



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

## 4s-5s 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

#### (Playground Balls)

#### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* Gather the children in the activity area. Help the children pair up to find a partner. Give each pair a playground ball. Instruct the children to sit a few feet apart from each other and roll the ball back and forth.

*After the Activity:* Collect all balls for clean-up.

#### What You Say:

*During the Activity:* “Friends, come over here with me. Everyone, find a partner. *(Help children partner up.)* I want you to sit down and face your partner. Leave some room between you. I will give each pair a ball to roll back and forth.”

*NOTE:* Consider using circles on the floor placed in pairs around your activity area for children to sit on. You could preset these and send each pair to sit on their spots.

*After the Activity:* “That was so fun! Is rolling a ball more fun alone or with a friend? *(Pause.)* Yes! It’s way more fun to roll a ball with a friend! In our Bible story today, we’ll talk about something Jesus did with His friends at the beach. I can’t wait!”

*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; BIBLE)

**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 holds up Bible in front of him/her.*

**LGL:** Do you know what this is? *It's a Bible!* (*hugging the Bible*) Oh, I love the Bible! It's so special. 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.

## WORSHIP

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

Sing the worship songs together.

## INTRO SKETCH

**(Kite, Picnic Basket)**

*LGL brings the kite and picnic basket out with them.*

"I'm so excited to see you all here today because THIS is going to be the best day ever.

"I have my kite that I showed you last week.

*Hold the kite up high.*

"It's just like my friend Molly's kite! We're going to meet some of our friends at the park later today to fly kites together. AND, I am going to surprise them with a picnic!

*Hold up the picnic basket.*

"I packed all our favorite foods. I can just imagine how fun it will be.

*Rummage around in the basket.*

“Let’s see, I’ve got ham sandwiches. I like mine with mustard. I’ve got apple slices. Molly likes the green ones best. I can’t forget Miss Kathy Sue’s sugar cookies. She always sends them with us when she bakes. She’s such a good friend. And juice boxes, of course. Because flying kites makes you thirsty! I can’t WAIT to get to the park. It’s the perfect day to fly a kite.

Jesus has a picnic with his friends too. Let’s watch our story today.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

“Jesus came to earth to rescue us from our sins because guess what? Jesus loves YOU so much, and He wants to be YOUR friend, forever and ever. How awesome is that? Tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?**” *Jesus wants to be our friend forever!*”

## WRAP UP AND BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE, BOTTOM LINE)

“Remember [*Basic Truth*] I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever. That’s good news, friends!

## 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.

## CALLING FRIENDS

(Brown Sheet, Blue Sheet)

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Lay the blue sheet out flat in the center of your activity area. Lay the brown sheet on the floor a few feet away from the blue sheet.

*During the Activity:* Gather the children to stand on the blue sheet (representing the boat in the water). Select a child to stand on the brown sheet (represent the beach). Have the children in the “boat” call out the friend’s name on the “beach” then leave the “boat” to see their friend. Repeat, selecting a different child to stay on the “beach” as you send the rest of the children to the “boat.”

*After the Activity:* Gather the sheets for clean-up.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “In our true story from the Bible, we learned how Jesus’ friends were out fishing when they saw someone standing on the beach. Do you remember who it was? *(Pause.)* Yes, it was Jesus! He was back. They were so excited that they jumped out of the boat and headed straight towards Him. Let’s pretend this sheet is the water and the brown sheet is the beach. Everyone, stand over here with me.” *(Lead children to the blue sheet.)*

*During the Activity:* “Okay, [child’s name], why don’t you head over to the brown sheet—our beach! *(Pause as child moves.)* Now let’s call out to our friend! *(Pause as children calls friend’s name.)* Let’s go see our friend.” *(Repeat with a different child.)*

*After the Activity:* “We found our friend, just like the disciples found their friend, Jesus! That was so fun. Can you imagine how excited they were to see Jesus on that beach? Jesus promised that He would come back, and He did! Jesus wanted to be their friend forever. And He wants to be yours, too. So, tell me, **who wants to be your friend forever?** *[Bottom Line]* **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”**

## KITE TRACING

(“Kite Tracing Templates” Activity Page, Crayons)

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy the “Kite Tracing Templates” on cardstock, one per child. Set the pages and the crayons on the tables.

*During the Activity:* Instruct the children to sit down at the tables and select an Activity Page. Point out the dotted lines for the children to trace with the crayons. They may also color their kites. Use the dialogue below to talk about how wide, long, high, and deep God’s love is for us as you review the verse on the page.

*After the Activity:* Make sure each child’s name is on their page and set aside for pick-up.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Friends, come have a seat. What do you see on the page in front of you? Can you tell what it is by the dotted lines? (*Pause.*) Yes, it’s a kite tail. Let’s trace the dotted lines, and you can color the kite, too.”

*During the Activity:* “Have you traced the tails, yet? Some of these tails are SO long. It reminds me of our verse written on the page. It says, ‘How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.’ Ephesians 3:18.”

*After the Activity:* “Jesus’ love for you is higher and wider and longer and deeper than you could ever imagine. Jesus LOVES you and wants to be your friend, forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever?** [*Bottom Line*] **Jesus wants to be my friend 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.*)

## PRAYER

Let's pray together. *(Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap")*

"Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus. He is the best friend ever. Thank You for the Bible and all of the true stories that teach us how great a friend Jesus is. We love how Jesus made fish and bread for breakfast for His friends. I pray each child here today will follow Jesus so He can be their friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

## 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.