



January 8, 2017

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: Who is there when you need Him?

Bottom Line: Jesus is there when I need Him.

Memory Verse: "You are everything I need." Psalm 119:57, NIV

Bible Story Focus: Jesus has the power to help my friends.

The Four Friends • *Mark 2:1-12*

Make It Fun

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as Your 5&6 year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

1. Bouncing Friends

"Bouncing Friends" is an activity that uses gross motor skills and teamwork to introduce today's Bible story.

What You Need: A parachute or sheet and 4 medium-sized plush toys

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children all stand around the perimeter of the parachute and ask each child to hold the edge of the parachute. Work together with the children to raise the parachute off the ground.

During the Activity: Toss the plush toys onto the parachute one by one and introduce them as "friends." Encourage the children to bounce the toys up and down. Then challenge them to try to be very still and balance the toys on the parachute. Ask the children to work together to walk with the parachute still up in the air with the toys on it. Walk carefully and try to not let the plush friends move. Tell the children that they are carrying their friends.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I am so glad to see all of my friends here today! I have FOUR more friends here for us to play with!" (*Hold up toys.*)

During the Activity: “Everyone stand around our parachute and hold on to the edge. (*Demonstrate.*) Let’s work together to pick it up off of the floor. (*Pick up.*) Great job! Now let’s bounce our friends! (*Toss the toys onto the parachute.*) Lift your arms up and down to make our friends bounce. (*Pause.*) Awesome! Now let’s be very still. Do you think we can keep the parachute flat so that our friends are very still? (*Pause.*) Great job! Now let’s use the parachute to carry our friends while keeping them still. Everyone take a few steps over this way. (*Demonstrate.*) Perfect!”

After the Activity: “You did a great job bouncing and carrying our friends. Today our Bible story is about FOUR friends who carried their friend when he needed help. I can’t wait for you to find out what happened!”

2. Puzzled

“Puzzled” is an activity that uses fine motor skills, sorting by colors, and problem solving to introduce today’s Bottom Line.

What You Need: “Lame Man Puzzle” and “Four Friends Puzzle” Activity Pages, white cardstock, blue cardstock, scissors, and sandwich-sized zip-top bags

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Lame Man Puzzle” onto the white cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. Copy the “Four Friends Puzzle” onto the blue cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. Place a blue puzzle and white puzzle into each zip-top bag. Each child needs one bag.

During the Activity: Pass out the bags of puzzle pieces and point out the different colors. Explain to the children that they have pieces to two different puzzles in their bags. Help them sort the colors and then put each puzzle together to reveal the pictures from today’s Bible story.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Today, I have two puzzles for each of you that I want you to put together! Some pieces are blue and some are white. First, let’s sort our pieces by color. You will need a pile of blue pieces and a pile of white pieces.”

During the Activity: “Great job! Now let’s see if we can put the pieces together to form our puzzles. I can’t wait to see the pictures on each puzzle.”

After the Activity: “Look, this is a puzzle showing a man on a mat. (*Show puzzle.*) I think he is hurt. I wonder if he cannot walk. And look, this puzzle shows four friends. (*Show puzzle.*) You will hear all about these men in our Bible story today. I can’t wait for you to find out what happens!”

3. Sensory Sort

“Sensory Sort” is an activity that allows the children to use their sense of touch and sorting skills to introduce today’s Bible story.

What You Need: Large tub, shredded paper, 4 LEGOs®, 4 toy cars, and 4 plastic animals

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place all of the objects into the tub and top with the shredded paper. Gently mix the contents with your hands.

During the Activity: Have the children stick their hands into the tub and pull out the objects.

After the Activity: Help the children sort the objects into groups: LEGOs, cars, and animals. Point out that there are FOUR of each item.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It’s time to use our fingers to touch and see what is inside this tub!” (*Point to tub.*)

During the Activity: “Put your hands inside the tub, pull out anything that you find, and place it on the table. (*Do activity.*) Great job! Now let’s sort the items that you found. We can make a pile of LEGOs, a pile of cars, and a pile of animals.”

After the Activity: “Way to go! You all did a fantastic job! I see that there are FOUR of each items. I see FOUR LEGOs, FOUR cars, and FOUR animals! Today in our story, we will hear about some men who helped their friend by taking him to Jesus. I bet you can’t guess how many friends there were. (*Pause.*) You got it! FOUR!”

Make It Stick

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today’s Bible story and Bottom Line. Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. Hop Scotch Memory Verse

“Hop Scotch Memory Verse” is an activity that uses gross motor movement and memory skills to review this month’s memory verse.

