



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend  
when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*

Row Your Boat  
Muffin Cup Emotions  
Weathercaster

### LARGE GROUP

**20**  
MIN

#### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"My Friend Forever" and "Never Better"

Bible Story  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*

Memory Verse with Motions  
Pretend Play  
How I Feel  
Puddle Jumping  
Walkin' on Water  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Memory Verse Card  
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)  
Parent Cue App



**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



**1. ROW YOUR BOAT**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Stretchy band, such as [pin.it/7xsKoao4A](https://pin.it/7xsKoao4A)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to come sit on the floor in a circle with you.

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage each child to grab hold of the stretchy band, and move their arms in a circle as if they are rowing a boat. Sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" together.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, hello friends! It's wonderful to see you today! Come join me over here, and let's sit in a circle together."

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I have this really cool band, and it's super-stretchy! We're all going to hold the band. *(Make sure everyone has a hold of the band. Reposition your circle closer or farther back as needed.)* Now, follow me. Stretch the band out in front of you like this, *(demonstrate)* then bring it back to your lap like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Let's try it together. Out in front of you, back to your lap. Again. Out in front of you, back to your lap. *(Repeat a few times.)* Great! You've got it! This reminds me of rowing a boat! Let's sing the 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat' song while we row. Ready?"

"Row, row, row your boat  
Gently down the stream  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily  
Life is but a dream!"

*(Repeat as desired.)*

"That was fun! Everyone, stand up while holding the band. Let's squish in together to make the band really small. *(Pause.)* Great job, friends! You can let go of the band."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our story, we're going to hear about some of Jesus' friends, the disciples. They were out in a boat, rowing or paddling like we were. I wonder if they sang any songs while they rowed."

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is always a good friend?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by continuing to sing and do the motions to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

**MADE TO PLAY**

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



**2. MUFFIN CUP EMOTIONS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Six-cup muffin tins, 2.5" circle stickers in six different colors, paper cupcake liners in colors to match the stickers, and a black permanent marker; *Optional:* "Muffin Cup Emotions" Activity Page and Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent in place of the 2.5" circle stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Assign a color of circle stickers and cupcake liners to each of the following: happy face, sad face, excited face, afraid face, silly face, and heart. Draw each face/heart onto its assigned color of circle stickers, and then draw the same face/heart onto the outside bottom of the coordinating cupcake liners. For example, draw the happy face on the yellow circle stickers and the yellow cupcake liners. Turn the muffin tins over so the bottoms are facing up, and place one of each sticker on the bottom of a muffin cup. Place a set of cupcake liners on the table next to each upside-down muffin tin.

*Option: Copy "Muffin Cup Emotions" on Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent, six sets per Small Group. Place the stickers on the bottom of the cups of an upside-down muffin tin.*

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to identify the emotion on the sticker and place the matching cupcake liner on top of the sticker and muffin cup. Repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come join me at the table. I have a fun activity for us to do today."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at all these faces. Can you tell me what you think each face is feeling? (Pause.) That's really good! Find the matching face on the cupcake liners, then place it over the sticker. (Pause.) Super-duper, friends! But what about the sticker that's not a face? It's a heart! Hearts remind us of love. Cover the heart sticker. (Pause.) Yay! You did it! Now let's take all the cupcake liners off, mix them up, and play again." (Repeat as desired.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, today we're going to hear a Bible Story about a man named Peter and a time when his good Friend helped him when he was afraid."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by asking children to show you their happy, sad, afraid, and excited faces.

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

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WEEK  
**ONE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning



### 3. WEATHERCASTER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large cardboard box, utility knife, permanent marker, clear packing tape, and toy microphone

*Note: Use the utility knife before children arrive and store it out of children's reach in another room.*

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Cut out the front side of the box to create a television screen. Secure the box flaps with tape as needed.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to take turns playing in the television and talking about the weather.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come look! We have a pretend television we can get in and play with today!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's pretend to be weathercasters. They talk about the weather that's happening outside. I'll show you! (*Duck into the box with the microphone.*) Hello, everyone! Today is a beautiful day with lots of sunshine and a nice breeze. Tonight will be nice and cool, and the sky will be clear with lots of stars. (*Come out of the box and hand the microphone to a child.*) [Child's name], take the microphone and head into the TV to tell us what the weather will be like. (*Continue with each child. Repeat as desired.*) That was so much fun pretending to be weathercasters. Sometimes the weather can make us happy or sad and sometimes afraid. And it's okay to feel all those feelings!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about Someone who is a really good Friend, no matter if we are happy, sad, excited, or afraid! I can't wait to hear about this Friend!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by acting out different weather scenarios. For example, call out "bright and sunny" and encourage children to pretend to put on sunglasses or a hat. (*Suggestions: rain—pretend to put on raincoat and hold an umbrella, snow—pretend to put on a big coat, a beanie, and mittens, etc.*)

