

## Jesus and the Children—February 2021, Week 1

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus loves me.

Jesus and the Children • *Luke 18:15-16*

**Memory Verse:** "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**Key Question:** Who loves you?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus loves me.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**VIDEO: Jesus and the Children:** *Watch today's Bible Story Video with Pastor Robin!*

**REVIEW ACTIVITIES** Choose One of the Two Review Activities to Do With Your Child(ren):

### 1) **Accordion Arms (Craft)**

**Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

*Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft*

**What You Need:** "So Much" Activity Page; cardstock; dot markers; scissors; glue sticks; and a marker

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy "So Much" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Cut pieces of cardstock lengthwise into quarter strips, two strips per child.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to fill in their heart with dot markers. Demonstrate how to accordion fold both strips then make arms by gluing one end of a strip to one side of the heart and repeating with the other strip on the opposite side of the heart. Say, "Jesus loves me, so much" as the children stretch out the accordion arms.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible story.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Hello, friends! Today, we heard a story of when Jesus was teaching and lots of people came to hear Him, even some really important people."

*During the Activity:* "What shape do you have in front of you? *(Pause.)* It's a heart, that's right! Hearts mean love. Jesus loves you, and He loves me. Jesus loves everyone! Fill in your heart with the dot markers. *(Pause.)* Nice! Now, take one of the strips of paper and fold it like this. It's called an accordion fold. *(Demonstrate.)* Great! Now glue the end to one side of your heart. *(Pause.)* Super! Now, do it one more time for the other side. *(Pause.)* Now your heart has arms! Carefully stretch the arms out and repeat what I say. Jesus loves me, soooooo much. *(Repeat.)* That's right! Jesus loves us, so much, and wants to be our friend forever."

*After the Activity:* "When Jesus was teaching, there were lots of adults, mommies and daddies, doctors, teachers, carpenters and fishermen who came to hear Him. But there were some other

important people who wanted to hear Jesus teach, and the disciples wouldn't let them near Jesus. When Jesus saw the children, He told the disciples 'Let the little children come to me.' And they did! Jesus opened His arms out really wide, and the children went to Him. Jesus told the crowd to never stop children from coming to Him because children are very important to Him. Jesus loves each and every one of you. **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

## 2)Arms Open, Arms Closed (Moving Activity)

### Live for God | Application Activity

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed.

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Stand together in an open area in the room.

*During the Activity:* When leader opens their arms wide, children move. When leader closes their arms, children stop. Repeat as long as desired.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come stand with me. (*Pause.*) In our story today, Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me,' and opened His arms wide. We'll play a game where I open and close my arms. When I open my arms wide, (*demonstrate*) move around the room. But when I close my arms, (*demonstrate*), you stop where you are."

*During the Activity:* "Ready? (*Spread arms out wide.*) Those are some good moves! Remember to watch for my arms to close. (*Close your arms.*) You did great! Let's play some more. (*Repeat as long as desired.*) That was fun. Now, everyone find a seat on the floor with me."

*After the Activity:* "When Jesus was teaching, a lot of people wanted to come hear Him, even the children. When Jesus saw the children, He stretched out His arms and told them to come to Him. Jesus told the people to never keep the children from coming to Him because children are very important to Him. Jesus love you and wants to be your friend forever. **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

## MEMORY VERSE

**SAY:** "Today, our Bible story was about how Jesus wants ALL children to come to Him. He wants every child to be His friend forever. That means Jesus wants you and you and you and you . . . (*point to each child*) to be His friend forever! And because Jesus is the best friend EVER, He loves us all the time. And the Bible verse we'll learn will remind us that Jesus loves us all the time. It says:

**"A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17.**

"Let's stand up and say that together with the motions."

“**A friend** (*hook your pointer fingers together*)  
**loves** (*hug yourself*)  
**at all times,**’ (*stretch your arms out and turn in a circle*)  
**Proverbs 17:17.**” (*Open hands like a book.*)

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

**SAY:** “Jesus is a good friend, and He loves you all the time! **Who loves you?**”

“**Jesus loves me!**”

“Louder! **Who loves you?**”

“**Jesus loves me!**”

“Yay! **Jesus loves me!**”

## **JOURNAL AND PRAYER**

### **Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

*Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer*

**What You Need:** Paper/Prayer Journal, and A Marker or Fun Pen

**SAY:** “Okay, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

“Now that we know Jesus loves ALL children and He wants to be their friend forever, let’s make a list of our friends. When we pray, we can ask God to help us tell our friends that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever, too. When I say your name, tell me your friend’s name, 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.)*

“Great! Let’s use this list when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

### **Prayer**

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love everyone. Thank You that Jesus didn’t just come to be a friend to grown-ups. He came to be a friend to children, too! Jesus wants to be (*name each child*)’s friend forever, and He wants to be (*read the list the children made*)’s friend forever, too. Jesus wants ALL children to be His friend forever! Please help us tell all of our friends that Jesus loves them and that He wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”



**Jesus loves me.**

Jesus and the Children.

*Luke 18:15-16*