

JESUS WANTS TO BE  
MY FRIEND FOREVER.

WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JULY 2020

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



**first look**™

## TEAM

### CEO

Reggie Joiner

### DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

### DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL STRATEGY

Brittany Compton Robertson

### DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Kathy Hill

### DESIGN AND BRAND MANAGER

Sharon van Rossum

### CREATIVE TEAM

Brittany Compton Robertson

Kathy Hill

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

Donna High

Sharon van Rossum

Deb Springer

McKenzie Causey

Missy Purcell

### WRITERS

Donna High

Emily Meredith

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

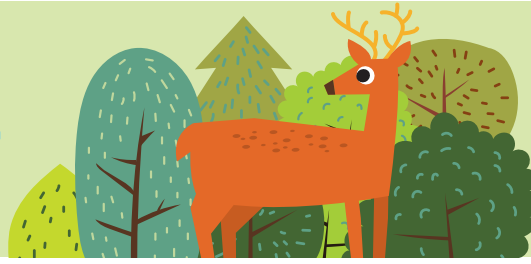
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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



**BIBLE STORY**

I spy something that is real.

**JESUS PREPARES A PLACE**  
JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 1:1-11

**MEMORY VERSE**

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.”

JOHN 20:31, NLV

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can believe in Jesus?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can believe in Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience**

For Leaders Only  
Monthly Overview  
Create the Environment

15  
MIN

**SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.  
Community Helper Tag  
Creating a Special Place  
Special Place

10  
MIN

**WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

I Spy  
Love God and Everybody Else

10  
MIN

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

Introductory Sketch  
Bible Story  
Prayer

25  
MIN

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

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.  
Cloud Hopping Verse  
I Spy Jesus!  
Heaven Brainstorm  
Parachute  
A Special Place  
Journal and Prayer

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

I spy something that is real.

**JESUS PREPARES A PLACE**  
**JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 1:1-11**



## MOVE

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

## MEMORY VERSE

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

**JOHN 20:31, NLV**

## KEY QUESTION

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### 1. COMMUNITY HELPER TAG

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Community Helpers" Activity Pages, cardstock, and painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Community Helpers" on cardstock. Tape to the wall at preschooler height.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Call out different things the community helpers tell us to do. Children will run to the correct community helper picture on the wall. Repeat as long as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how we'll hear what Jesus says about heaven.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come join me in the middle of the room. (Pause.) Look at the pictures on the wall. Who do you see? (Pause.) Yes! All of these pictures are people we call 'community helpers.' I have a game for us to play with these pictures."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Listen. This person brings us mail and packages. Who is it? (Pause.) Yes! The mail carrier. Run to the picture of the mail carrier. (Pause.) Great! This person helps protect you or helps you when you get lost. Who is it? (Pause.) The policeman. Run to the policeman. (Pause.) This person helps us when we are sick. Who is it? (Pause.) The doctor. Run to the doctor. (Pause.) This person puts out fires. Who is it? (Pause.) A firefighter. Run to the firefighter! Okay, last one. This person tells us how to do things and teaches us about the Bible. Who is it? (Pause.) A teacher, that's right! Run to the teacher. Great job friends!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In today's story, we'll hear what Jesus says about heaven. I can't wait!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by playing stop and go. The children will listen for the leader to say, "Stop" or "Go."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

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**JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 1:1-11**

## MEMORY VERSE

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

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## PLAY

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

### 2. CREATING A SPECIAL SPACE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Butcher paper, markers, home magazines, scissors and glue sticks  
(Optional: sticky tack or wall tape)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Cut out pictures of furniture (*beds, tables, chairs, etc.*) from the magazines. Place a large piece of butcher paper on the table. Draw several boxes (*each one at least 12" x 12"*) on the page. If possible, draw one box per child. Place the magazine cutouts and glue sticks in the center of the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children stand next to a box on the butcher paper. Instruct the children to select pictures of furniture to fill their "rooms" (boxes). They can arrange the furniture as they choose and glue them in the box.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Collect the remaining magazine cutouts and the glue sticks for clean-up. If possible, hang the butcher paper on the wall.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, do you see the boxes here on the butcher paper? We're going to pretend each box is a room in a house. What do we need? Furniture! I have some pictures here for you to choose. Once you select the pictures you want to add to your space, arrange them inside your box or 'room' and glue them down."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at these special rooms and places you've created. Did you know that God has made a special place for us where we can live with him one day? We'll hear all about it in our Bible story today. Let's go!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by describing different rooms for the children to name. For instance, you might say, "This is the place where Mom and Dad make breakfast and where we can grab snack." The children respond, "The kitchen!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

