

**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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at John 15:12, NIV. You need a music player and the worship songs, "Jesus No Matter What," "I'm Gonna Tell," and "He Is Amazing" which are included in your files. The dance moves video for all the songs are also available in your files.

WHAT YOU SAY:

WORSHIP LEADER: "Helloooooo friends! I'm so glad to see you here today. We are going to have so much fun together this week praising together! Let's get up on our feet so we can dance and sing about our awesome friend, Jesus! You know, **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!** When I say, **Who loves you?** You say, **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me. Who loves you?"**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: **[Bottom Line] "Jesus loves me!"**

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! He sure does. Jesus loves you no matter what! Let's sing about that!"

Lead children in singing "Jesus No Matter What."

WORSHIP LEADER: "That was awesome. Jesus is a friend that we can trust because He loves us so much! **Who loves you?"**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: **[Bottom Line] "Jesus loves me."**

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!** The Bible teaches us to "'Love each other (*hug yourself*) as I (*point up*) have loved you." (*point thumbs to chest*) John 15:12 (*open hands like a book*) That means we can love everyone, everywhere like Jesus loves us. Let's learn our memory verse together. Are you ready? Say it with me."

(Say the verse and do the motions several times together.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Way to go! You did a great job with that verse. One way we can love others is by telling them all about Jesus. I have a song about that. Let's sing it together!"

Lead children in singing "I'm Gonna Tell."

WORSHIP LEADER: "That was amazing! And, do you know WHO is amazing? Jesus! Jesus is amazing. Let's sing a song about that!"

Lead children in singing "He Is Amazing."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Wow! That was so much fun singing with you! I'm glad we get to spend the week together praising Jesus. One more time, **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: small table, box (labeled "Art Supplies"), bag of rice, two plastic eggs, washi tape, scissors

Note: The "Art Supplies" box will be used again on Days 2 and 5.

Suggestion: Use two different hosts throughout VBS and alternate them each day.

The table should be in the center of the storytelling area.

The host enters singing "The Ants Go Marching In" while carrying the "Art Supplies" box that contains the rice, plastic eggs, washi tape, and scissors

HOST: "The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah. The ants go marching one by one hurrah, hurrah!"

Host sets the "Art Supplies" box down on the table.

HOST: "Hey there, I'm (host's name)! And I'm not an ant. (host chuckles) But my friends and I love music SOOOOO much that we are going to march in our very own music parade, kind of like when . . .

The host begins singing again.

HOST: "The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah."

The host stops singing and continues to excitedly explain about the parade.

HOST: "We're even going to play instruments while we march down the sidewalk!"

"Have you ever been to a parade or maybe marched in one? (pause) If you've ever been in a parade or seen one, I want you to cheer with me on the count of three. One, two, three!"

CHILDREN AND HOST: *(clapping and cheering)* "Yay for parades!"

Host excitedly begins rummaging through the "Art Supplies" box.

HOST: "And yay for instruments! Do you know you can make your own instrument? (Still looking) You sure can! And I want to make an instrument to play in our parade. Ah-ha! This is what I was looking for."

Host pulls a bag of rice out of the box.

HOST: "Rice!

Short pause.

HOST: "Now you're probably thinking, (Host's name), you don't make music with rice. You eat rice!

"True, rice is yummy to eat. But watch this!

Host pulls two plastic eggs out of the box.

HOST: "I'm going to make egg shakers!

The host moves the "Art Supplies" box to the floor. Then they use the table to pour rice into the plastic eggs, click them shut, and wrap washi tape around each one.

HOST: "Watch this! I pour a little rice in this plastic egg . . . there. Now I click it shut like this . . . good, good. Now I wrap a little tape to keep it all together. Great! Now I just need to do that one more time. Pour a little rice, click it shut, wrap a little tape and . . . TA-DA!

Host holds up the two finished egg rice shakers.

HOST: "I made shakers! Now I can make music. Time to press PLAY!

Host does a fun rhythm with both shakers and continues shaking the egg shakers as they exit leaving the "Art Supplies" box on the floor.

The storyteller enters carrying a Bible.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert," "Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, Bible, small table (from Intro Sketch), small inflatable boat, and enough individual bags of Goldfish crackers (bought or prepared with snack-sized zip-top baggies) for each child to have one bag.

Note: The "Jesus" Activity Page will be used all week. You will also use the inflatable boat again on day 2.

Note: The small table should still be in the center of the storytelling area. You will also need extra volunteers to hand out the Goldfish bags when the time comes.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Hold up the Bible and lay it open on the table in the center of the storytelling area. Place the box the host left on the floor by the table.

STORYTELLER: "Today's true story from the Bible begins with . . .

Storyteller picks up the image of "Jesus" and props it for the audience to see.

STORYTELLER: "Jesus! But who IS Jesus? And why did so many people want to follow Him and hear what He said?"

