



WHEELS ON THE BUS | WEEK 2 | FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Preschool Lesson

Matthew

Bible Story: *Matthew* • Jesus loves everyone • *Matthew 9:9-10*

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 loves everyone. Matthew is a tax collector. That means his job is to collect money from people, but he takes more money than he should. That makes people very mad! But Jesus loves Matthew and wants to be his friend so He tells Matthew: “Follow Me!” And Matthew follows Jesus! Jesus has dinner at Matthew’s house and a lot of people show up. Some people ask, “Why would Jesus want to be friends with someone who makes bad choices?” 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 W2*

picture of Matthew). How many people do you see? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, there is one person on our bus today. We're going to hear about this person in our story. Let's get ready to listen and find out who this is.

"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 moving 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! What was the name of the person in our story today who made a bad choice? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, his name was Matthew. Did Jesus love Matthew? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, he loved Matthew and wanted to be his friend. Jesus said to Matthew, "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 us no matter what and we can love others no matter just like Jesus!

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, we are so thankful that Jesus loves everyone and wants to be our friend. Jesus was friends with Matthew and showed him how to love everyone. Help us love all the people around us too. In Jesus' name. Amen."

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Matthew* • Jesus loves everyone • *Matthew 9:9-10*

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.

JESUS LOVES EVERYONE HEADBAND (2's-5's)

(“Memory Verse Sticker” - 1 per child, Sentence Strip - 1 per child, heart stickers/stamps, crayons, tape)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather memory verse stickers, sentence strips and heart stickers/stamps. Write each child's name on their sentence strip.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate their sentence strip with the memory verse sticker and heart stickers/stamps. Measure each child's strip around their head and secure with tape. Encourage children to wear their headband.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come sit with me, and let's make a fun headband to wear!”

During the Activity: “In our Bible Story, we learned that Jesus loves everyone. Let's cover this sentence strip with all these fun heart stickers and stamps. (Pause.) Great job! Your paper looks like it is full of love! Now let's add our memory verse sticker. What does our memory verse say, “Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” Awesome! Let's turn your strips of paper into headbands. (Measure each child's strip around their head and secure with tape) Now you have an amazing headband that helps you that Jesus loves everyone!

After the Activity: “In our story, we learned that Jesus loved Matthew and wanted to be his friend forever. Jesus went to Matthew and said, ‘Follow Me’ and Matthew did. Jesus loves everyone—even when we make bad choices. [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone and wants to show them how to love everyone too. Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.”

JESUS LOVES BRAINSTORM (2's-5's)

(Butcher Paper/Poster Board - 1 per group, marker, dot or heart stickers - 2-3 per child)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the butcher paper on the table. Draw an outline of a large heart on the butcher paper. Along the top of the page, write: “JESUS LOVES . . .”

During the Activity: Read the title at the top of the page “JESUS LOVES . . .” to the children. Encourage them to take turns naming people Jesus loves as they add a sticker to the heart outline. Encourage the children to continue to name people Jesus loves and adding stickers to the paper. Ex... teachers, doctor, neighbor, mom, mail person, bus driver, cousin.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Here at the top of the page it says, ‘JESUS LOVES . . .’ Do you see this big heart? Hearts make us think of . . . love! That’s right! Let’s take turns naming people Jesus loves! When I call on you, name someone Jesus loves, then put a sticker inside the heart like this. (Demonstrate.) [Child’s name], tell me someone Jesus loves. (Pause.) Fantastic! Stamp a heart inside this big heart. (Pause.) [Child’s name], tell me someone Jesus loves. (Continue with each child, and repeat as desired.) Look at all these stickers inside this big heart! These stickers are all the people you named. Jesus loves every single one of them and more because [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!”

After the Activity: “Jesus loved Matthew and He loves you too! Tell me: Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! One more time! 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, we are so thankful that Jesus loves everyone. Help us love everyone too. 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.