

Lifepoint Kids Juniors

March 26, 2023

Today's Bible Story: I can love everyone like Jesus.

Jesus Loves Everyone • *The Gospels*

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NIV

Key Question: Who can love like Jesus?

Bottom Line: I can love like Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Follow Me Instrument March

Love on the Wall

LARGE GROUP (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

All My Friends

Like Jesus Headband

Confetti Chute

Review and Prayer

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

1. Follow Me Instrument March

What You Do: *Before the Activity:* Gather the children in your activity area and pass out the instruments. Explain that when you wave your arms over your head like a conductor, they can play their instruments, but when you bring your arms down to your side, they must stop. Practice this a few times.

During the Activity: Lead the children to follow you and march around the classroom as they play their instruments. Remind them to watch to see if you're waving your arms or if your arms are by your side. Talk about how we'll hear about different people who followed Jesus.

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* "Friends, come stand with me! We're going to make some music today. When I wave my hands over my head like this (*demonstrate*), you can play, play, play! But when I put my hands down to my sides like this (*demonstrate*), I want you to stop playing and put your instruments down to your sides. I'll hand out the instruments, and we can practice."

During the Activity: "Okay, let's play and march around the room. Follow me! (*March while waving hands.*) Play your instruments. (*Put your arms by your sides.*) My hands are by my side. What should you do? (*Pause.*) Great! (*Start marching again while waving hands.*) Follow me. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was SO fun! You were all doing different things, but you were following me. Great job!"

After the Activity: "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a group of people who were all doing different things, and they all followed Jesus."

2. Love on the Wall

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Choose a child to go first and give them a heart sticker. Gently spin the child twice and then point them toward the paper on the wall. Challenge the child to walk to the paper and place a sticker on it. Repeat the activity until all children have had a turn. Talk about how we'll hear more ways we can love like Jesus today in our story.

What You Say: *During the Activity:* "Friends, come over here and stand with me. I have a love-filled activity for us to do. We have a paper on the wall that we need to fill with LOVE! We can each put a heart sticker on the paper to fill it with love. Putting a sticker on the paper is easy, so let's make it fun! I will spin you around two times, then you can stamp your love on the paper. [Child's name], are you ready? (*Spin child twice.*) Go stamp some love. (*Pause.*) Nice job! Come back. Our next friend to go is [child's name]! (*Continue with each child and repeat as desired.*) Great job! I see so much love on our wall!"

After the Activity: "Today, we'll hear more ways we can love like Jesus!"

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

1. Like Jesus Headband

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Encourage children to decorate their sentence strip with crayons, heart stickers (and dot markers). Instruct them to glue the heart with the letters in it on their sentence strip first. Then ask children to glue the other hearts on either side of the first heart. Wrap the sentence strip around each child's head to find the fit, and staple shut. Cover the ends of the staple with tape. Talk about how Jesus loves everyone, and we can, too.

What You Say: *During the Activity:* "Friends, come sit with me at the table, and let's make a headband. Use the markers and stickers to decorate your paper strip. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now find the heart picture that has words on it. *(Pause.)* It says, 'I can love like Jesus.' Glue that heart in the middle of your strip. *(Pause.)* Now glue the other two hearts on either side of that one. *(Pause.)* Fantastic! Now let me measure it to your head and staple it shut. *(Pause.)* Put a piece of tape right there over the back of the staple. *(Pause.)* Great! Now your headbands are ready to wear!"

After the Activity: "In our story today, we heard how Jesus chose different people with different jobs and from different families and different places, to follow Him. Jesus loves everyone, and He wants us to love everyone, everywhere, just like Him. **[Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus. Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**"

2. All My Friends

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Gather the children in an open area of the room and stand in a circle. Call out different colors of clothes or shoes, different hairstyles or colors, if they wear glasses, etc. If a child has what you called, they move to the center of the circle and say the memory verse. Repeat until every child has had at least one turn, and then bring the children together in the center and say the verse together. Talk about how Jesus loves each of us and He wants to be our friend forever.

What You Say: *During the Activity:* "I need all of my sweet friends to join me and make a big circle! Before we get started, let's all say and do the motions to our memory verse. Are you ready? Okay! 'A friend *(hook pointer fingers together)* loves *(hug yourself)* at all times *(arms out and twirl)*,' Proverbs 17:17. *(Open hands like a book.)* Fantastic! Everyone, listen closely to my words. All my friends who have red shoes on, move to the center of the circle. Okay friends in the middle, say the verse with me. 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. Great job! Go back to the circle. All my friends who have ponytails, move to the middle and say the verse with me. *(Pause.)* Go back to the circle. All my friends who have glasses, move to the middle and say the verse with me. *(Continue until each child has had at least one turn.)* Now ALL my friends come to the middle. Let's say it all together. 'A friend loves at all times,' Proverbs 17:17. Yay! Fantastic!"

After the Activity: "Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus loves each of us and wants us to follow Him and love others like He does. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**"

3. Confetti Chute

What You Do: *During the Activity:* Lay the parachute flat on the floor. Place the pom-poms on top of the parachute. Ask the children to stand around the parachute with you and invite them to pick up a section of the parachute. Invite the children to shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast. Encourage the children to try to bounce the pom-poms as if they were tossing confetti. Repeat as desired. Talk about how we can celebrate and love like Jesus.

What You Say: *Before the Activity:* “Friends, come stand around the parachute with me, and let’s use it to toss the confetti.”

During the Activity: “Grab a side of the parachute and let’s gently shake it. *(Pause.)* Let’s see how high we can bounce the confetti. Shake the parachute faster. *(Pause.)* Wow! Look at the confetti fly! *(Pause.)* The confetti went everywhere. Let’s collect all the confetti and put it back on the parachute. *(Pause.)* Okay, let’s spread confetti everywhere again. Ready? And shake! *(Repeat as desired.)* Awesome job!”

After the Activity: “Confetti goes everywhere, just like Jesus’ love! What a celebration to love like Jesus! **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus!**”

4. Review and Prayer

SGL: “In our Bible story, today, we heard about the first people who followed Jesus. They were called ‘the disciples.’ The disciples had different jobs and lived in different places because Jesus loves everyone. And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that Jesus loves everyone because it says . . .

CHILDREN and SGL: “‘A friend *(hook pointer fingers together)* loves *(hug yourself)* at all times *(arms out and twirl)*,’ Proverbs 17:17.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

SGL: “Yay! Okay, it’s time for everyone to sit down and talk to God. *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

PRAYER

SGL: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love everyone in the whole, wide world! We want to love everyone like Jesus. Help us love all of the people in the world. You’re the best, God. In Jesus’ name. amen.”