



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. JUMP HIGH LIKE A KITE

WHAT YOU NEED: Blue butcher paper, wall tape, colored paper, masking tape or sticky tack, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut out several diamond shapes from the colored paper to mimic a kite, at least one cutout

per child. Place a tape loop or sticky tack on the back of each kite cutout. Tape the butcher paper on a wall in your activity area slightly above preschooler level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a kite cutout and have them stand in front of the blue paper sky. Encourage each child to take a turn jumping as high as they can to stick their kite on the paper.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Have you ever flown a kite at the park or on the beach? I have a kite here for each one of you! Do you see the blue paper on the wall? Where is it? (Pause.) Yes! This looks like blue sky."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's take turns. One at a time, I want you to jump as high as you can and stick your kite on the paper."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! Great job, friends. Today, we'll hear a story about someone who loves you higher than the HIGHEST kite! Let's go."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to fly kites as you travel.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER

**MATTHEW 26:20-30;
27:45-50; 28:1-7**

MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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.

WHAT YOU DO: BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER MATTHEW 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7

"How wide (hold arms out wide) and long (raise one hand high and hold one hand low) and high (jump) and deep (crouch) is the love (hug yourself) of Christ," (point up) Ephesians 3:18. (Open hands like a book.)

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

WHAT YOU SAY: BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me!

MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

"How wide (hold arms out wide) and long (raise one hand high and hold one hand low) and high (jump) and deep (crouch) is the love (hug yourself) of Christ," (point up) Ephesians 3:18." (Open hands like a book.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready?"

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

"How wide (hold arms out wide) and long (raise one hand high and hold one hand low) and high (jump) and deep (crouch) is the love (hug yourself) of Christ," (point up) Ephesians 3:18." (Open hands like a book.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us high, wide, long, and deep! He loves us so much and wants to be our friend forever! Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. ACTING-UP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children in doing the following actions as you retell the Bible story.

1. Sit and pretend to eat.
2. Stand up and run-in-place.
3. Ball up on the floor.
4. Count to three then everyone jumps up with hands in the air.
5. Cheer for Jesus.

If time and interest allow, repeat the activity.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Easter is a special time when we celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! We heard an AMAZING story about Jesus today. Let's act it out together."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our Bible story began with Jesus eating with His friends, the disciples. Let's pretend to eat together. (*Sit and pretend to eat.*) While they ate, Jesus told His friends that He had to go away but He would come back.

"Later, Jesus and His friends were in a garden and some mean people came and took Jesus away. Jesus' friends were so scared that they ran away. Everyone, stand up and run-in-place. (*Run-in-place.*)

"Ok, stop running. The mean people hurt Jesus so badly that He died. Jesus' friends buried Him in a tomb. Everyone, ball up on the floor like this. (*Ball up on the floor.*) A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb so no one could go in and no one could come out. Jesus' friends were very sad.

"Now, when I count to three, I want everyone to jump up with your hands in the air. Listen for me to say three. Got it? Ok, Jesus was buried in the tomb, but on the third day, Jesus came back! One . . . two . . . THREE! (*Jump up with hands in the air.*) Jesus is alive!

"Jesus' friends were so happy that Jesus is alive! Let's cheer for Jesus because we are happy Jesus is alive, too! (*Walk in a circle as you cheer for Jesus.*) Yay, Jesus! Yay, Jesus! Yay, Jesus!" (*Repeat if desired.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus is alive, and He wants to be YOUR friend forever. That's why when I ask you, '**Who wants to be your friend forever?**', you say '**Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**' Ready? Let me hear you! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Yay! Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER

**MATTHEW 26:20-30;
27:45-50; 28:1-7**

MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

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KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today while we walk to our small group spot, we'll pretend we are the angel rolling the stone away from where Jesus was buried like this. (*Pretend to roll a big stone in front of you with both hands.*) Do what I do, and let's roll the stone away! Follow me!

(*Pretend to roll a large stone in front of you as you lead the children to your small group spot.*) "We did it! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is alive!

EASTER
MATTHEW 26:20-30;
27:45-50; 28:1-7

"Today's Bible story was about how Jesus died and was buried. Jesus' friends were so very sad. But on the third day, God sent an angel to roll the stone away from where He had been buried. When Jesus' friends looked inside, He was gone! Jesus came back, just like He said He would! Jesus is alive!

"Jesus came back because He loves us and wants to be our friend forever. The Bible verse we will learn is about how much Jesus loves us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

"'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.' Ephesians 3:18. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"That means nothing is wider or longer or higher or deeper than Jesus' love for you and me. Jesus' love is THAT big! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

CHILDREN AND SGL: "How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*) and high (*jump*) and deep (*crouch*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ," (*point up*) Ephesians 3:18." (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SGL: "We celebrate Easter because Jesus loves us so much that He came back, just like He said, and He wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

SGL: "Who wants to be your friend forever?"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK
ONE

SMALL GROUP
Downtown

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

SGL: *(cheering)* "Yay! **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

"Today, we'll make a list of the highest things we can think of, like a super-tall tree or a kite or even the stars! It can be anything that is way up high in the sky. So, when I say your name, tell me the highest thing you can think of, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name! *(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

"These are some pretty high things! I'm going to add one more thing to our list. Jesus' love for you and me. Because Jesus' love is SO high, we can't even measure it! *(Write 'Jesus' love' in the journal.)* There. Now we can pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You that He came back and will always love us, no matter what. Jesus' love for us is higher than a *(read the list the children made.)* That is some BIG love! Thank You again for our friend, Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."