The storyteller walks closer to the audience.

STORYTELLER: "I'll tell you why people wanted to follow Jesus and hear what He had to say . . .

"Jesus is God's Son!

"It's true! Jesus is God's Son, and God sent Him to do amazing things! Like . . .

Storyteller pulls out the small inflatable boat, places it in the center of the storytelling area, and stands inside the boat.

STORYTELLER: "One time, when Jesus and His friends were in a boat, a HUGE storm came up! There was rain and lightning, big wind and thunder . . . Jesus' friends were scared! But not Jesus. Jesus stood up and did the most amazing thing—something only God's Son can do. Jesus told the storm to stop! And, it did!

The storyteller hops out of the boat and puts it to the side.

STORYTELLER: "Another time there was a man who couldn't walk. His friends had to carry him to see Jesus. And that's when Jesus did something amazing that only He can do. Jesus made the man walk!

The volunteers with Goldfish snacks should be ready to hand one bag of Goldfish to each child.

STORYTELLER: "Oh, and listen to this! One time there was a HUGE crowd of people who came to listen to Jesus. They had been listening all day and were hungry. Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish, thanked God for it, and then gave it to His friends, the disciples, to give to all of the people. Kind of like my friends are giving you a yummy goldfish snack to eat! Thanks, friends!

The volunteers start passing out the Goldfish.

STORYTELLER: "That's when Jesus did something amazing that only He can do. He fed ALL of those people, over five thousand of them, with just five loaves of bread and two fish. His friends, the disciples, even picked up leftovers! Wow!

Continue as the children eat.

STORYTELLER: "Jesus can do amazing things! But do you know what the most amazing thing about Jesus is? The most amazing thing about Jesus is that He wants to be our friend forever.

"Think about that. (in awe) The Son of God who can calm storms, make sick people better, feed thousands of people with just a little food . . . HE wants to be YOUR friend forever!

"Jesus loves you! And He knows everything about you. He knows your name. He knows what your favorite toy is. He even knows the number of hairs on your head! He loves you THAT much! I told you it was amazing!

"So, all week, every time someone asks you, **who loves you**, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!** Got it? Let's practice. **Who loves you?**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line] "Jesus loves me!"**

STORYTELLER: "Again! **Who loves you?**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line] "Jesus loves me!"**

STORYTELLER: "And when you know how much Jesus loves you, then you can press play and go love others the way Jesus loves you! That's the truth, friends. You better believe it!

"Okay, it's time to pray now. So let's close our eyes and talk to God.

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to show us how much You love us. Thank You that Jesus loves us so much that He wants to be our friend forever. Help us to love others the way Jesus loves us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

"Thank you for being so, so wonderful! I'll see you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the Bible.

The Host enters.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: The egg shakers made during the Intro Sketch.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus did SO many amazing things! And the most amazing is that Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever! I think I got the story. Did you get it? If you did, say 'Got it!' Get it?"

Host points to the audience.

CHILDREN AND HOST: "GOT IT!"

HOST: "Good!"

Host gives two thumbs up and then holds up the egg shakers.

HOST: "Hey, I just got a great idea! I can make up a brand-new song with my brand-new egg shakers.

Host begins shaking the egg shakers to the conga line rhythm while singing the words below and doing the conga line dance in place.

HOST: "Jesus, Jesus loves me! Jesus, Jesus loves me! Jesus, Jesus loves me! . . ."

Host exits doing the conga line dance while singing and shaking the egg shakers.

HOST: ". . . Jesus, Jesus loves me! Jesus, Jesus loves me! Jesus, Jesus loves me! Jesus, Jesus . . ."

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship, the introductory sketch, and the Bible story. The Stage Script is written for those who gather their preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story.

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)

Choose an adult or teenager who relates well to preschoolers to tell the Intro and Outro Sketch—to be the host. If possible, use two different hosts throughout VBS and alternate them each day.

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be “told” and not “read.” Advanced preparation is necessary.

1. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)
- Live instruments
- A music player
- “Memory Verse Card” paper-clipped in your Bible at John 15:12, NIV

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- “Jesus No Matter What,” “I’m Gonna Tell,” and “He Is Amazing,” which are included in your files

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for both songs are available in your files

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.

2. INTRO/OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small table
- Box
- Bag of rice
- Two plastic eggs
- Washi tape
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Label the box “Art Supplies.”
- Place all of the items in the “Art Supplies” box.
- Save the “Art Supplies” box for Day 2 and Day 5.

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- “Jesus” Activity Page on cardstock
- Small table (from the Intro sketch)
- Small inflatable boat
- Enough individual bags of Goldfish crackers (bought or prepared with snack-sized, zip-top baggies) for each child to have one bag

WHAT YOU DO:

- Optional: Enlarge the “Jesus” Activity Page.