



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. SHARING SPOONS

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic spoons and several large pom poms or balled-up socks

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a spoon.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give several of the children a pom pom or balled-up socks. Challenge the children to share the pom pom by giving it to each other with the spoons.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! I am so glad you are all my friends! One thing we can do with our friends is share."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We're going to share with our friends, but today let's share with SPOONS! That sounds like so much fun. I have a pom pom (*hold it on a spoon*), and I can share it with a friend by giving it to them on their spoon. (*Demonstrate.*) Let's all share with our friends!" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so much fun! Sharing with friends is always fun! Today, we'll hear a Bible story about how Jesus shared with His friends, too."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting this month's Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus taught us how to love one another.

**EARLY CHURCH
ACTS 2:42-47**

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 CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



1. FOLDING RULER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Folding Ruler" Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; small hole punch; brads; heart stickers; and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Folding Ruler" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one set of cutouts per child. Punch holes where indicated. Write child's name on their ruler.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have children align the holes on their cutouts in the correct order and attach by securing the brads. Have children decorate with heart stickers.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse talks about different measurements—wide, long, high, and deep—of Jesus' love. What do you use to make measurements? (Pause.) A ruler can be used to measure."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at your strips of paper and put the strip that has a hole punched on each end in the middle. (Pause.) Line up the other strips so that the holes are together. (Pause.) Make sure all the words go the right way. (Pause.) Push a brad through the first set of holes and bend to secure. (Demonstrate.) Now push a brad through the second set of holes and bend to secure. (Pause.) Decorate your ruler with these heart stickers. (Pause.) Nice job! Now watch how your ruler can fold (demonstrate) and open again. (Demonstrate.) Fold it back up so it's ready to go home." (Pause.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say our memory verse together. 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,' Ephesians 3:18. Say it again. 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,' Ephesians 3:18. Jesus loves you, and He wants to be your friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus taught us how to love one another.

**EARLY CHURCH
ACTS 2:42-47**

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



4. PLUSH FRIEND LOVE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plush animals, large basket, heart cutouts, floor tape, music, and music player; Optional "Hearts" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors instead of hearts cutouts

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If using the "Hearts" Activity Page, copy on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Tape the heart cutouts around the floor of your activity area. Place the plush animals in the basket away from your activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the hearts on the floor and the plush animals in the basket. Explain that you will play the music as the children select a plush friend and race to place it on a heart before the music stops. Call for the children to pick their plush friend back up. Play the music and repeat. Children find a new heart for each round.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather the plush animals and hearts for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand by me! Do you see the hearts on the floor? (Pause.) Great! Do you see the plush friends over there in the basket?" (Pause.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I will play some music. When the music starts, I want you to go to the basket, select a plush friend, then race to place your plush friend on a heart BEFORE the music stops. Remember, watch out for your friends and make sure to share. There is a plush animal and a heart for every friend."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! You shared the love with your plush friends. Jesus taught us to love and share that love with others. He loves you SO much. Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus taught us how to love one another.

**EARLY CHURCH
ACTS 2:42-47**

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 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 Bible, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll take the longest steps we can while we walk to our small group spot. Do what I do and follow me! (*Take*

big, long steps as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

"Those were some really long steps! But nothing is LONGER than Jesus' love for you and me. Right? Right! 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.*)

"Our Bible story, today, was about how we can love others the way Jesus loves us. Do you remember how we can love people? (*Pause.*) We can love them by giving them the food, clothes, or a home that they need. When we give people what they need, we are loving them and being a good friend, just like Jesus!

"The Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember just how much Jesus loves people. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

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

"Wow! That's a lot of love! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together with the motions."

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.*)

SGL: "And because Jesus loves us SO much, He wants to be our friend forever and ever and EVER! **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

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

SGL: "One more time! **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

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

BIBLE STORY

Jesus taught us how to love one another.

**EARLY CHURCH
ACTS 2:42-47**

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.



WEEK
THREE

SMALL GROUP
Downtown

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

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

"Since everyone needs clothes, and giving people clothes when they need them is one way we can love like Jesus, I thought we could make a list of clothing. It can be socks, shoes, a coat, shirt . . . anything that you wear. When I say your name, tell me one kind of clothing, 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.*)

"This is a great list of clothes! Let's pray that we will love people the way Jesus loves us and help them have the clothes they need. 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 giving us the clothes we need. Help us give people (*read the list the children made*) so they will have clothes and know how much Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."