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## IMAGINE

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

### 3. SPECIAL PLACE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large box (like a refrigerator box), blankets, small toys, and a box cutter

(*OPTION: If you do not have access to a large box, you may use beneath a table or a corner as the special place.*)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Use the box cutter to cut an opening in the box as a door. Be sure to cut the box while the children are not present.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Place the box in the activity area. Encourage the children to use the blankets and toys to make the inside of the box a special place to play.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Allow the children to play in the box.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to make a special place to play today."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Point to the box.*) "This is our place! We can use the blankets and toys to make this special. (*Do activity.*) WOW! What a cool special place! Let's play in it!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, in our Bible story, we will hear how someone special is making us a special place!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by chanting the Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR  
FROM GOD**  
MEMORY VERSE  
REVIEW



**MOVE**

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

**BIBLE STORY**

I spy something that is real.

**JESUS PREPARES A PLACE**  
**JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 1:1-11**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

**JOHN 20:31, NLV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can believe in Jesus?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can believe in Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**1. CLOUD HOPPING VERSE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Clouds" Activity Page, cardstock, and floor tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Clouds" on cardstock, ten copies per group. Lay the "Clouds" on the floor in your activity area to create a path. Use the floor tape to secure them to the floor.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Line up the children in your activity area near the path of cloud pages. Say the memory verse together as the children hop along the cloud path on the floor. Repeat as time and interest allow.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Collect the cloud pages for clean-up.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible story today, we learned that when Jesus was finished speaking to His friends, He went straight into the sky, through the clouds! What do you see on the floor? (Pause.) Clouds! Let's hop on the clouds as we say our memory verse together."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, John 20:31. That was fun! Let's hop and say it again."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "This verse reminds us that we can believe in Jesus! The Bible tells us that Jesus has made a special place for us to live with him in heaven. Why? Because Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



**PLAY**

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

**BIBLE STORY**

I spy something that is real.

**JESUS PREPARES A PLACE**  
**JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 1:1-11**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

**JOHN 20:31, NLV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can believe in Jesus?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can believe in Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**2. I SPY JESUS!**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "Story Pictures" Activity Pages, cardstock, and wall tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Story Pictures" onto cardstock. Tape the pictures close together on the wall in a block form at preschooler level.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Play "I Spy" with the pictures. Read the words on the pictures, one at a time. Each time you read the words on a picture, wait, and encourage the children to spy the one that you described.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's play a game of 'I Spy.' Listen to what I say and try to spy the right picture." (Read descriptions and invite children to spy each picture.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "People saw Jesus say and do amazing things. Some of those people wrote down what they saw and heard. We can read what they wrote in the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) and believe in Jesus, too. **Who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus.**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**THINK**

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

**BIBLE STORY**

I spy something that is real.

**JESUS PREPARES A PLACE  
JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 1:1-11**

**MEMORY VERSE**

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**JOHN 20:31, NLV**

**KEY QUESTION**

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**BOTTOM LINE**

I can believe in Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**3. HEAVEN BRAINSTORM**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Butcher paper, markers, and wall tape or sticky tack

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Lay a large piece of butcher paper on a table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children around the butcher paper. Have the children share some ideas of what they think heaven will be like. You can write statements on the page or draw simple pictures. Encourage the children to use their imaginations!

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** If you have wall space, hang your list on the wall at preschooler level.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "When Jesus left the earth, He went into the sky through the clouds. Where was Jesus going? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus went to heaven. Jesus is in heaven, right now, getting things ready for everyone who believes in Him."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "What do you think heaven will be like? (Invite answers and write them down after each question.) I'll write down your answers on our page. What do you think heaven will look like? What kinds of things will be there?"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Wow! What a great list, friends. We can believe that heaven is real because that's what Jesus said! And we can believe in Jesus because He always tells the truth. Everyone who believes in Jesus will get to be his friend forever and live with him in heaven one day. So, tell me, **who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus.**"





PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**MOVE**

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

**BIBLE STORY**

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**4. PARACHUTE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Cotton balls and a parachute or sheet

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Lay the parachute flat on the floor. Place the cotton balls on top of the parachute. These will represent clouds.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to stand around the parachute with you and pick up a section of the parachute. Invite the children to shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast. Encourage the children to try to bounce the "clouds" high. Repeat several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus made us a special place in the sky! Right through the clouds."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's play with the parachute! We'll put clouds on the parachute and bounce them high in the sky where they belong—where our special place is!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Awesome job! Jesus loves us and made a special place for those who believe in Him! We can believe in Jesus! **Who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**CREATE**

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

**BIBLE STORY**

I spy something that is real.