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**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### BOTTOM LINE

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### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME**

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES**

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



**1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS**  
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come stand with me! Let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this: 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17." (*Open hands like a book.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'A friend!' (*Hook index fingers twice.*) Pointer fingers up like this. (*Point both pointer fingers up in the air in front of you.*) Now hook your two fingers together like this, (*cross your fingers right over left, then bend both to create a hook*) then cross them the other way. (*Cross your fingers left over right, then bend both to create a hook.*) Great, let's do that together. Pointer fingers up, hook your two fingers together, then cross them the other way. Say, 'A friend,' with me. (*With children*) 'A friend!' (*Hook index fingers twice.*)

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is always a good friend?

"The next part of our verse says: 'Loves you!' (*Cross arms over chest.*) Cross both arms over your chest like you're giving yourself a hug (*cross arms over chest*) and say: 'Loves you!' (*With children.*) 'Loves you!' (*Cross arms over chest.*) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you!' (*Cross arms over chest.*) Great job!

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"The next part says: 'All the time!' Pointer finger up, and tap the top of your other arm at the wrist, like you're wearing a watch (*tap wrist*) and say: 'All the time!' (*With children.*) 'All the time!' (*Tap wrist.*) Can we do all three together? 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time!' (*Tap wrist.*)



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

"Now the last part is: 'Proverbs 17:17!' (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you, and open them like you're opening a book (*open hands like a book*), and say: 'Proverbs 17:17!' (*With children.*) 'Proverbs 17:17!' (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!

"I think we're ready to do it all together! Ready, friends? 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and loves us all the time—when we are afraid, or excited, sad, or happy. **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.** Let's say that one more time, friends! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend."**



PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO IMAGINE**  
an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning



**2. PRETEND PLAY**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Pretend Play Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, masking tape, jumbo craft stick, large blue bedsheet or tablecloth, and small inflatable boat; *Optional: Butcher paper and scissors in place of an inflatable boat*

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Pretend Play Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Tape "Pretend Play Jesus" to a jumbo craft stick. Spread the blue bedsheet/tablecloth out on the floor and place the boat on top. *Option: Cut a boat shape out of butcher paper.*

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead children to act out the Bible Story. Invite all of the children to get in the boat and pretend they're the disciples. Choose one child to pretend they're Peter while you pretend to be Jesus by holding the "Jesus" cutout on the craft stick. Let the children take turns being Peter.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hey, friends! Come sit in this boat with me. We're going to talk about today's Bible Story!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "In our story, Jesus' friends, the disciples, were in a boat. Let's pretend we're Jesus' disciples, and this is our boat. Row with me! (*Pretend to row.*) Row, row, row your boat! (*Pause.*) The disciples saw someone walking towards them on the water, and they were afraid! Make an afraid face with me! (*Make an afraid face.*) Who did the disciples see walking on water? (*Pause.*) Yes! They saw Jesus walking on water! You stay in the boat, and I'll pretend to be Jesus. (*Step a few feet away from the boat and hold up the Jesus cutout.*) Jesus told His disciples, 'Don't be afraid. It's Me, Jesus!'

"What did Peter do when he knew it was Jesus walking on water? (*Pause.*) You're right! Peter said, 'If it's You, Jesus, tell me to come to You on the water.' So that's what Jesus did! [*Child's name*], let's pretend you are Peter. Get out of the boat and walk to Jesus. (*Encourage the child to walk to you.*) Peter got out of the boat and began walking on the water to Jesus! But what happened when Peter heard the wind and saw the waves? (*Pause.*) Peter was afraid! Show me your afraid faces, again! (*Make afraid face.*) Yes, Peter was afraid, and he began to sink in the water! What did Jesus do when Peter began to sink? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus quickly reached out and helped Peter get back in the boat. (*You and the child pretending to be Peter sit back down in the boat.*)

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who is always a good friend?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK  
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PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

“Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was brave and walked on water. Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was afraid and started to sink in the water. Jesus was always a good friend to Peter, because **Jesus is always a good friend.**” (Repeat and let other children pretend to be Peter.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Wow! What an amazing story! Jesus was always a good friend to Peter, and Jesus will always be a good friend to you, because **Jesus is always a good friend! Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**”





PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO THINK**

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



**3. HOW I FEEL**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "How I Feel Chart" Activity Page, and 11" x 17" paper

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "How I Feel Chart" on 11" x 17" paper, one per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child an Activity Page. Point to each of the four zones and identify each emotion. Ask the children to put their finger on their chart to show how they're feeling today. Remind the children that Jesus is a good friend no matter how we're feeling!

