



MARCH 2024

Babies-Toddlers Lesson

JESUS WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND FOREVER

Bible Words: “I have called you friends.” John 15:15, NIV

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what.

Monthly Bible Story: Easter • Matthew 26:23-30, 27:1-2, 28:1; John 23:1-14

BIBLE STORY FOR NURSERY

(The Beginner’s Bible Pg. 446-458, “Story Images” Activity Pages)

“Hello, friends! I’m so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today’s true story from the Bible (hold up the Bible) is about Easter! Easter is a super-special day because we celebrate Jesus is alive! (Hold up a picture of Jesus.)

“One night, Jesus had dinner with His friends, the disciples. (Hold up a picture of Jesus eating with the disciples.) Jesus told them that He had to go away, but promised He would come back. (Hold up the picture of the tomb with the stone rolled in front.) Jesus went away, and on the third day, (hold up three fingers) He came back—just like He said He would. Jesus is alive! (Hold up the picture of Jesus.) Hooray! [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

HOW TO USE THE ACTIVITIES

As a nursery volunteer, your primary focus is on keeping babies-toddlers safe and happy. We understand that your classroom is busy, and your hands are literally full. However, we know that your influence on these children is more than childcare. The activities included in this lesson are suggestions of how to be more intentional in pointing little ones to Jesus. The theme will remain the same all month long. Choose one activity per week to focus on and don’t worry if you run out of time.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Monthly Parent Cue - 1 per family first weekend of the month)

Hand parents/influencers the Parent Cue handout (age specific for Babies vs Toddlers) and encourage them to review the activities with their child this week.

BABIES ACTIVITIES

BIBLE STORY SONG

What You Do:

- Sing the following words to the tune of “London Bridge is Falling Down.”
- Be sure to do the motions while you sing.
- “Capture” a child when you say the “Jesus loves” line.

What You Say:

“Jesus wants to be my friend, be my friend, be my friend.

“Jesus wants to be my friend.

“Jesus loves [child’s name].

“Jesus loves each and every one of you, and He wants to be your friend forever.”

THE BEST

(No Supplies)

What You Do:

- Cheer with the children while shouting, “Jesus is the best!”

What You Say:

“I’m going to ask you, ‘Who is the best?’ and I want you to yell, ‘Jesus is the best.’ Are you ready? Who is the best? Jesus is the best. Yay, Jesus! Let’s do it again. Who is the best? Jesus is the best! Yay, Jesus! Jesus is the best, and He wants to be your friend forever.”

WHERE’S MY FRIEND?

(Small Blanket)

What You Do:

- Hide a child under a small blanket and then pretend to look for them.

What You Say:

“Where is my friend, [child’s name]? Where is he? I can’t find him! Have you seen my friend, [child’s name]? (Uncover child.) Oh, there he is! There is my friend, [child’s name]. Jesus is your friend too. He wants to be your friend forever.”

TODDLER ACTIVITIES

CRAFT TIME

("Easter Story Book" Activity Page – 1 per kid, Crayons)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Easter Story Book" on paper, one per child. Write each child's name on the front page of their book.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate their book with crayons. Clean hands as needed. Fold the book where indicated.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "This book is the Easter story we've been learning about. Use the crayons to decorate your paper. (Pause.) Super-duper! Now I'm going to fold the paper . . . and, look! I made you your very own Easter Story book! Yay, Jesus!"