

# February 25, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Jesus loves me.

Jesus and the Children • *Luke 18:15-16*

**Memory Verse:** "Be kind and loving to each other." Ephesians 4:32, NCV

**Key Question:** Who does Jesus love?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus loves everyone.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

*During the Activity:* Guide the children as they take turns "fishing" for the story pictures. After all the fish have been caught, sit with the children and put the story pictures in order as they happened. Put the fish back in the basket and play again!

## **Jesus and the Children**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Create:* An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

**What You Need:** "Jesus and the Children" Activity Page, cardstock, child-safe scissors, glue sticks, crayons, and washable markers

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Jesus and the Children" on cardstock, one per child.

*During the Activity:* Ask children to color, cut the pictures along the bottom of the page, and glue them around the picture of Jesus. Encourage children to draw a picture of themselves around Jesus.

*After the Activity:* Ask the children to hold up their completed pictures as you say the Bottom Line together.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Come sit with me! Let's make a picture to help us remember what we learned in our Bible Story today."

*During the Activity:* "In our Bible Story today, some mommies and daddies brought their children to see Jesus. When the children tried to get close to Jesus, Jesus' friends, the disciples, told the children to go away. What did Jesus say when His disciples did that? *(Pause.)* You're right! Jesus told them to let the children come to Him! Jesus loves all children, because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.**

"Look at the children at the bottom of your picture. Color the children and cut them out. *(Pause.)* Glue all the children around Jesus because Jesus wants all children to come to Him! *(Pause.)* And since **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone**, and you are a child, you can draw a picture of you by Jesus too!"

*After the Activity:* “Okay everyone, hold up your pictures. *(Pause.)* All the children are with Jesus, because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”

## Journal and Prayer

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect:* An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**What You Need:** “Memory Verse Card” Activity Page from Week One in Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen, heart stamp, and reward stickers or handstamp

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* If you do not have the “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible, copy “Memory Verse Card” on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 4:32.

*During the Activity:* Call the children, one at a time by name, to line up and walk to your Small Group spot. When you get to your Small Group spot, tell the children to sit down when you say their name. Review the Memory Verse and motions together, then write each child’s name in the journal as you say it out loud. Let each child put a heart stamp by their name as you say, “Jesus loves, [name of child].”

*After the Activity:* Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “It’s Small Group time! When I say your name, stand up and line up behind me. *(Say each child’s name.)* Yay! Now we have everyone! Follow me! *(Lead the children to your Small Group spot.)* Here we are, but don’t sit down yet. Listen for your name again. When I say your name this time, you can sit down. *(Say each child’s name.)* That’s everyone!”

*During the Activity:* *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)* “In our Bible Story today, we learned that Jesus wants all children to be His friend forever because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.** That means Jesus loves you and you and you and you . . . *(Point to each child.)* And now Jesus wants us to love everyone the way **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”

“That’s why we have been learning this Bible verse. It says, ‘Be kind and loving *(cross hands over chest)* to each other,’ *(spread arms out)* Ephesians 4:32. *(Open hands like a book.)* Stand up with me and let’s say that one time together. Just say what I say and do what I do. ‘Be kind and loving *(cross hands over chest)* to each other,’ *(spread arms out)* Ephesians 4:32. *(Open hands like a book.)* That was fantastic! Let’s sit down so anyone who wants to say that Bible verse can give it a try. I have my stickers ready! *(Give each child the opportunity to try and say the Bible verse.)* Everyone, clap for [child’s name]! Here is your sticker! *(Say this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.)* I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/handstamp. One, two, three! *(Pause to look.)* Yay! *(Clap.)*”

“Now, let’s sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Open journal.)* Today we’re going to do something very special in our prayer journal. When I write your name, you get to put a heart sticker by your name, because Jesus loves you. Listen for your name! *(Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)* Jesus loves, [child’s name]. Come put a sticker in the journal.” *(Continue with each child.)*”

*After the Activity: (Hold up the journal.)* “Look at all of the children Jesus loves! Let’s pray and talk to God about it. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love *(read each child’s name)*. Please help *(say each child’s name)* love others the way you love them. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”