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come find a spot at the table!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We have all kinds of emotions. Sometimes, we're happy. (Point to the green section of the chart.) Sometimes, we're sad. (Point to the blue section.) Sometimes, we're excited. (Point to the red section.) And sometimes we're afraid. (Point to the yellow section). Look at the paper on the table. How are you feeling today? Point to the section that best describes how you're feeling today. (Pause as children respond.) Happy or sad or excited or afraid, **Jesus is always a good friend.** I'm so glad that Jesus is a GOOD friend who loves us no matter how we're feeling!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "You can take these charts home to help you think about how you're feeling! I want you to remember that no matter how you're feeling, Jesus is a GOOD friend! He loves you always. **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

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**BASIC TRUTH**

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PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



**4. PUDDLE JUMPING**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Puddle Jumping" Activity Page, cardstock, and painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Puddle Jumping" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Arrange puddles on the floor and secure them with tape.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to jump from one puddle to another until you say: "Freeze!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, look at the floor! It's full of puddles with different emotions. Let's jump to all these fun puddles."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Come line up over here! We are going to jump from puddle to puddle. Are we ready? Let's get jumping! Okay friends, keep jumping! Keep going! Now . . . FREEZE! Oh wow, some of you are feeling happy, some of you are feeling sad—oh, someone else is feeling silly—but Jesus is always a good friend no matter how you feel! Let's go again, friends! Go! Woo-hoo! Keep jumping! Now . . . FREEZE! (Pause.) Oh friends, can you make the same face as the emotion puddle you're standing on? (Pause.) Oh, good job, friends! No matter what you feel, **Jesus is always a good friend!**" (Repeat as desired.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, jumping from puddle to puddle was so much fun! Those puddles help remind us that no matter how we are feeling, Jesus is always a good friend—no matter what. **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is a good friend when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

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**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is always a good friend.

**BASIC TRUTH**

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WEEK  
**ONE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO CREATE**  
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft



**5. WALKIN' ON WATER**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Walkin' on Water" and "Jesus and Peter Walkin'" Activity Pages, cardstock, washable markers, clear tape, scissors, and a permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Walkin' on Water" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy "Jesus and Peter Walkin'" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color their Jesus and Peter cutouts as well as their picture of the disciples in the boat. Help fold each child's cutouts where indicated to make them look like table tents. Slide the bottom tabs of each cutout through the slits on "Walkin' on Water," with Jesus on the left and Peter on the right. Fold the tabs under the cutouts and tape to secure so the cutouts stay connected to the page but can easily slide. Demonstrate how Jesus and Peter can move back and forth.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit at the table with me, and let's make a moving story picture."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "You have two separate people pictures—Peter and Jesus—and a big story picture to color. (Pause.) Great job! I'm going to help you fold the pictures of Peter and Jesus and attach them to your picture. (Fold and slide the tabs under the slits on each side, Jesus on the left and Peter on the right. Tape the tabs of each.) Now watch what they can do. (Move Jesus and Peter towards each other.) Let's use your pictures as we review our Bible Story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we heard about a time when Jesus was a good friend to Peter when Peter was afraid. **Jesus is always a good friend!** Peter and the other disciples were on a boat one night when they saw something coming towards them in the water, and they were afraid. It was Jesus! Jesus was walking on the water and told Peter and the disciples not to be afraid.

"When Peter saw that it was Jesus, he said, 'Call me out on the water if it's really You, Jesus.' So, Jesus said, 'Come!' And Peter did. Peter was walking on the water too! But Peter heard the wind blowing and saw that the waves were big, and Peter got so afraid. His feet started to sink. Jesus helped Peter and was a good friend when Peter felt afraid. Jesus will be a good friend to you and me too, because **Jesus is always a good friend! Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**"

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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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## 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, a fun-shaped pen, and heart stickers

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **afraid**.

**PETER WALKS ON WATER**  
**MATTHEW 14:22-33**

folder and on Pinterest.

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

Encourage the children to pretend they're rowing a boat, like the disciples, as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions.

