

FOCUS

DAY
ONE

FOCUS VBS

PRESCHOOL
SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

**Look at what God made.
Seeing God in Creation**
Romans 1:20

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus."
Hebrews 12:2, NIRV

BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.**

1. ANIMAL WALK

WHAT YOU NEED: Optional animal costume props, such as: a pool noodle (to be an elephant's trunk), three or four large feathers (to be a bird), a bowl large enough to fit on a child's head (to be a turtle), a headband with bunny ears (or any other animal ears), etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

During the Activity: Invite the children to take turns using the props and pretending to be animals along a designated path within your home. Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We learned today about how God made all the animals. Now, we're going to pretend to be animals! We can choose some animal props and walk like that animal all along this path. You might choose to be an elephant (*hold up the pool noodle like an elephant trunk*), a bird (*hold up the feathers like wings*), a turtle (*put the bowl on your head*), or a bunny (*put on the bunny ear headband*). (If you provided other props, explain them now.) Look at all these amazing animals! God made all of them. And, the greatest gift God gave us is Jesus!"

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JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Open the Bible and lay it where the children can see it.)

"Our Bible story today was about how God made everything—the sun, stars, trees, mountains, oceans, people, and yes, ANIMALS! And even though we can't see God, we know He is real because we can see everything He made.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Let's make a list of some things God made. When you think of something God made, say it and I'll write it down.

(Encourage everyone to think of things God made. Write down what they say.)

"Wow! When we look around, we see LOTS of amazing things God made because God made everything!

"Hmmm. I see something else God made that we need to add to our list. I am going to add *(say each child's name as you write them in the journal)*. Because God made you!

"This list we made is awesome! Good job!

"We can use it later when we pray. But first, I have a very important question. God made a wonderful world and everything in it for us but He gave us something even better. Do you remember WHO is the best gift ever that God gave us? (Pause.)

"YES! Jesus! God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever! That's why when we ask, 'Who wants to be your friend forever?' you say, 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever!' Let's try it. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

PRAYER

"Dear God, we want to tell You how amazing and powerful and creative and loving You are. Even though we can't see You, we know You are real because we see ALL the things You made, like *(read the list you made)*. And I especially want to thank You for making *(say each person's name)*. They are SO special. And I know You love all of us with a super big love because You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. WOW! Jesus is the best! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



HOME ACTIVITY | DAY 1

Bible Story: Look at what God made | Seeing God in Creation • Romans 1:20

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: "Let us keep looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:2, NIV

1. WHAT DO YOU SEE?

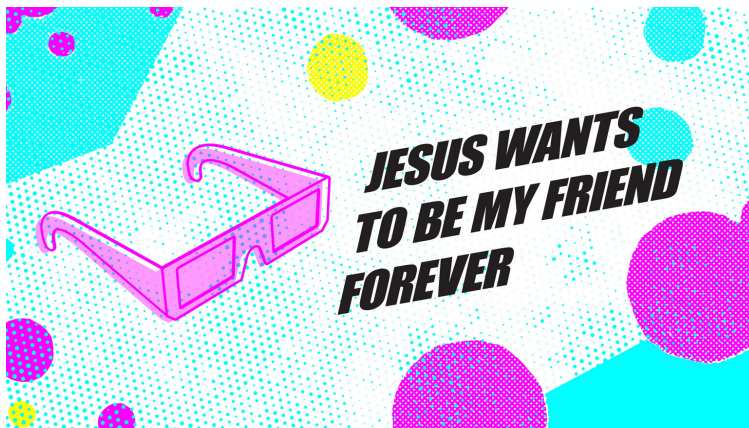
What You Need: empty toilet paper tubes (2 per child), tape, yarn or string, stickers, markers

What You Do:

- Tape two toilet paper tubes together side by side (wrap the tape around both tubes on both ends) to create binoculars.
- Cut a two foot length of yarn for each set of binoculars.
- Decorate the binoculars with stickers or markers.
- Let the kids look through the binoculars to see what God has made.

What You Say:

"When you look through your binoculars, do you spy some friends God made? Yes! Take these binoculars and keep looking for all the amazing things God made. God gave us so many wonderful things to enjoy, but the BEST gift ever is Jesus. Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"



FOCUS

DAY
TWO

FOCUS VBS

PRESCHOOL
SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

Look for how Jesus teaches us.
The Wise and Foolish Builders
Matthew 7:24-27

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus."
Hebrews 12:2, NIRV

BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.**

1. ROCK RELAY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bucket of rocks; bucket of sand (optional); and several spoons

WHAT YOU DO:

Put the bucket of rocks on one side of the room and the bucket of sand on the other. Put the spoons beside the bucket of rocks. Invite the family to take turns or have one child go back and forth using the spoon to carry the rocks to the other side of the room and drop it into the bucket of sand. Continue until every rock is moved from the first bucket to the second.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Have you ever done a relay race before? *(Pause.)* Today we are going to do a 'Rock Relay.' It will be lots of fun! When it's your turn, place a rock on the spoon. Carefully carry that rock to the other side of the room and drop it into the bucket of sand.

