



FLY A KITE | WEEK 2 | APRIL 10-11, 2021

## 2s-3s Lesson

# Jesus Wants to Be My Friend

**Bible Story:** *Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Breakfast on the Beach • John 21:1-14*

**Memory Verse:** “How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” Ephesians 3:18, NIV

**Key Question:** Who wants to be your friend forever?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.

**KID CONNECT:  
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:  
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:  
15 MINUTES**

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*This month, we are going to be talking about something that is high and wide and deep. Do you know what it is? Yes, it's the love of Jesus. Jesus' love for each of us is so wide and long and high and deep that we can't even measure it! And, we are going to have so much fun introducing this truth to our preschoolers this month! We start the month with the best Sunday of the year—Easter! How exciting that we get to share the story of Easter with our youngest friends this month. Some of them will be hearing for the very first time that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Yes! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! We want to share the good news that Jesus is alive with our preschoolers all month long. We want them to hear over and over again that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. We want this foundational truth of Jesus' great love for them to live in each preschooler's heart.*

**Story Focus:** **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Week two is one we tell as a continuation of the Easter story. Can you imagine what the disciples felt when they saw Jesus standing on the shore after they thought He was gone? Before they knew it, they were sitting around a fire eating the breakfast Jesus had cooked for them. Jesus is really alive, and He wanted to make sure His friends knew He is alive and that He is going to be their friend forever. That's what we want preschoolers to know—Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever too!

## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

#### (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### (Blue Sheet or Butcher Paper, Several Little People, Laundry Basket)

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Lay the sheet or paper in the middle of the activity area as the water. Place the Little People figures in the basket and place the basket in the middle of the sheet or paper to be a boat.

*During the Activity:* Invite the children to bring the Little People to shore or the bare floor by working together and pushing it out of the water. Once the boat is on shore, ask the children to remove the friends and place them on the land. Repeat several times.

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Oh, no! We have friends in a boat in the middle of the water! Let's help them."

*During the Activity:* "Work together to push the boat to the shore. (*Point.*) When the boat is on shore, you can take the friends out and place them on dry land. (*Do activity.*)"

*After the Activity:* "Great job! You are great helpers! Today, we'll hear a Bible story about someone who helped get his friends on shore to have a picnic."

*Transition to Large Group...*

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

#### (VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

### SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

#### (CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE: BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE)

*LARGE GROUP LEADER (LGL) enters, carrying the treasure box. Inside is a Bible and scarves for Worship.*

**LGL:** Hello my friends! How are you today? Come sit with me. I am so glad to see you here. I love being here with you!

Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*kids respond*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (List rules while counting on fingers)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders' directions.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

Can everybody follow those rules today? (*kids respond*) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let's say them all together! Are you ready?

1. **I am made by God.** What is it? (*kids repeat*)
2. **I am loved by God no matter what.** What is it? (*kids repeat*)
3. **I am made for a purpose!** What is it? (*kids repeat*)

*LGL sits with the treasure box in front of him/her.*

*NOTE: You can choose to put any large group props that fit inside the box and pull them out for a dramatic reveal.*

**LGL:** Do you see this box? This is a beautiful box, isn't it? It looks special. I wonder what's inside. Do you want to see what's inside? Let's see. *LGL opens the box and pulls out a Bible. It's a Bible!* (hugging the Bible) Oh, I love the Bible! It's so special. Everybody pretend to hug your Bible. Go ahead! (pause) Very good! I wonder...what's in the Bible? The Bible is God's Big Story, and it tells us all about God! We are going to hear a true story from the Bible today. I wonder what else is in this special box? *Pull out scarves for worship time and pass them out to the children.*

## WORSHIP

**(VIDEO: VERY BEST FRIEND, I KNOW HE LOVES ME, WORSHIP SCARVES)**

Pass out the scarves to the kids and sing the worship songs

## INTRO SKETCH

**(Stuffed Fish or Picture of a Fish, Story Box)**

*LGL brings the story box with the fish inside to the middle.*

"Hey, friends, it's me, [your name]. Last week we celebrated Easter - which is when Jesus died on the cross but then came back to life. That's good news! Today's story from the Bible is about what happened after that.

