July Week 4
Backyard
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, paper plates, various colors of paint, baby wipes, wall tape (optional: hand stamp pads)

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.”*
- ⇒ **Squirt a little bit of each color of paint on a separate plate. Have baby wipes ready. Ask each child to choose a color and gently press their hand into the paint and then on to the paper. Use baby wipes to wipe hands clean. **If any child is uncomfortable with getting paint on their hands, you can use stamp pads or 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: Floor tape

SET-UP: Tape two parallel lines about two feet apart on the floor.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have all of the children line up on the tape lines so there are children on each side. Have them put their hands up over their heads to make a “tunnel” for friends to run through.**
- *“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 stand on these tape lines facing a friend. Then reach up and touch the tips of your hands together up high so we can make a tunnel.*
- ⇒ **Have one child at a time come to one end of the tunnel. They will run through the tunnel while everyone else cheers them on.**
- *“[Child’s name], please stand at the end of the line. I want you to run through the tunnel while everyone cheers. And friends, we are all going to cheer as they run through. Are you ready? Run! 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

Musical Chairs

SUPPLIES: Chairs, CD player, worship music CD

SET-UP: Set chairs up in a circle with their backs facing in to the center of the circle. Use one less chair than the number of kids you have playing.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children make a circle around the outside of the circle of chairs. Explain the game musical chairs.**
 - *“All summer long we have been moving our bodies and following Jesus here, there, and everywhere! Today we are going to play a game of musical chairs. When I turn the music on, we are going to all walk the same direction around the chairs. When I turn the music off, I want everyone to try to find a chair to sit on. If you don’t find a chair to sit on, you get to be the one to ask everybody the question ‘Who wants to be your friend forever?’ And then I want all my friends to answer ‘Jesus wants to be my friend forever!’ Are you ready to try it?”*

- ⇒ **Start the music and point out the direction you want the kids to walk. Pause the music and have the child who is “out” say the memory verse.**
 - *“Alright here comes the music....Ready, set, move!”*
 - [Pause the music]. Alright can you say the memory verse?
 - **Jesus said, ‘Come follow me,’**
 - Let’s go everybody, Ready, set, MOVE!

- ⇒ **OPTION: With older classes you can consider removing a chair each time and having children sit out. Assess your group and whether this competition would be more fun or more challenging 😊**

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Great job, everybody! That was fun! I’m so glad you know Jesus wants to be your friend forever!”*
 - **Who wants to be your friend forever?**
 - **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”**

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ACTIVITY #3

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

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

⇒ *The Beginner's Bible: The First Church*, p. 480

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- **Who wants to be your friend forever?**
- **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

⇒ Memory Verse

- **“Jesus said, ‘Come follow me.’” Matthew 4:19**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ “Today we will make a list of ways we can love people like Jesus loves us. Think about all the ways we can love people. We can share, we can help, we can use kind words, we can pray for them...and so much more! When I say your name, **tell me one way you can love like Jesus.**

⇒ Wow this is a great list! Let's ask God to help us love others like Jesus. **Let's pray:**

- *Dear God, Thank you for sending Jesus to love us and show us how to love others. Please help (say each child's name) and me to (read the list the children made) and love like Jesus everywhere we go! We love you, God. In Jesus' name, amen.*