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JOHN 14:2-3; ACTS 1:1-11**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

**JOHN 20:31, NLV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can believe in Jesus?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can believe in Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**5. A SPECIAL PLACE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Heaven" and "Jesus" Activity Pages, cardstock, construction paper, glue, crayons, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Heaven" on cardstock, one per child. Copy "Jesus" on cardstock and cut apart, one Jesus per child. Cut an assortment of squares and rectangles from different colors of construction paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a "Jesus" cutout to glue on their "Heaven" road. Encourage the children to add "rooms" to their page by gluing construction paper squares and rectangles. They can color the rest of the page.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus said He was going to prepare a special place for everyone who believes in Him. He said this place will have lots and lots of rooms! Today, we'll make a picture to remind us of this special place."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "The first thing to do is glue a picture of Jesus to the road. Hey, Jesus! Next, you can glue these shapes to your page. They are the rooms Jesus is getting ready for everyone who believes in Him." (Go to each child and count their rooms together.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus loves everyone. He is in heaven, right now, getting the rooms ready for everyone who believes in Him. And, **who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY  
TO GOD**  
PRAYER  
ACTIVITY



**REFLECT**

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**BIBLE STORY**

I spy something that is real.

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**6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at John 20:31. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each Small Group. You also need reward stickers or a hand stamp for saying the Bible verse.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time. Today, we'll hold our hands like binoculars (*demonstrate*) while we walk to our Small Group spot. Look through your binoculars, and see what you spy while we walk. Binoculars ready? (*Look at the children through your hand binoculars.*) Follow me! (*Hold your hands like binoculars as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

"We made it! Tell me what you saw through your binoculars. (*Pause and listen.*) Cool! 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 a very special place. Do you remember what the special place was? (*Pause.*) Yes! Heaven! And who is getting heaven ready for everyone who believes in Jesus? (*Pause.*) Right again! Jesus is preparing a special place for everyone who believes in Him. We can read the story right here in the Bible. (*Hold up the Bible.*)

"Men wrote down what they saw Jesus do and what they heard Him say so that we can believe in Jesus, too. **Who can believe in Jesus?"**

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "I can believe in Jesus!"**

**SGL:** "Yes, you can believe in Jesus! And the Bible verse we have spent so much time learning says that the stories in the Bible are written so that we can believe in Jesus. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, John 20:31. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"We should know this verse SO well by now. We have practiced it a lot! Let's stand up and say it together with the motions one more time, then anyone who wants can try to say it!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY**  
**TO GOD**  
PRAYER  
ACTIVITY



**REFLECT**

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "These are written (*open your hands like a book*) so that you (*point out*) may believe (*point to head*) that Jesus is the Christ, (*point up*) the Son of God. (*Rock baby.*) John 20:31." (*Open your hands like a book.*)

**SGL:** "You have totally got this! Let's sit down. When it's your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and try it. I have my stickers (*hand stamp*) ready!"

(*Say each child's name. Make sure to give each child the opportunity to say the verse on their own. Have your stickers or handstamp ready when they say it.*)

**SGL:** "Way to go, [child's name]! Here is your sticker! (*Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.*)

"Now, it's time to write in our journal and pray. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"I want us to make a list of our favorite places. It can be the playground, your bedroom, the beach, your grandparent's house, the grocery store, anywhere in the whole wide world. When I say your name, tell me one of your favorite places. (*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 really great places! I can see why they are your favorite. But guess what? Jesus is making heaven SO amazing that it will be even better than our favorite places. It's true! Let's use our list to talk to God, now. 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 wonderful places like (*read the list the children made*). We love going to these places. Thank You that Jesus is making an even more amazing place where everyone who believes in Him can live with Him forever. You are so good to us, God. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."