



FLY A KITE | WEEK 3 | APRIL 17-18, 2021

2s-3s Lesson

Early Church

Bible Story: *Jesus taught us how to love one another.* Early Church • Acts 2:42-47

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 made by God to worship Him.

**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 taught us how to love one another.** Week three is all about what Jesus wants us to do now that He has gone to get Heaven ready for us. Jesus wants us to love one another. Loving one another looks like helping one another, sharing with one another, and being kind to one another. When we love like Jesus, people will believe us when we tell them that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever.

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

(No Supplies)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in front of you.

During the Activity: Ask the children to act LIKE they are doing different actions. Actions are: barking like a dog, meowing like a kitty, hopping like a bunny, jumping like a frog, and crawling like a baby. Be sure to use the word LIKE when asking the children to do each action.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I will tell you some fun things to do. Everyone, listen very closely so you will know what to do!"

During the Activity: "First, let's bark LIKE a dog! *(Pause.)* Nice job! Now, let's meow LIKE a kitty. *(Pause.)* Yay! Can you hop LIKE a bunny? *(Pause.)* Great! Let's jump LIKE a frog. *(Pause.)* Way to go! Lastly, let's crawl LIKE a baby. *(Pause.)* Whew! That was so much fun!"

After the Activity: "Great job! It was so much fun doing things like the animals and the baby. Today, we'll hear a Bible story about how we can love LIKE Jesus. Yay!"

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

(A Few Little People Toys, Story box)

LGL brings the story box with the toys inside to the middle.

"I just LOVE worshipping God! It's so fun to sing about how awesome God is and how much He loves us. Friends, I have something new in our story box today. I wonder if we can figure out what it is if I shake it (*Gently shake the box so kids can hear the Little People toys*) I'm going to call on 3 kids, who are sitting crisscross apple sauce with their hands raised, to say what they think is in the box. (*Give gentle reminders for kids to follow your instructions. Use positive reinforcement by complimenting those who are doing what you asked.*)

"Those were some good guesses! Let's open the box and see what's inside. (*Pull out the Little People*) Wow! Lots of little people. I know, we just finished singing some worship songs, maybe

we could pretend that they are worshipping God too! Friends, can you help me sing? *(Sing a short song like “Jesus Loves Me” or a part of a song that you just sang for worship. As you are leading the singing, move the Little People like they are dancing).*

That was SO fun! You know, our story today talks about people who loved Jesus and worshipped Him. Let’s watch our story.”

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

“Jesus’ friends were super-sharers because that is how Jesus loved people. He shared with everyone. Jesus’ friends spent lots of time together. They ate and talked and laughed and sang worship songs. They loved each other because Jesus loved them.

“I want to do that, too! I want to be a friend like Jesus. I want to share with my friends so they know Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.

“Raise your hand if you want to be a friend like Jesus. *(Pause and look at one child.)* You do? *(Look at another child.)* You, too? *(Look at another child.)* What about you?

“Yes! Let’s do it. Let’s be friends like Jesus and share so that everyone knows how much Jesus loves them. Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?**” *(Jesus wants to be my friend forever)*

WRAP UP AND BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE, BOTTOM LINE)

“We can show people around us how great God is by worshipping Him. That’s our Basic Truth today, *[Basic Truth]* **I am made by God to worship Him.** Not only can we worship and praise God by singing, but we can also do it by sharing with others.”

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 taught us how to love one another. Early Church • Acts 2:42-47*

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 made by God to worship Him.

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.*)

SORT IT OUT

(Two Baskets, Red Paper Hearts, Tape, Clothing Items, Toy Food Items)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut two large red hearts out of paper. Tape one heart to each basket.

During the Activity: Put all of the clothing and food items in one large pile. Work together to sort the items into the two baskets. Allow the children to take turns placing all of the clothing in one basket and all of the food in the other.

After the Activity: Talk about how Jesus taught us to love one another and we can do that by giving people clothes and food when they need it.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I’m so happy to see you today! Come sit with me.”

During the Activity: “Jesus showed us that one way to love people is by giving them what they need. Everyone needs food to eat (*hold up food item*) and clothes to wear (*hold up clothing*). Will you help me put all of the clothes in this basket (*point to basket*) and all of the food in this basket (*point to basket*)?”

(Hold up an item.) “I can love people by giving them [item’s name].” *(Repeat each time you put an item in a basket.)*

After the Activity: “When we give people what they need, we are a good friend and loving them the way our good friend Jesus taught us to love one another. Jesus is the best friend ever! And He wants to be your friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**”

OPTIONAL: LOVE OTHERS LIKE JESUS

(“Love Others Like Jesus” Activity Page, Multi-colored Happy Face Stickers)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Love Others Like Jesus”, one per child. Write child’s name on their paper.

During the Activity: Give each child a sheet of happy face stickers. Encourage children to put a happy face sticker around Jesus on each child’s paper.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey, friends! Come over and sit with me. What makes you happy? *(Pause.)* Those are all great things! When you’re happy and you know it, what does your face do? *(Pause.)* You smile! Everyone gets some of these happy face stickers that we’ll share with each other.”

During the Activity: *(Hand out the happy face stickers.)* “Everyone gets some happy face stickers. When we love like Jesus, it makes us happy. Go to each friend’s paper and put one happy face sticker around the picture of Jesus. *(Pause.)* Make sure to put one sticker on each paper. *(Pause.)* Great job! Look at all those happy faces around Jesus!”

After the Activity: “In our Bible story, Jesus’s friends wanted to love people like Jesus loved them, so they shared! They were super-sharers and shared anything that people needed. Jesus’ friends spent lots of time together. They ate, talked, and laughed together. They also praised God. This showed everyone that they were friends with Jesus. We can share with our friends so they know that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be 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.