Encourage children to help you make a list in the journal of things that make them feel afraid.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're rowing a boat, like the disciples in our story. Follow me and row, row, row your boat! (*Pretend to row a boat as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Whew! We made it! Now we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

"Jesus is always a good friend. In our Bible Story today, Jesus was a good friend to the disciples when He told them, 'Don't be afraid. It's Me, Jesus!' Jesus was a good friend to Peter when Peter was brave and wanted to walk on water to Jesus. Jesus told Peter to come to Him. Jesus was also a good friend to Peter when Peter was afraid and began to sink in the water. Jesus reached out and helped Peter get back in the boat.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"Jesus was always a good friend to Peter and the disciples, and Jesus will always be a good friend to you. That's why when I ask you: '**Who is always a good friend?**' I want everyone to say '**Jesus is always a good friend!**' Let me hear you say it! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"



WEEK  
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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

"Today, we are going to begin learning a new Bible verse that will help us remember that a good friend like Jesus loves you all the time. It says: 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) You did it! (*Give high fives.*) I'm so proud of you! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*)

"Peter was afraid when he heard the wind. Everyone feels afraid sometimes. I love knowing that **Jesus is always a good friend**, because that means Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid. So, when I say your name, I will write it in our journal, and you can put a heart sticker next to your name because Jesus will always be a good friend to you when you are afraid." (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** (*Hold up journal.*) "Jesus will be a good friend to us when we are afraid because **Jesus is always a good friend**. And when we are afraid, we can pray to God about it. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that Jesus is a good friend when we are afraid. Help us remember that Jesus loves us all the time. You're the best, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

*Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.*

#### 1. ROW YOUR BOAT

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Stretchy band, such as [pin.it/7xsKoao4A](https://pin.it/7xsKoao4A)

#### 2. MUFFIN CUP EMOTIONS

**Made to Play:** An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Six-cup muffin tins
- 2.5" circle stickers in six different colors
- Paper cupcake liners in colors to match the stickers
- Black permanent marker
- *Optional: "Muffin Cup Emotions" Activity Page, Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent in place of 2.5" circle stickers*

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Assign a color of circle stickers and cupcake liners to each of the following: happy face, sad face, excited face, afraid face, silly face, and heart.
- Draw each face/heart onto its assigned color of circle stickers, and then draw the same face/heart onto the outside bottom of the coordinating cupcake liners. For example, draw the happy face on the yellow circle stickers and the yellow cupcake liners.
- Turn the muffin tins over so the bottoms are facing up, and place one of each sticker on the bottom of a muffin cup.

- Place a set of cupcake liners on the table next to each upside-down muffin tin.
- *Option: Copy "Muffin Cup Emotions" on Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent, six sets per Small Group. Place the stickers on the bottom of the cups of an upside-down muffin tin.*

#### 3. WEATHERCASTER

**Made to Imagine:** An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Large cardboard box
- Utility knife
- Permanent marker
- Clear packing tape
- Toy microphone

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Cut out the front side of the box to create a television screen.
- Secure the box flaps with tape as needed.

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

*Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.*

#### 1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

**[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]**

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed



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### 2. PRETEND PLAY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**Made to Imagine:** An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Pretend Play Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Masking tape
- Jumbo craft stick
- Large blue bedsheet or tablecloth
- Small inflatable boat
- *Optional: Butcher paper and scissors in place of an inflatable boat*

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Pretend Play Jesus" Activity Page on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Tape "Pretend Play Jesus" to a ruler or jumbo craft stick.
- Spread the blue bedsheet/tablecloth out on the floor and place the boat on top.
- *Option: Cut a boat shape out of butcher paper.*

### 3. HOW I FEEL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Think:** An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "How I Feel Chart" Activity Page
- 11" x 17" paper

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Enlarge and copy "How I Feel Chart" on 11" x 17" paper, one per child.

### 4. PUDDLE JUMPING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Puddle Jumping" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Puddle Jumping" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Arrange puddles on the floor and secure them with tape.

### 5. WALKIN' ON WATER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Create:** An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Walkin' on Water" Activity Page
- "Jesus and Peter Walkin'" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable markers
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Walkin' on Water" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Copy "Jesus and Peter Walkin'" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.



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### 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

#### [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**Made to Reflect:** An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at [bit.ly/3B4Z71j](https://bit.ly/3B4Z71j).)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at [bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh](https://bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh).)
- Heart stickers

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App**.

### FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. [bit.ly/FL\\_RainOrShine](https://bit.ly/FL_RainOrShine)