



WHEELS ON THE BUS | WEEK 1 | FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Preschool Lesson

Peter, Andrew, James and John

Bible Story: *Peter, Andrew, James and John* • Jesus says, “Follow Me” • *Matthew 4:18-22*

Memory Verse: “Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” John 15:12, NLT

Key Question: Who does Jesus love?

Bottom Line: Jesus loves everyone.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can love God, love others and love life.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Have you ever been on a bus filled with people? There are grandparents, kids, teenagers, people going to the store, people going to work, people going to school. They may not know each other, but do you know what they all have in common? Jesus loves every one of them. Every. Single. One! Think about it this way, if Jesus was driving a bus, everyone would be invited to get on. EVERYONE! This month, you get to tell preschoolers that Jesus loves them. Jesus loves their family. Jesus loves their friends. Jesus loves everyone! And Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! So, crank up that bus! Get those wheels turning! There is a great big world that needs to hear that Jesus loves everyone!

Story Focus: Jesus says, “Follow me.” Jesus chooses the first four of His twelve disciples. Jesus didn’t go to the synagogue filled with religious leaders to find them, and He didn’t go to the powerful political leaders to find them. Jesus went to a fishing village and told four fishermen named Peter, Andrew, James, and John: “Follow Me.” And they do! Why four fishermen? Because Jesus loves everyone.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



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)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your Small Group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

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, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"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 indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
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.)*

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

‘Love *(cross arms over chest)*
each other in the same way *(point to others)*
I have *(point up)*
loved you,’ *(cross arms over chest)*
John 15:12.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

“Ok, now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: COME ON WITH ME, WHEREVER HE GOES)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Bus [Printed or Little People], ‘People on the Bus Picture’ for Current Week [W1 Peter, Andrew, James, and John, W2 Matthew, W3 Philip and Nathanael, W4 The Twelve Disciples], Beginner’s Bible and Story Box)

LGL brings the story box with the prop and Bible to the center of the room. You should have a Bus and ‘People on the Bus’ picture for the current week’s story.

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here...”

Pull out the Bible

What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, it’s the Bible! The Bible is God’s word and God’s word is always true. The Bible has many stories that make one BIG story, and we (you and me) are part of that story. Let’s see what else is in our story box today.

Pull out Bus with ‘People on the Bus Picture’ for the current week.

What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, it’s a bus! Has anyone been on a bus before? A bus can hold a lot of people. Let’s see how many people are on our bus today. *(Pause and hold up W1*

picture of Peter, Andrew, James, and John). How many people do you see? *(Pause for responses.)* Let's count them. 1...2...3...4. There are four people on the bus today. We're going to hear about these four people in our story. Let's get ready to listen and find out who these four people are.

Let's click on our listening ears (tug on each ear, one at a time, as you make a click, click sound), let's put on our looking eyes (bring your hands, one at a time, to your eyes like binoculars as you say shook, shook) and let's put our hands that have been move and praising Jesus quietly in our laps.

Now we are ready. Let's watch today's true Bible story."

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Wow! That was a great story! Do you remember the names of the four people in our story? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, Peter, Andrew, James, and John. What did Jesus say to them? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, he said "Follow Me." This month we are learning that *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves everyone."

When I ask, 'Who does Jesus love?' I want you to say, *[Bottom Line]* 'Jesus loves everyone.' Are you ready? *(Pause for responses.)* 'Who does Jesus love?' *[Bottom Line]* 'Jesus love everyone!' YES! *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves everyone!"

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can love God, love others and love life.' Jesus loves everyone and we can love everyone too!

PRAY

"Let's get our hands ready to pray. *Open them close them, open them close them, give a little clap. Open them, close them, open them, close them, fold them in your lap.*

Dear God, thank you for showing us what it looks like to follow you. Just like Andrew, Peter, James, and John, help me to follow you too. You love everyone! Thank you so much for loving us. We love you too. In Jesus' name. Amen."

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Peter, Andrew, James and John • Jesus says, “Follow Me” • Matthew 4:18-22*

Memory Verse: “Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” John 15:12, NLT

Key Question: Who does Jesus love?

Bottom Line: Jesus loves everyone.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can love God, love others and love life.

IT'S A MATCH (2's-5's)

(“It’s a Match Jesus” Activity Page - 1 per group and “It’s a Match Fishermen” Activity Page - 4 sets per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “It’s a Match Jesus”, one per Small Group. Copy 4 sets of “It’s a Match Fishermen” and cut, one cutout image per child and one full set for leader.

