



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 the following activities as your 3&4 year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. Four Moves

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in front of you. Count to four with the children.

During the Activity: Do the following movements with the children four times each: clap, jump, stomp, and touch toes. Count as you do each movement. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Can you count to four? (*Pause.*) Great! Let's do it together. One, two, three, four. Awesome!"

During the Activity: "Now let's count while we do movements. First, let's clap four times. (*Clap and count.*) Awesome job! Now let's jump up and down four times. (*Jump and count.*) Way to go! Now stomp four times." (*Continue with activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job counting to four! Our story today has four friends in it. Let's get ready to hear our TRUE story from the Bible and find out what the four friends did!"

2. Four in a Tin

What You Need: 6-cup cupcake pan and 24 various colored pom-poms

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the pan in the activity area. Lay the pom-poms next to the pan.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to count the pom-poms and place four into each cup of the pan. To add a harder element, you can also have them sort colors.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "There is big pile of pom-poms here. (*Point.*) Let's divide it into smaller piles."

During the Activity: "Let's put four pom-poms into each one of these cups. (*Point to cups.*) Let's count together while we do it!" (*Do activity.*)

After Activity: "Awesome job! You are very good at counting to the number four. We are going to hear a story about the number four today. There are four friends who take their sick friend to someone who could help him. I wonder who they took him to. We will find out soon!"

Make It Stick

Choose two or more of the following activities to help make the Bottom Line stick. Lead the activities with small groups of children. Encourage children to play on their own if they do not wish to take part in an activity.

1. Four Jumps

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the memory verse with the children.

During the Activity: Jump with the children four times and count each jump. When you are finished jumping, say the verse with the children. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Do you remember our memory verse for this month? (*Pause.*) Great! Let's say it together! *You are everything I need*, Psalm 119:57. Great job!"

During the Activity: "Now let's jump four times! One, two, three, four! Great job! Let's say our verse again! *You are everything I need*, Psalm 119:57. Awesome! Now let's jump four times again." (*Repeat several more times.*)

After the Activity: “Our verse tells that God will always be there when we need Him, just like He was there for the four friends in our story. **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**”

2. Little People Review

What You Need: 5 Little People toy figures, and a piece of gauze

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Lay the gauze on the floor, place one figure on it, and place the four other figures at the corners of the gauze.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story using the figures.

After the Activity: Allow the children to use the figures to re-enact the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today our Bible story was about four friends (*point to the four figures on the corners*) who helped a sick man.” (*Point to the figure on the gauze.*)

During the Activity: “The man could not walk. The friends knew he needed help! They knew that Jesus was the only one who could help their friend. They carried him on a mat to Jesus. There were many, many, people there to see Jesus too! (*Move the figures.*) Do you remember what happened next? (*Pause.*) YES! (*Move the all of the figures and gauze and tell them how they put him through the roof.*) The man’s friends carried him to the roof and cut a hole in it. They lowered the man through the hole to Jesus! What did Jesus do when he saw them? (*Pause.*) You got it! He gave the man what he needed! He helped him walk again!”

After the Activity: “Our Bible story was AMAZING! Jesus was there when the man needed Him, and Jesus gave him just what he needed. He made the man walk again! Jesus is there when we need Him too! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**”

3. Leg Movers

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in front of you.

During the Activity: Have the children do different movements with their legs, such as: march, jump, shake their legs, and bend their knees. Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “God gave us our legs so that we could walk. Let’s see what else we can do with our legs!”

During the Activity: “March! Everyone use your legs to march! (*March in place.*) Awesome! Now let’s jump! (*Jump.*) Perfect! Can you shake your leg like this? (*Demonstrate by shaking one of your legs.*) Great! Now shake the other leg! (*Shake your other leg.*) Way to go! Now let’s bend our knees and squat down. (*Bend at the knees and squat to the floor.*) Whew! That was so much fun! We can do a lot with our legs!”

After the Activity: “God gave us legs so that we can walk and do fun things. I bet the man in our story was so glad Jesus helped him to walk again. And I am so glad God gives us what we need. **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.**”

4. Man on a Mat

“Man on a Mat” is an activity that creates a visual of the Bible story for the children to take home and share with their family.

What You Need: “Man” and “Mat” Activity Pages, scissors, and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Man” Activity Page onto the white paper. Cut out the men along the dotted lines. You will need one man per child. Copy the “Mat” Activity Page. Cut out each mat along the dotted lines. You will need one mat per child.

During the Activity: Give each child a mat and a man. Encourage the children to glue the man onto the mat.

After the Activity: Reinforce the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our story today, there was a man who could not walk, and four of his friends him on a mat to Jesus. And Jesus helped the man and gave him what he needed!”

During the Activity: “We are going to make a man on mat so that you can take it home and tell your family all about our story today! (*Give each child a mat and man.*) This is your mat (*hold up mat*) and this is the man (*hold up the man*). Use the glue to put the man on top of the mat.” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Nice work! Jesus gives us what we need and is always there when we need Him, just like He was there for the man in our story today! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**”