

March Week 1

**Backyard
Go Team**

March 3

CRAFT WEEK 1

Friends All Over

SUPPLIES: Connected Jesus/Earth circle, paper straw, glue stick, crayons, tape

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children take a seat at the table. Pass out the connected circles and crayons.**
 - *“Friends! I am so happy to know that Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus loves people all over the world – he wants to be friends with everyone, everywhere. I have a fun craft for us to create today.*
 - *I have two connected circles for you. One has the Earth on it. And this one has Jesus and it says ‘Jesus wants to be my friend forever.’ Let’s color both circles! You can use blue and green to color the earth. Now color Jesus!”*
- ⇒ **Attach the straw to the back of one of the circles with tape. Then have children apply glue to the back of the other circle and gently press them together.**
 - *“Those look great! Now I am going to help you tape this straw to the back of one of your circles. No use your glue stick and rub glue on the back of one of the circles. A little glue will do! Now let’s fold at the top and press the circles together. I can help you if you need help!”*
- ⇒ **Use the sample craft to show them how to hold the straw between your hands and rub them together making the circles spin back and forth quickly.**
 - *“Great job following directions! Fantastic! Now watch what happens when I rub the straw back and forth in my hands. (Demonstrate.) When the circles spin fast, it looks like Jesus and the heart are on the world! You give it a try! (Pause.) Very nice!”*
- ⇒ **Complete craft and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *In our Bible Story today, Jesus told the woman at the well that He is God’s Son and He wanted to be her friend forever! The woman was so excited she left her bucket at the well and went and told EVERYONE in town to come see Jesus, because she knew Jesus wanted to be their friend forever too! And that means Jesus wants to be my friend forever and your friend forever . . . Jesus wants to be EVERYONE’S friend forever! No matter where you live, Jesus wants to be your friend forever, because Jesus loves everyone, everywhere.*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Everyone, Everywhere

SUPPLIES: World map, heart sticker, wall tape

SET-UP: Hang map on wall with wall tape at children's eye level

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children join you near the wall map.**

- *"Friends, look at this! Does anyone know what this is? It's a map of the whole world. Today in our true Bible story we learned about the woman at the well. She was from a different place than Jesus, but he told her that He wanted to be her friend forever! The woman was so excited that she left her bucket by the well and went into her town and told all the people to come see Jesus because she knew Jesus wanted to be their friend forever too!"*
- *Jesus loved everyone in that town...and every town! Jesus loves everyone, everywhere – people all over the earth!"*

⇒ **Have children sit on the floor and have one child come up at a time. Have them close their eyes and place a heart sticker somewhere on the map. When they open their eyes, point to the sticker and name the location.**

- *"Let's play a game! Each of you is going to get a turn to come up and put a sticker on the map. You can close your eyes and see where the sticker lands! Are you ready?"*
- *Look at that! It landed on _____. Jesus loves the people there! He wants to be their friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever."***

⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"Jesus wanted to be the woman's friend forever! And she told everyone in her town, too! And that means Jesus wants to be my friend forever and your friend forever and your neighbor's friend forever . . . Jesus wants to be EVERYONE'S friend forever!"*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"***

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ACTIVITY #2

Go Team Freeze Dance

SUPPLIES: CD Player, EC Worship CD

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children join you in the center of the room.**

- *"All month long we are learning that everyone can be friends with Jesus! No matter where we are from or what we've done...we all have a place on Jesus' team!"*
- *Today we are going to play a game of freeze dance. I'm going to be the coach of our team and when I call out a command, I want you to dance that way. But when I pause the music it's time to freeze. Are you ready? Go team!"*

⇒ **Turn the music on. Call out dancing directions. Turn the music off and have kids freeze**

- *"Alright, let's dance! Everybody clap your hands!"*
- *Do the twist (jump up and down, spin around, etc)*
- *Now freeze!*
- *Wow, nice job friends! Let me ask you a question before we start dancing again: **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***
- *Now on the count of 3 let's say 'Go team!' 1, 2, 3 **GO TEAM!***

⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested and then Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"Nice job everybody! I am so glad that we all get to be part of this team with Jesus as our leader! We get to play on Jesus' team forever!"*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"***

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ACTIVITY #3

Memory Verse Practice

SUPPLIES: Reward Stickers

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **This activity can be done from spots at the table or spaced out in the center of the room.**
 - *"Friends, we have an awesome memory verse to practice! I want to try saying it in lots of different ways!"*
- ⇒ **Do memory verse all together in a variety of ways.**
 - *"First, let's say it once together. 'I have called you friends.' John 15:15"*
 - *Now let's try it...*
 - *Super loud*
 - *Super quiet*
 - *Really fast*
 - *Really Slow*
 - *Jumping up and down*
 - *Running in Place*
 - *All the boys*
 - *All the girls*
 - *Kids only*
 - *Teachers only*
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested. If time permits, you can do one person at a time and give out stickers.**
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *"Nice work, my friends!"*
 - ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
 - ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY MARCH WEEK 1

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- *Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You* by Tillman
Jesus' love is just like this! There's no place on the earth we can go that Jesus' love won't find us!

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
 - ***"I have called you friends."***
John 15:15

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ "Today in our true Bible story we learned that Jesus loved everyone no matter where they are from. Today, we're going to make a list of places. It can be somewhere close by—like your grandparents' house or your favorite place to eat—or it can be somewhere far, far away in the world! It can be anywhere because Jesus wants to be friends with people everywhere! When I say your name, **tell me the name of one place**, and I will write it down.
 - *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*
- ⇒ Wow! Look at all these places! Let's use our list when we pray...
- ⇒ Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
 - *"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be friends with everyone, everywhere, like the people in/at (read the list the children made). Help us remember that Jesus wants everyone on His team, no matter where they live! We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."*