



RAIN OR SHINE | WEEK 3 | JANUARY 19, 2025

## Preschool Lesson

# Mary, Martha and Lazarus

**Bible Story:** *Mary, Martha, and Lazarus* • Jesus is a good friend when I am sad • *John 11:1-13, 20, 28-36*

**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 sad. Mary and Martha are friends with Jesus, but they are very sad because their brother, Lazarus, died. Jesus takes His friends, the disciples, with Him to visit Mary and Martha. When Mary and Martha see Jesus, they cry, and Jesus cries with them. Jesus is sad with Mary and Martha, because that’s what good friends do, and 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 and 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 sad. Can you make a sad face? *(Pause for responses.)* Wow, you’re really good at making sad 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 sad.

“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 sad? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, Jesus! Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha when they cried. Jesus cried too and was sad with them. Jesus is a good friend to you and me when we are sad 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 sad. He is sad with us, 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 reminding us today that Jesus is always a good friend! Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha when they were sad, and Jesus is a good friend to us when we’re sad too! We’re so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Thank You for giving us Jesus. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Bible Story:** *Mary, Martha, and Lazarus* • Jesus is a good friend when I am sad • *John 11:1-13, 20, 28-36*

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## CUBE OF EMOTIONS

**(“Cube of Emotions” Activity Page – 1 per group Cut and Attached to a Cube Box)**

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Cube of Emotions” on copy paper and cut, one set per Small Group. Tape each cutout to one side of a cube box to create your game die.

*During the Activity:* Choose a child to go first and ask them to roll the die. Identify the picture the die lands on. Ask the children to say the sentences and do the actions associated with the picture [see sentences and actions below]. Continue the activity until all children have had a turn to roll the die and all the sides have been rolled.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “I have a fun game for us to play.”

*During the Activity:* “We have a super-cool die that we can play with today. It has pictures on it. When you roll it and it lands on a picture, we are going to say some words and do some actions. [Child’s name], come roll the die. (Pause.) What picture did it land on? (Pause.) That’s right, [name the picture]. Everyone, say these words with me [sentence below that goes along with picture] and do this action [action below that goes along with picture]. (Pause.) Great job! [Child’s name], your turn to roll the die! (Continue until all pictures are rolled, and every child has had a turn.) That was so much fun!”

**Say these sentences and do these actions with each picture:**

Afraid face (make an afraid face): “Jesus is a good friend when I am afraid.”

Excited (make an excited face): “Jesus is a good friend when I am excited.”

Sad (make a sad face): “Jesus is a good friend when I am sad.”

Happy (make a happy face): “Jesus is a good friend when I am happy.”

Heart (hug yourself): “A friend loves you all the time.’ Proverbs 17:17”

Jesus (give high-fives): *[Bottom Line]* “Jesus is always a good friend.”

“That was a fun way to learn that [Bottom Line] Jesus is always a good friend!”



*After the Activity:* “In our story today, Mary and Martha were sad because their brother Lazarus had died. Jesus heard what happened and took the disciples with Him to see Mary and Martha. *Do you remember what Jesus did when he saw how sad Mary and Martha were?* (Pause for responses.) *YES, He cried too.* Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha when they were sad, and Jesus will be a good friend to us when we are sad (hold up the sad side of the cube) . . . or excited (hold up the excited side of the cube) . . . or afraid (hold up the afraid side of the cube) . . . or happy (hold up the happy side of the cube), because *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is always a good friend! Who is always a good friend? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is always a good friend!”

## MIXED EMOTIONS

**(1 Parachute/Large Sheet per group and 5-10 Multi-Colored Ball Pit Balls per group)**

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Lay the parachute flat on the floor. Place the balls on top.

*During the Activity:* Ask children to stand around the parachute and pick up a section of the parachute. Hold up each ball and name an emotion before you toss it onto the parachute. Say: “Jesus is a good friend when we are [emotion].” After all the “emotion” balls are on the parachute, invite the children to shake their arms to move the parachute very fast. Encourage children to try to bounce the balls in the air.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bottom Line.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “We’ve been learning that no matter if we’re afraid, excited, sad, or happy, *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is always a good friend!”

*During the Activity:* “Stand around the parachute and pick up a section. We’re going to pretend each of these balls is a different emotion. Can you help me name different emotions? (Pause for responses.) Awesome! Look at this ball! (Hold up a ball.) This emotion is [afraid/excited/sad/happy]. We know that Jesus is our friend when we are [afraid/excited/sad/happy]. (Throw the ball on the parachute, show the children another ball and repeat.) Okay friends let’s bounce these emotions! (Pause.) Whoa, we bounced them right off the parachute. Let’s put the parachute down and go get those emotions! (Repeat as desired.) That was fun playing with the parachute today.”

*After the Activity:* “I’m so glad that Jesus loves us and is our friend no matter how we are feeling! Who is always a good friend? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus is always a good friend. That’s right! Let’s say it again! 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.")*

"Dear God, thank You for Jesus! He was a good friend to Mary and Martha when they were sad. Jesus is always a good friend! We are so happy to have a friend like Jesus! In Jesus' name. Amen."

## PARENT PICK UP ACTIVITY - COLORING SHEET

**(“Mary, Martha and Lazarus” Activity Page - 1 per child, Crayons)**

What You Do:

- Give each child a coloring page.
- As parents are picking up, encourage children to color their page as you read the words.

## 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.