



APRIL 2021

Babies-Toddlers Lesson

Washing Feet

Bible Words: “How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

Ephesians 3:18, NIV

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

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

BIBLE STORY FOR NURSERY

(Beginner’s Bible- Page 442-458)

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!

“The true story of Easter starts with God’s love for us. God loves us high (hold up hands high in the air) and wide (stretch hands out wide) and big and deep! (Put hands down to the floor.) God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever.

“One night when Jesus was having dinner with His friends, He told them He had to go away but that He would come back. That night, Jesus went to the garden to pray. While He was there, some mean men took Him away and hurt Jesus so badly that He died. The friends were sad and put Jesus in a tomb. They rolled a big stone in front of it. Three sad days went by. When some of Jesus’ friends went to the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. Jesus was not there. Jesus came back. Jesus is alive!

“Jesus is alive, and He wants to be your friend and my friend, too! *[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.

**Designate a pickup location for rest of month*

BABIES ACTIVITIES

BIBLE STORY SONG

Sing the following words to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie" as you rock or change the baby.

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

PARTY TIME

(Crawler-safe Instruments)

What You Do: Gather with your crawler friends and play crawler-safe instruments. Celebrate that Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

What You Say: "Friends, grab an instrument and let's make a joyful noise. [Child's name], Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Let's celebrate! [Child's name], Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Celebrate! I'm so happy that Jesus wants to be your friend forever!"

FIND A FRIEND

(Plastic Tub, Little People, Large Foam Hearts)

What You Do: Put the Little People in the plastic tub and cover with foam heart. Gather crawlers and encourage them to find a Little People friend in the tub. Talk about all the friends. Continue as long as there is interest.

What You Say: "Friends, come sit with me. Do you see the friend that has a [color] shirt on? That's right! You found the friend with [color] shirt! Great job! Do you see the friend that has a [color] dress on? Yes! There is the friend with the [color] dress! Do you know who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be your friend forever.

BIBLE STORY 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!"

JESUS IS YOUR FRIEND

(No Supplies)

What You Do: Gather one or two crawler friends to hold hands. Sing the song below to the tune of, "Ring Around the Rosie," while moving in the circle. Fall to the floor on the last line. Continue as long as there is interest.

What You Say: "Come hold hands with me. Let's walk in a circle while we sing.

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

"Great job! Let's do it again!"

CRAFT TIME

("Jesus Makes Me Happy" Activity Page, Washable Inkpads in Various Colors, Large Heart Stamps, Wet Wipes)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Jesus Makes Me Happy" on cardstock and cut, one per child.

During the Activity: Retell the story. Encourage children to stamp hearts in on their paper.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Today, we learned how much God loves us. God loves us wide and long and high and deep. God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever.

"Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever! Isn't that amazing? Let's stamp hearts on our paper! *(Pause)* That's a lot of love, but God loves us even more than that!

"Jesus is alive! Jesus went away and came back, just like He said He would. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be your friend forever.**"