



RAIN OR SHINE | WEEK 1 | JANUARY 5, 2025

Preschool Lesson

Peter Walks on Water

Bible Story: *Peter Walks on Water* • Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid • *Matthew 14:22-33*

Memory Verse: “A friend loves you all the time.” Proverbs 17:17, NCV

Key Question: Who is always a good friend?

Bottom Line: Jesus is always a good friend.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Have you ever seen a bunch of preschoolers jumping in rain puddles? So many giggles! So much excitement! And do you know that feeling you get when you step outside and feel the sunshine on your face for the first time in a week? Pure happiness! Our preschoolers experience a wide range of emotions every day. They feel sad, happy, afraid, nervous, excited—sometimes all in the same hour!

Our preschoolers will grow up and experience a lot of different situations and emotions. We want children to know that Jesus is a friend that loves them at ALL times. A friend that will never leave them. That’s why, this month, we are talking about THE best friend—the One who is ALWAYS a good friend. Rain or shine, Jesus is always a good friend of mine!

Story Focus: Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid. Jesus’ friends, the disciples, are on a boat in the water, and they see something coming toward them. They are all afraid until Jesus says, “Don’t be afraid.” Peter, being the bold one of the bunch, hops out of the boat and begins walking on the water toward Jesus. But, when Peter hears the wind blowing and sees the waves getting bigger, he feels afraid and begins to sink! Jesus holds His hand out and pulls Peter up, helping Peter back in the boat. Jesus is a good friend to Peter when Peter is afraid, because Jesus is always a good friend.

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.

‘A friend *(hook index fingers twice)*
loves you *(cross arms over chest)*
all the time,’ *(tap wrist)*
Proverbs 17:17.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

“Ok, now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: MY FRIEND FOREVER (2025), MY FOREVER FRIEND)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Stuffed Ollie, Feeling Emoji Picture for Current Week (W1 Afraid, W2 Excited, W3 Sad, W4 Happy), 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 feeling emoji 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 Stuffed Ollie with the feeling emoji picture for the current week.

What does Ollie have today? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, it’s a face/emoji picture. How is the emoji feeling? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, it looks afraid. Can you make an afraid face? *(Pause for responses.)* Wow, you made some great afraid faces! In our story today we are going to hear about someone who is always with us and is a good friend when we are afraid.

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 an amazing story! Who is with us and a good friend when we are afraid? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, Jesus! Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was afraid. Jesus is a good friend to you and me when we are afraid because *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is always a good friend."

When I ask, 'Who is always a good friend?' I want you to say, *[Bottom Line]* 'Jesus is always a good friend' Are you ready? *(Pause for responses)*. 'Who is always a good friend?' *[Bottom Line]* 'Jesus is always a good friend!' YES! *[Bottom Line]* God's got it!"

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 be confident that God knows who I am.' God knows when we are excited and when we are afraid, and He is always with us.

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.*

God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Just like Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was afraid, we know that Jesus will be a good friend to us too. Thank you for Jesus! In Jesus name. Amen.

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Peter Walks on Water* • Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid • *Matthew 14:22-33*

Memory Verse: “A friend loves you all the time.” Proverbs 17:17, NCV

Key Question: Who is always a good friend?

Bottom Line: Jesus is always a good friend.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

PUDDLE JUMPERS (2's-5's)

(“Puddle Jumping” Activity Pages – 1-2 sets per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Puddle Jumping” on cardstock (*optional 11x17 paper), one set per Small Group. Arrange puddles on the floor and secure them with tape.

During the Activity: Encourage children to jump from one puddle to another until you say: “Freeze!” If you have a lot of kids, have them jump two-by-two on either side of the puddle. Encourage kids to make the face of the emotion they are standing on.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, look at the floor! It’s full of puddles with different emotions. Let’s jump to all these fun puddles.”

During the Activity: “Come line up over here! We are going to jump from puddle to puddle. Are we ready? Let’s get jumping! Okay friends, keep jumping! Keep going! Now . . . FREEZE! Oh wow, some of you are feeling happy, some of you are feeling sad—oh, someone else is feeling silly—but Jesus is always a good friend no matter how you feel! Let’s go again, friends! Go! Woo-hoo! Keep jumping! Now . . . FREEZE! (Pause.) Oh friends, can you make the same face as the emotion puddle you’re standing on? (Pause.) Oh, good job, friends! No matter what you feel, [*Bottom Line*] Jesus is always a good friend!” (Repeat as desired.)