During the Activity: The leader will hold the Jesus activity page, and each child will hold a fisherman card. (There will be duplicates if you have more than four children.) Pretend to be Jesus as you hold up each of the fishermen pictures. When you hold up a picture, say: “(Peter, Andrew, James, or John), follow me.” Encourage children with pictures that match the one you are holding up to come stand with you. Continue until all the “fishermen” are standing with you. Then lead the children to follow you around the room.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey, everyone! Come over here with me. We’re going to play a matching game!”

During the Activity: “First, everyone needs a card. Great! Now we’re ready to play! I’m going to pretend to be Jesus, from our Bible Story (point to the Jesus activity page you are holding) and you get to be the fishermen from our Bible Story! (Point to the children’s cards) When I hold up a picture of one of the fishermen from our story, I want you to look at your picture and see if it matches. If it’s a match, you will come stand with me. Ready? Let’s play!

(Hold up Peter.) “Peter, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are Peter, come stand with me. (Pause.) Hello, Peter! (Hold up Andrew.) Andrew, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are Andrew, come stand with me. (Pause.) Hello, Andrew! (Hold up James.) James, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are James, come stand with me. (Pause.) Hello, James! (Hold up John.) John, follow me! Look at your picture. If you are John, come stand with me. (Pause.) Hello, John! Okay Peter, Andrew, James, and John, follow me! (Lead the children around the room.) Good job! Sit down and we will play again. Only this time, you get to be a different fisherman! (Repeat as desired.) That was a fun matching game!”

After the Activity: “Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen. Jesus told them to follow Him because Jesus loved them. [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!”

DRAW ME ON THE BUS (2's-5's)

(Bus Block Poster - 1 per group, Heart/Regular Sticky Notes - 1 per child, Crayons/Markers, *Optional Smiley Face Stickers for 2s/3s)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print and assemble Bus Block Poster that says, “Jesus Loves Everyone”.

During the Activity: Give each child a sticky note and ask them to draw a picture of themselves on the sticky note. *Option for 2's-3's:* Have each child color their sticky note then put a smiley face on it, and the leader writes their name on the sticky note. Once they have finished, add their picture to the bus windows so it looks like they are riding the bus.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “What do you see on the paper? *(Pause.)* Yes, a bus! But there aren't any passengers on the bus, so let's fix that! *(Pass out a sticky note to each child.)* I want you to draw a picture of yourself on this sticky note. **Option for 2's-3's:** Each child colors their sticky note, then puts a smiley face sticker on it and the leader writes their name on the sticky note. *(Pause.)* Great! Now let's add you to the bus! Wow! Look at all the people on the bus. I see . . . *(point to each sticky note as you name each child)*! Everyone is on the bus!”

After the Activity: “The words on our bus say [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. It's true! Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!”

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 their efforts.

'Love *(cross arms over chest)*
each other in the same way *(point to others)*
I have *(point up)*
loved you,' *(cross arms over chest)*
John 15:12." *(Open hands like a book.)*

PRAY

“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 loving everyone. Help us love others like you love them. In Jesus' name. Amen."

EXTRA TIME - MEMORY VERSE FUN!

(No Supplies Needed)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Do the motions as you say the verse together.

During the Activity: Play a game of Red Light, Green Light, Yellow Light. When you say, "Green light!" everyone says the Memory Verse. When you say, "Red light!" everyone says the Memory Verse and does the motions. When you say, "Yellow light!" everyone says the Memory Verse very slowly. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, I have a very fun game for us to play. But first let's remember our Memory Verse and motions. 'Love (cross arms over chest) each other in the same way (point to others) I have (point up) loved you,' (cross arms over chest) John 15:12. (Open hands like a book.) Great job, everyone!"

During the Activity: "We're going to play a game called Red Light, Green Light, Yellow Light. If I say, 'Green light,' we'll only say the words to our Memory Verse. If I say, 'Red light,' we'll say the words and do the motions. If I say, 'Yellow light,' (slowly say the following) we'll say our verse super slow. Okay, are we ready to play? (Pause.) Great! GREEN light! (Encourage the children to say ONLY the Memory Verse.) 'Love each other in the same way I have loved you,' John 15:12. Fantastic! RED Light! (Encourage the children to do the motions as they say the verse.) 'Love (cross arms over chest) each other in the same way (point to others) I have (point up) loved you,' (cross arms over chest) John 15:12. (Open hands like a book.) YELLOW light! (Encourage the children to say the Memory Verse words very slowly.) 'Love each other in the same way I have loved you,' John 15:12. Good job! You, my friends, are such great listeners. Let's play again!" (Repeat as desired.)

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us that Jesus said to love others the way He loves us. You can love everyone you see because [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone."

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats and encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.