There's something in my story box today that's going to help us learn the story. I wonder what it is?! Let's open the box and see what it is. (*Pull out fish*)

"Wow! A fish! Can you guys pretend to go fishing with me? (*Pretend to cast from a fishing rod and reel in a fish*) Thank you for pretending with me!

Let's watch our Bible story and see what it has to do with fish."

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Guess what? Jesus loves YOU so much, and He wants to be YOUR friend forever and ever, too. How awesome is that? Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN and LGL: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

LGL: "One more time. **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

CHILDREN and LGL: *[Bottom Line]* "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

## WRAP UP AND BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE, BOTTOM LINE)

"Remember what our Basic Truth says, *[Basic Truth]* I am loved by God no matter what so I can **belong in God's family forever**. When we accept Jesus as our friend forever then we belong in God's family forever!"

## PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

(CG: MEMORY VERSE)

Let's say our memory verse together. I will say it first and then you will say it with me.

"How wide (*hold arms out wide*)  
and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*)  
and high (*jump*)  
and deep (*crouch*)  
is the love (*hug yourself*)  
of Christ," (*point up*)  
Ephesians 3:18. (*Open hands like a book.*)

*Say it once while doing the motions and then invite the kids to do it with you.*

## PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Bible Story:** *Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Breakfast on the Beach • John 21:1-14*

**Memory Verse:** “How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” Ephesians 3:18, NIV

**Key Question:** Who wants to be your friend forever?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

## MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying.

“How wide (*hold arms out wide*)  
and long (*raise one hand high and hold one hand low*)  
and high (*jump*)  
and deep (*crouch*)  
is the love (*hug yourself*)  
of Christ,” (*point up*)  
Ephesians 3:18. (*Open hands like a book.*)

## I SEE JESUS

(“Jesus” Activity Page, Masking Tape)

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Jesus” Activity Page on cardstock and tape it on a wall at preschooler level. Tape a large outline of a boat on the floor.

*During the Activity:* Invite all of the children to jump into the boat with you. Review the Bible story. When you “see Jesus,” lead the children to jump out of the boat and run to the picture of Jesus on the wall. Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

*After the Activity:* Talk about how Jesus went to see His friends. He made breakfast for them on the beach because He wanted them to know that He is alive and wants to be their friend forever.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “I’m so happy you’re here today! Follow me, and let’s get inside this boat on the floor.”

*During the Activity:* “In our Bible story today, Jesus’ friends were fishing in a boat. They looked over to the sandy beach and saw someone. Look with me. (*Put hand over eyes and look towards the Jesus picture.*) It was their good friend, Jesus! Jesus is alive! They quickly got out of the boat and went to see Jesus. Follow me! (*Get out of the boat and run to the Jesus picture.*) Jesus’

friends were so happy to see Him. Jesus made them breakfast on the beach. They all sat around and ate and talked. It was the best day ever!" *(Repeat.)*

*After the Activity:* "Jesus went to see His friends because He wanted them to know that He is alive and wants to be their friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend forever, too. **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

## OPTIONAL: BEAN BAG BASKET

**(Large Picnic Basket or Plastic Bin, Bean Bags)**

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Place basket open at one end of the activity area.

*During the Activity:* Have the children stand about five to six feet in front of the basket and take turns tossing the bean bags into the basket. Continue the activity until each child has a turn to toss the bean bags into the basket.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Jesus had a picnic on the beach with His friends today in our Bible story."

*During the Activity:* "Let's pretend to fill our picnic basket with food, too. *(Point.)* We can pretend that the bean bags are food, and we can toss them inside. *(Demonstrate.)* Let's give everyone a try! *(Do activity.)*

*After the Activity:* "That was so much fun! Way to go! Jesus had a picnic with His friends, and He wants to be our friend, too! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to my friend forever!**"

## BOTTOM LINE SONG

*Sing the following words to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie".*

"Jesus is your friend.  
"Jesus is your friend.  
"He's my friend. He's your friend.  
"Let's all shout, 'Hooray!'  
"Hooray!"

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

**(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)**

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.