



WEEK  
**ONE**  
FEBRUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRE-K**  
STARTER

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

*NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and preschoolers. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your preschoolers for both Large and Small Group time.*

### 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, NIRV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

15  
MIN

#### **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*  
Scoops of Love

### LARGE GROUP

20  
MIN

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

**STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**  
"Whole Lotta Bit"  
Bible Story  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

25  
MIN

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

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*  
Accordion Arms  
Arms Open, Arms Closed  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)  
Parent Cue App



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

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



## SCOOPS OF LOVE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Sand buckets in multiple colors; sand shovels; and foam hearts in multiple colors that match buckets

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Scatter foam hearts around the room. Set the buckets in different spots in the room.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a shovel and encourage children to scoop up one color heart and put in in the bucket of the matching color. Repeat with each color until all hearts are scooped up. Repeat as long as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how we will hear a story that Jesus loves all the children in the world.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, friends! Look at all the love scattered all over the floor! I see [colors of foam hearts], lots and lots of colors. Today, we'll play a game where we scoop up all of the love! But the heart you scoop has to go into the matching color of bucket."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Take a shovel and get scooping! (Pause.) Nice job, friends! (Pause.) Remember to match the heart to the bucket so [one color] hearts go in the [one color] bucket and [second color] hearts go in the [second color] bucket. [Third color] hearts go where? (Pause.) That's right! Good job. Keep going! Now that all the hearts are scooped up and in their buckets, let's do it again! Take a bucket and spread the hearts all over the floor. (Have children help you spread the love all over and do it again.) That was so much fun!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible story, we'll hear a story about some really important people who Jesus loves a whole bunch."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story when the leader calls them by what color they are wearing. For example, "Jesus loves all the boys and girls wearing yellow. If you are wearing yellow, come to me." Repeat until all the children come to the leader.

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WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

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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

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### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



## ACCORDION ARMS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**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? Jesus loves me."**



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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



## ARMS OPEN, ARMS CLOSED

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Stand together in an open area in the room.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.  
**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

**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.

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."  
**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

**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."

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

**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? Jesus loves me.**"

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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## JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17, journal, and fun-shaped pen

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll give ourselves a BIG hug while we walk to our small group spot, because Jesus loves you and **Jesus loves**

**me!** Go ahead! Give yourself a big hug and follow me! (*Hug yourself as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me.  
**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**  
**LUKE 18:15-16**

"Here we are! 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.*)

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### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."  
**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

"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 . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

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### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

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

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'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.*)

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### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

**SGL:** "Jesus is a good friend, and He loves you all the time! **Who loves you?"**

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "**Jesus loves me!**"

**SGL:** "Louder! **Who loves you?"**

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "**Jesus loves me!**"

**SGL:** (*cheering*) "Yay! **Jesus loves me!**"

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### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"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



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## (JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

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

**SGL:** "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."



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STORY

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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

### SCOOPS OF LOVE

**Made to Play:** An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Sand buckets in multiple colors
- Sand shovels, one per child
- Foam hearts in multiple colors similar to the bucket colors

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Scatter hearts on the floor around the room.
- Place buckets on the floor around the room.

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

### ACCORDION ARMS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**Made to Create:** an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "So Much" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Dot markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "So Much" on cardstock and cut out, one per child.
- Cut pieces of cardstock in quarter strips lengthwise, two strips per child.

### ARMS OPEN, ARMS CLOSED

[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.

### JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17.
- Journal, one per small group
- Fun-shaped pen, one per small group

### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

### FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. <https://bit.ly/FirstLookPinterest>