



WEEK  
**ONE**  
FEBRUARY 2023

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

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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



## 5. JESUS AND THE CHILDREN PUPPETS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus and the Children Puppets" and "Puppet Parent Note" Activity Pages; cardstock; washable markers; craft sticks; glue sticks; scissors; and masking tape

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

### MEMORY VERSE

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jesus and the Children Puppets" on cardstock and cut out, one set per child. Copy "Puppet Parent Note" on cardstock and cut apart, one per child. Write each child's name on the back of their cutouts.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to color their puppets and glue a craft stick to the back of each picture. Leader tapes each puppet to secure it to the stick. Use the puppets to review the Bible story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how Jesus loves all the children and Jesus loves me.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit with me at the table. We're going to make puppets to help us review today's Bible story!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "There are three different pictures for our puppets. Who are these people? (*Hold up the picture of the disciples.*) The disciples! That's right! Good job. And who is this? (*Hold up the picture of Jesus.*) JESUS! And who is in this picture? (*Hold up the picture of the children.*) Yay! Children just like you! Color your pictures. (*Pause.*) Super-duper! To turn them into puppets, glue a craft stick to the back of your pictures. (*Pause.*) Great! (*Tape to secure the sticks.*) Now let's use these to help review our Bible story.

"Hold up your Jesus puppet and your disciple puppet. (*Pause.*) When Jesus was teaching, a lot of people came to hear Him. And one day, people brought their children to see and hear Jesus! Hold up your children puppet. (*Pause.*) The people wanted their children to get so close to Jesus because these parents knew how special and amazing Jesus is. But Jesus' disciples didn't want the children to be near Jesus.

"Hold your disciple puppet in front of your Jesus puppet. (*Pause.*) The disciples told the children to go away. Now put your Jesus puppet in front of the disciple puppet. (*Pause.*) But Jesus called the children to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to me!' Jesus opened His arms wide, and the children went to Him.



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“Hold your Jesus and children puppets together. (Pause.) The children were able to be near Jesus and know how much Jesus loved them! Great job helping me review our story with your puppets. You can take your puppets home and retell the story over and over.”

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**”



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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, Bible, scissors, paperclip, journal, a fun-shaped pen, and a heart stamp with inkpad or heart stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

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

"Today, when I say your name, I'll write it in our journal. Then I want you to put a [heart stamp/sticker] by your name because Jesus loves you! Listen for your name.

"Jesus loves [child's name]. (Continue with each child's name and write their names in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and letters. After you say each name, give that child a heart stamp or sticker to put by their name.)

"I love seeing all of your names with hearts by them. It reminds me that Jesus loves all children and He wants to be your friend forever!

"Would anyone like to pray before I pray?" (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

### MEMORY VERSE

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

**EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV**

### AFTER THE ACTIVITY:

**SGL:** "Dear God, Thank You that Jesus loves [child's name], and Jesus loves [child's name] . . . (continue this with each child's name). Thank You that all children can go to Jesus, talk to Him, and be His friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

### KEY QUESTION

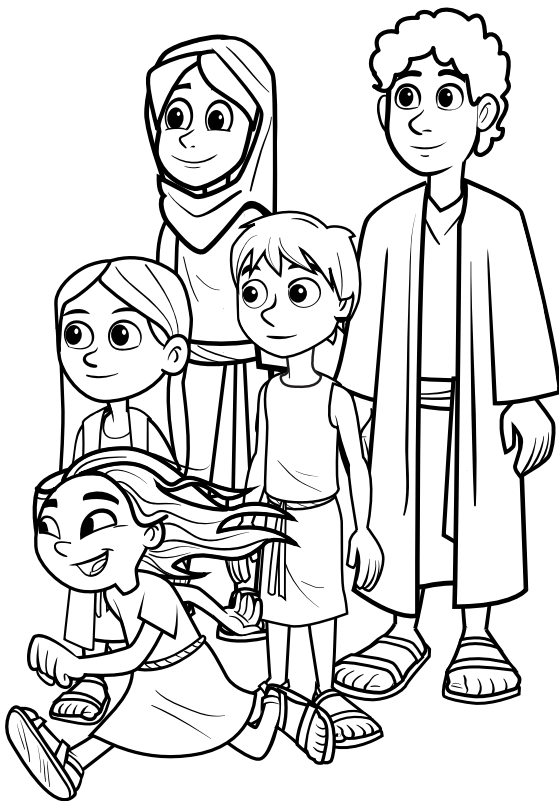
Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.



Today we heard a great Bible story about Jesus and the children! You can find it in your Bible in Luke 18:15-16. Your child made puppets of Jesus, the disciples, and the children to help retell the story. Encourage your child to put on a puppet show at home as they tell you how the disciples didn't want the children to come close but Jesus called the children to Him and said, "let the little children come to me!" Jesus opened His arms wide, and the children went to Him. They were able to be near Him and know how much Jesus loved them!