After the Activity: “Friends, jumping from puddle to puddle was so much fun! Those puddles help remind us that no matter how we are feeling, Jesus is always a good friend—no matter what. Who is always a good friend? [*Bottom Line*] Jesus is always a good friend!”

WALK to JESUS (2's-3's)

(“Jesus” Activity Page – 1 per Small Group, Floor Tape)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Jesus”, one per Small Group. Tape to the wall at child’s height. Use floor tape to create three different lines to get to Jesus (curved, zigzag, straight line).

During the Activity: Encourage children to walk along the different paths, and when everyone gets to Jesus, say the Bottom Line. Encourage children to go back to the beginning and choose a different path. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come over here and look at these different paths! There is a zigzag path, and a curvy path, and a straight path!”

During the Activity: “Everybody pick a path, and let’s follow where it goes. (Pause.) “Hooray! We all made it to the end of our paths. Who do you see waiting for us? (Pause.) Yes! It’s Jesus! Jesus loves us no matter what. He loves us when we are happy, sad, angry, and whatever we are feeling! [Bottom Line] **Jesus is always a good friend.** Who is always a good friend? [Bottom Line] **Jesus is always a good friend.** Let’s go back to the beginning and choose a different path this time. (Repeat as desired, repeating the Bottom Line each time.) Friends, that was so much fun walking on the different paths.”

After the Activity: “Today in our story, we heard how Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was afraid. Jesus will be a good friend to you and me too, because [Bottom Line] **Jesus is always a good friend!** Who is always a good friend? [Bottom Line] **Jesus is always a good friend.**”

PRETEND PLAY (4’s-5’s)

(“Jesus” Activity Pages – 1 per Small Group, Blue Bedsheet/Tablecloth, Floor Tape)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Jesus”, one per Small Group. Spread the blue bedsheet/tablecloth out on the floor and place the boat on top. Option: cut out a boat shape out of butcher paper.

During the Activity: Lead children to act out the Bible Story. Invite all the children to get in the boat and pretend they’re the disciples. Choose one child to pretend they’re Peter while you pretend to be Jesus by holding the “Jesus” cutout. Let the children take turns being Peter.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey, friends! Come sit in this boat with me. We’re going to talk about today’s Bible Story!”

During the Activity: “In our story, Jesus’ friends, the disciples, were in a boat. Let’s pretend we’re Jesus’ disciples, and this is our boat. Row with me! (Pretend to row.) Row, row, row your boat! (Pause.) The disciples saw someone walking towards them on the water, and they were afraid! Make an afraid face with me! (Make an afraid face.) Who did the disciples see walking on water? (Pause.) Yes! They saw Jesus walking on water! You stay in the boat, and I’ll pretend to be Jesus. (Step a few feet away from the boat and hold up the Jesus cutout.) Jesus told His disciples, ‘Don’t be afraid. It’s Me, Jesus!’

“What did Peter do when he knew it was Jesus walking on water? (Pause.) You’re right! Peter said, ‘If it’s you, Jesus, tell me to come to you on the water.’ So that’s what Jesus did! [Child’s name], let’s pretend you are Peter. Get out of the boat and walk to Jesus. (Encourage the child to walk to you.) Peter got out of the boat and began walking on the water to Jesus! But what happened when Peter heard the wind and saw the waves? (Pause.) Peter was afraid! Show me your afraid faces, again! (Make afraid face.) Yes, Peter was afraid, and he began to sink in the water! What did Jesus do when Peter began to sink? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus quickly reached out and helped Peter get back in the boat. (You and the child pretending to be Peter sit back down in the boat.)

“Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was brave and walked on water. Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was afraid and started to sink in the water. Jesus was always a good friend to Peter, because [Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend.” (Repeat and let other children pretend to be Peter.)

After the Activity: “Wow! What an amazing story! Jesus was always a good friend to Peter, and Jesus will always be a good friend to you, because [Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend! Who is always a good friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend!”

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.

‘A friend *(hook index fingers twice)*
loves you *(cross arms over chest)*
all the time,’ *(tap wrist)*
Proverbs 17:17.” *(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.”)*

God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. We know that just like Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was afraid, Jesus will be a good friend to us, always. We are so thankful for Jesus! In His name. Amen.

PARENT PICK UP ACTIVITY – READ THE STORY

(The Beginner’s Bible)

What You Do:

- Find ‘Jesus walking on water’ story and read.

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.

