



WHEELS ON THE BUS | WEEK 4 | FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Preschool Lesson

The Twelve Disciples

Bible Story: *The Twelve Disciples* • Jesus wants everyone to follow Him • *Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-10, 10:2-4; John 1:43-49*

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 belong in God’s family forever.

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 wants everyone to follow Him.

Jesus chooses twelve disciples to follow Him. They come from different places and have different families and jobs. They are all different, but what is the same is that Jesus loves every one of them. The twelve disciples follow Jesus 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 W4*

picture of The Twelve Disciples). How many people do you see? *(Pause for responses.)* Let's count them. 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...10...11...12. There are twelve people on the bus today. That's a lot of people. We're going to hear about these twelve people in our story. Let's get ready to listen and find out who they 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 an amazing story! Jesus chose twelve people to follow Him. *(Pause for responses.)* Who were the twelve people? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, His disciples. Jesus loved each and every one of them because *[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 belong in God's family forever.' Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to follow Him so we are part of His family.

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, I'm so thankful that Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loved the twelve disciples, and they were His friends. Jesus is my friend too. Help me to follow Him by showing love to everyone. In Jesus' name. Amen."

TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *The Twelve Disciples* • Jesus wants everyone to follow Him • *Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-10, 10:2-4; John 1:43-49*

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 belong in God’s family forever.

JESUS AND THE TWELVE (2’s-5’s)

(“Jesus and the Twelve” Activity Page on 11x17 – 1 half sheet per child pre-folded, Small Heart Stickers – 6 per child)



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Jesus and the Twelve” on 11” x 17” paper and cut, one half sheet per child. Fold each child’s paper as indicated (like an accordion). Write each child’s name on their book.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate each of the pictures on their paper. As you review the Bible Story, ask children to add a heart sticker to each page.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come join me! Let’s make a storybook to help us remember today’s Bible Story.”

During the Activity: “Look at all the people on your paper! I see Jesus, and look, these are His friends, the disciples! Color each of the pictures on your paper. (Pause.) You did such a nice job. Now, see how your paper is folded a little bit? Let’s follow those lines and fold your paper back together so Jesus will be on the very front. (Help as needed.) Now you have a storybook!

“Let’s go through our storybook together. Are you ready to meet Jesus’ friends? (Pause.) Great! Open your paper. The first picture shows Peter and Andrew. They were brothers who were fishermen. Put a heart sticker on this page. (Pause.) James and John were also brothers and

fishermen. Put a heart sticker on this page. (Pause.) Then there's another of Jesus' friends and his name was James too. Put a heart sticker on this page. (Pause.) Then Matthew, he was a tax collector. Put a heart sticker on this page. (Pause.) Then Philip and his friend Nathanael—put a heart sticker on this page. (Pause.) Then there is Thomas, Judas, Thaddeus, and Simon. Put a heart sticker on this page. (Pause.) Fantastic!"

After the Activity: "The disciples all came from different places and had different families and different jobs. They were all different, but Jesus loved every one of them because [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! Who loves everyone? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone."

EVERYONE PARACHUTE! (2's-5's) **(Parachute - 1 per Small Group, Paper/Foam Heart - 1 per child)**

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write the names of each child in your group on a heart. One heart per child. Spread the parachute out in an open area of the classroom.

During the Activity: Encourage children to place their heart on the parachute. Grab the parachute and shake it slow and fast as you say the Bottom Line. As children pick-up the hearts, help them use this sentence with the name on the heart they picked-up...'Jesus loves [name on heart]!'

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand around the parachute with me."

During the Activity: "I have a special heart in my hand with your name on it. When I give you your heart, I want you to place it on the parachute. Great job! Now in just a moment we are going to shake the parachute, so the hearts move up and down and all around and say our memory verse. When we pick-up the hearts, I want you to hold them because we are going to read everyone's names say, 'Jesus loves you'. Are you ready? Everyone, grab a handle! Let's shake the parachute up and down. (Pause.) Awesome! Now shake it slowly and say: [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! (With children.)

Now, let's shake the parachute faster and say: [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! (With children.)

Let's jump up and down and shake the parachute and say: [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone! (With children.)

Now let's jump up and fall down. (Pause.)

Whew! That was so fun! Can everyone go find one heart and bring it back to our circle. Sit down and hold onto your heart. We're going to let everyone in our group know that Jesus loves them. [First child] what name is on your heart (help child identify name). It says [name on heart]. Can everyone say 'Jesus loves [name on heart]'. Repeat until you have said every child's name in your group. Play again if children desire."

After the Activity: "Everyone did a great job following my directions! Jesus' friends, the disciples,

followed Jesus. Everyone can follow Jesus because [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!" Give each child their heart to take home.

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 that Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loved the twelve disciples, and Jesus loves us too. Help us love others because Jesus loves everyone. 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.