



January 29, 2017

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Bottom Line: Jesus is there when I need Him.

Bible Words: "You are everything I need." Psalm 119:57, NIV
The Four Friends • *Mark 2:1-12*

Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (*especially the younger ones*) may wander. That's OK. They're still listening and learning!

What You Need: Preschool Bible, clock

What You Say:

LEADER: "Hello, friends! We've been learning a great story from the Bible (*hold up Bible*) this month, and it's all about some friends! Who can remember how many friends there were in our Bible story? (*Pause.*) Yes, four! There were four friends.

"Who did the four friends go to see? (*Pause.*) Yes, they went to see Jesus. They carried their friend on a mat because he couldn't walk. His legs didn't work. They believed that Jesus could help their friend.

"When the FOUR friends got to where Jesus was, the house was FULL of what? (*Pause.*) Yes, people. The house was full of people. It was a BIG crowd. They tried to go through the front door. But there were too many people! Oh, no! What were they going to do? The FOUR friends couldn't get their hurt friend to Jesus! How did they get their friend in to see Jesus?

"They climbed up on the roof and cut a hole in it to lower their friend down into the house where Jesus was. They lowered him down from the roof. That is AMAZING!

"Did Jesus help the man on the mat? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus told them man to get up and walk and he did! The hurt man got right up off the mat and walked. Jesus helped him.

"Jesus is always there when we need Him. And He wants to help us all the time. (*Hold up clock.*) He wants to help us no matter what time it is. He wants to help us when it's three o'clock. (*Point to the three.*) He wants to help us when it's six o'clock. (*Point to the six.*) He wants to help us when it's nine o'clock. Jesus wants to help us all the time.

“I’m SO glad that Jesus was there to help the man who couldn’t walk! And Jesus is there for us too. **Who is there when you need Him?**”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is there when I need Him.”

LEADER: “Again! **Who is there when you need Him?**”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is there when I need Him.”

Craft Time

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That’s OK. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

What You Need: “All the Time” Activity Page, ink pads, and wipes

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “All the Time”. Each child needs one page.

During the Activity: Retell the story as the children put their handprint to form three o’clock on the Activity Page.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Today we heard a story about FOUR friends. They took their hurt friend to see Jesus because he couldn’t walk. They had a hard time getting their hurt friend to Jesus because there were so many people in the house. The FOUR friends had to go on the roof and make a hole! Then they lowered their friend on the mat down to Jesus.

“Did Jesus help their hurt friend? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus told them man to get up and walk and he did! The hurt man got right up off the mat and walked. Jesus helped him. Jesus is always there when we need Him. And He wants to help us all the time.

“Jesus wants to help us when it’s three o’clock, six o’clock, or nine o’clock. He wants to help us all the time. Let’s put our handprints on this clock so we can remember that Jesus is with us all the time. He’s always there when we need Him.

After the Activity: “I’m SO glad that Jesus was there to help the man who couldn’t walk! And Jesus is there for us too. **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.”**