

Note: This leader guide is designed for a small group including one or more children with a disability who attends group with his/her peers but may struggle with some components of the activities as written in the standard Small Group plan. We suggest providing this version to the Small Group Leader. More here: <http://bit.ly/OrangeKidsSpecialNeeds>

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES:

1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

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

2. GOOD FRIEND

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

3. WHERE IS JESUS?

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

4. FIND WHO JESUS LOVES

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

MADE TO MOVE

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

**1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS**

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the Memory Verse and do the following motions in front of the children.

**TODAY'S
BIBLE STORY**

Who is Jesus?
THE GOSPELS

"Love each other (*hug yourself*)
as I (*point up*)
have loved you." (*point thumbs to chest*)
John 15:12 (*open hands like a book*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as
I have loved you."
JOHN 15:12, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to say our Memory Verse for this week. Everyone watch me!" (*Recite the verse with the motions.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's do it all together! Are you ready?" (*Repeat the verse and motions several times with the children.*)

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our verse tells us to love each other as Jesus loves us! Did you know that Jesus loves you? It's true! Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Who loves you? **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



2. GOOD FRIEND

WHAT YOU NEED:

"My Friend Jesus" "Bread" "Fish" Activity Page, cardstock, small inflatable boat, tan cardstock, orange cardstock, scissors

NOTE: "My Friend Jesus" will be used again during the Day 2 story review.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Who is Jesus?
THE GOSPELS

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make one copy of "My Friend Jesus" on cardstock. Make enough copies of "Bread" on tan cardstock so that each child can have one bread cut-out. Make enough copies of "Fish" on orange cardstock so each child can have one fish cut-out. Pre-cut the bread and fish. (Or gather the pretend bread and fish toys.)

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as
I have loved you."
JOHN 15:12, NIV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Use the inflatable boat and the bread and fish cut-outs to act out each part of the story. Show the picture of "My Friend Jesus" and talk about how Jesus is a good friend and loves everyone.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey friends! Come get in the boat with me!"

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We heard some stories today about our good friend, Jesus (*hold up picture of Jesus*), and how He loves everyone.

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

"One day, Jesus was in a boat with His friends and it started to rain and thunder. The wind and waves made the boat start rocking! (*Make the boat rock a little.*) This scared Jesus' friends. Jesus was a good friend and told the storm to stop, and it did! Jesus can do things only He can do, because Jesus is God's Son!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

"Follow me over here. (*Get out of the boat.*) Now I want everyone to lie down on the floor. One day, Jesus (*hold up picture of Jesus*) saw a man lying on the ground because he couldn't walk. Jesus was a good friend and made the man's legs all better. Everyone, stand up! The man stood up and was able to walk! Jesus can do things only He can do, because Jesus is God's Son!

"Okay, now I want you to rub your tummy like this (*demonstrate*) and say, 'I am so hungry!' (*Pause.*) One day, there were a lot of people who were rubbing their tummies and saying, 'I am so hungry!' Jesus (*hold up picture of Jesus*) was a good friend and did something only He can do. He took five loaves of bread and two fish (*give each child a bread and fish cut-out*) and fed ALL the people! Pretend to eat the bread and fish like this. (*Demonstrate*) Thank You, Jesus! Jesus can do things only He can do, because Jesus is God's Son!"

(GOOD FRIEND, CONTINUED)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus is a good friend to everyone, because Jesus loves everyone. That means Jesus loves you too! So, when I ask you, who loves you, you say, **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!** Who loves you? **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**"

NOTE: if movement is a concern, consider a way to "build" the boat around the children in place of the inflatable boat to get in and out of (for example, large pieces of cardboard shaped like a boat to surround the group. Instead of asking them to lie down/stand, prompt them to show you surprised/excited faces for after Jesus made the man's legs all better. If using this version, adjust the wording in the What You Say section below, accordingly.

MADE TO PLAY

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

**3. WHERE IS JESUS?**

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cup Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, three red plastic cups, heart stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Cup Jesus" on cardstock and cut out. Put heart stickers randomly all over the cups.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Start with just two cups. Hide Jesus under one of the cups, move the cups around and have children guess what cup Jesus is hiding under. Add the third cup once the children are finding success with the activity. Repeat as long as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

**TODAY'S
BIBLE STORY**

Who is Jesus?
THE GOSPELS

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as
I have loved you."
JOHN 15:12, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit with me, I have a fun hide and seek game for us to play today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I have a picture of Jesus and two cups of love. I'm going to hide Jesus under one of these cups and move them around. (*Demonstrate.*) Which cup do you think Jesus is hiding under? (*Lift up the cup that was picked. Have children keep guessing until you find Jesus.*) Let's do it again with three cups! (*Hide Jesus and move the cups around.*) Which cup do you think Jesus is under? (*Repeat as long as desired.*) Nice work!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today we heard about some of the amazing things Jesus came to do. Like calming the storm by telling it to stop. Or when He fed 5,000 people with a few fish and some bread. Or when He made a man that couldn't walk all better. But the most amazing thing about Jesus is that He wants to be your friend forever. Jesus knows all about you and loves you very much. Who loves you? **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

**TODAY'S
BIBLE STORY**

Who is Jesus?
THE GOSPELS

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as
I have loved you."
JOHN 15:12, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

**4. FIND WHO JESUS LOVES**

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic tub; locker mirror; Duct tape; and foam hearts. (Make more than one set to decrease wait time or avoid an overcrowded activity area.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape the mirror face up to the bottom of the plastic tub/container. Cover with foam hearts.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to look through the hearts to see themselves in the mirror.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus loves everyone.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends come sit with me, I have a tub of love for us to explore today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When you look around in this tub of love you will find someone who Jesus loves. Take a look in in the tub and tell me who you see. Push the hearts around until you find the person Jesus loves. *(Pause.)* Did you see your face? *(Pause.)* Jesus loves *(Say child's name.)* Shake the hearts around. *(Pause.)* I need another friend to look in the tub to find someone Jesus loves. *(Repeat with each child.)* Raise your hand if you saw your face. *(Pause.)* Everyone saw your face in the tub of love because Jesus loves each and every one of you!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus knows all about you and loves you. Who loves you? **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. MEMORY VERSE W/ MOTIONS

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

2. GOOD FRIEND

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

WHAT YOU NEED, OPTION 1:

- "My Friend Jesus" (Activity Page)
- "Bread" (Activity Page)
 - Consider using pretend food (bread) for more sensory interaction
- "Fish" (Activity Page)
 - Consider using pretend/toy fish for more sensory interaction
- Cardstock
- Small inflatable boat
- Tan cardstock
- Orange cardstock
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make one copy of "Jesus" on cardstock.
- Make enough copies of "Bread" on tan paper so each child can have one bread cut-out.
- Make enough copies of "Fish" on orange paper so each child can have one fish cut-out.
- Pre-cut the bread and fish.

3. WHERE IS JESUS?

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Cup Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Three red plastic cups
- Heart stickers
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Cup Jesus" on cardstock and cut out.
- Randomly place heart stickers on the three plastic cups.

4. FIND WHO JESUS LOVES

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic tub
- Locker mirror
- Duct tape
- Foam hearts

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape the locker mirror to the bottom of the plastic tub/container.
- Fill the tub with foam hearts.
- (Make more than one set to decrease wait time or avoid an overcrowded activity area.)

Visit our [Pinterest](#) page to see samples of and suggested supplies for Small Group activities.