What You Need: 6 pieces of construction paper in any color

What You Do:

Before the Activity: In an open area of the room, lay the construction paper down on the floor in a hopscotch pattern.

During the Activity: Demonstrate for the children how to hop from one piece of construction paper to the next as they say this month's memory verse. Encourage the children to follow you by hopping on the paper and saying the verse together. Repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Our memory verse this month says: *You are everything I need*, Psalm 119:57. That means that Jesus is always there for us. He will help us and provide everything we need. A need is something necessary to live, like water. Jesus is with us and He will give us everything we need. Let's say our verse together as we hop together on the floor. Let me show you." (*Demonstrate.*)

During the Activity: "Follow me as we say the verse together. (*Hop on the pieces of paper.*) *You are everything I need*, Psalm 119:57.' Great job everyone!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

After the Activity: "I love this month's verse! Tell me: **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.** Jesus had the power to help the man whose friends brought him to Jesus, and He has the power to help us too. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him—always!**"

2. Carry a Friend

"Carry a Friend" is an activity that allows the children to re-enact the story while it's being retold.

What You Need: A plush bear and a towel

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand around you. Lay the towel flat on the floor and lay the bear on top of it.

During the Activity: Start to retell today's Bible story and select four children to pick up the towel and pretend to carry the bear, just like in the story.

After the Activity: Be sure all of the children have a turn to carry the bear.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Our Bible story was AH-MAZING today!"

During the Activity: “FOUR men saw that their friend needed help. (*Point to the bear on the towel.*) Let’s pretend that this is the man who needed help. The man could not walk. His legs did not work! His FOUR friends knew that only Jesus could help him. The FOUR friends laid him on a blanket and they all picked him up and carried him. Can I have FOUR people come up and carry the towel holding our friend, the bear, just like the men carried their friend? (*Select four children and help them carry the towel with the bear.*) Great job, friends! Let’s find FOUR more friends to come up and carry the bear. (*Continue switching out the children until everyone has had a turn.*) The FOUR friends carried the man to see Jesus. Do you remember what Jesus did for the man when He saw him? (*Pause.*) That’s right! He healed his legs and made him WALK again! WOW! Jesus has the power to help EVERYONE!”

After the Activity: “Jesus is always there to help us and our friends when we need Him, just like in our story today. He loves us so much and will always be there when we need Him! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**”

3. Pass the Ball

“Pass the Ball” is an activity that teaches teamwork and large motor skills while the children act out an important part of today’s Bible story.

What You Need: Medium-sized rubber ball

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit crisscross-applesauce (legs folded in front on them like a pretzel) in a single-file line.

During the Activity: Give the ball to the first child in line. Instruct the child to pass the ball to the person behind him without moving his legs. Have the children continue to pass the ball down the line until it reaches the end. Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today in our Bible story we learned about a man who could not walk. His legs did not work!”

During the Activity: “Let’s play a game without using our legs, just like the man in our story would have had to do. Everyone sit in a line and sit crisscross-applesauce. (*Give the first child in line the ball.*) Stay seated and do not use your legs at all. Pass the ball to the person behind you. You may pass it over your head or around your back as long as you do not use your legs. Let’s see if we can pass the ball all the way down the line without ever moving our legs!”

After the Activity: “Good job, friends! The man in our story could not use his legs until his friends carried him to Jesus. Jesus was there when the man needed Him, just like He is always there when we need Him! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**”

4. Four Friends Craft

“Four Friends Craft” is an activity that uses creativity and fine motor skills to review today’s Bible story.

What You Need: “Lame Man” Activity Page, large craft sticks (2 per child), felt in any color (2x6-inch piece per child), and white glue

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Lame Man” Activity Page and cut apart. You will need one cutout for each child. Cut the felt into two-by-six inch pieces. Provide one piece per child. Lay the craft sticks (two per child), crayons, and glue in the center of the tables.

During the Activity: Pass out the cutouts for the children to color. Show the children how to glue the felt piece to the two craft sticks to create a “mat”. When the children are done coloring their “lame man,” help them glue him to the center of the felt mat.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our Bible story today, we learned about a man who needed help. The man couldn’t walk, so his friends carried him to Jesus. What did they carry him on? *(Pause.)* Yes! A mat! Today I want us to create a craft that shows this man on his mat.”

During the Activity: “You can color your picture and then we’ll glue our man onto the mat, so that his friends can carry him to Jesus. Let me know if you need any help!”

After the Activity: “Great job, everyone! I’m so thankful that these four friends were able to get their friend to Jesus. Jesus has the power to help our friends. Jesus was there to help the man when he needed it most. And **[Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him. Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**”