"Today we heard a story about rocks and sand. We learned about a wise man who built his house on a rock. We also learned about a foolish man who built his house on the sand. We want to be like the wise man and look for ways that Jesus teaches us how to be wise! Tell me: Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Yay!"

BIBLE STORY

Look for how Jesus teaches us.
The Wise and Foolish Builders
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MEMORY VERSE

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BOTTOM LINE

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my friend forever.**

JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Open the Bible and lay it where the children can see it.)

"Our story today was a story Jesus told. We can find the stories Jesus told all right here in the Bible. There were two men in the story we heard today. What were the two men building? *(Pause.)*

"Yes! They were both building houses. One man built his house on rock. The other man built his house on sand. What happened to the houses when it started raining?" *(Pause.)*

"Yes! The house on the sand came falling down because the rain washed the sand away. But, the house on the rock stood strong because it was on a strong rock.

"Jesus told us this story to teach us that making wise choices is the best way to live. We can find all kinds of things Jesus teaches us when we look in the Bible. He teaches us how to live because He is a good friend and He loves us. In fact, He loves you SO much, He wants to be your friend forever! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**

"Today we are going to make a list of things Jesus teaches us—things like love one another, be a good friend, help others, tell the truth, be kind, and say I'm sorry. There are so many things! So, tell me one thing Jesus teaches us and I'll write it down in our journal."

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen. Encourage everyone to think of things Jesus teaches and write down what they say.)

"This is a great list! Let's use it when we pray."

PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. He is such a good friend and teaches us the best way to live. Please help us make wise choices and do what Jesus says like (read the list the you made). We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



HOME ACTIVITY | DAY 2

Bible Story: Look for how Jesus teaches us | The Wise and Foolish Builders • Matthew 7:24-27

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: "Let us keep looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:2, NIV

1. BUILD IT

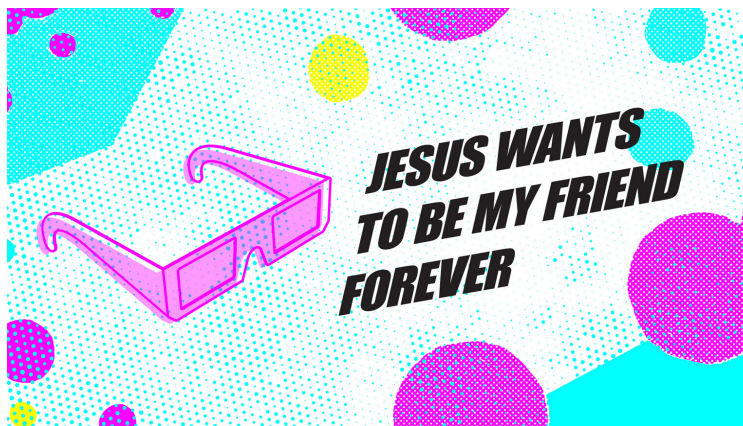
What You Need: Bucket of rocks; bucket of sand (optional); and several spoons

What You Do:

- Encourage the children to use the supplies to stack and build a house. You may want to show them how to make the house more stable.

What You Say:

*"When Jesus told the story about the two men who built houses, did they build with straws and playdoh or blocks? One built his house on the rock and one on the sand. Let's do some house building of our own but with what we have here! Great building, kids! The wise man built his house on the rock. Jesus told the story to show us how important it is to listen to what he teaches so we can make wise choices and stand strong. Jesus is a wise and good friend! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"*



FOCUS

DAY THREE

FOCUS VBS

PRESCHOOL
SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

**Look for ways to love
people like Jesus.**

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40;

1 Corinthians 13

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus."

Hebrews 12:2, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.**

1. LOVE PARACHUTE

WHAT YOU NEED: Foam hearts or cut-out paper hearts and a sheet or towel

WHAT YOU DO:

Place the hearts in the middle of the sheet or towel. Help the children hold the edges of the sheet or towel and make the hearts fly into the air and then land on the towel or sheet again. Continue as long as there is interest. For older children, say "Jesus wants to be my friend forever" as you bounce the hearts.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus loves everyone all the time! We should show love to others, too! We're going to use this parachute and hearts to help us to remember that Jesus loves us SO much and we can love others the way Jesus loves us. And that's a lot of love like all of these hearts. Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever.

Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

FOCUS

DAY
THREE

FOCUS VBS

PRESCHOOL
SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

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people like Jesus.
The Greatest Commandment**
Matthew 22:36-40;
1 Corinthians 13

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus."
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BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.**

JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Open the Bible and lay it where the children can see it.)

"Our story today was about something very, very important that Jesus taught us to do. Listen and see if you can remember what it was.

"Did Jesus teach us to love people the way bears love honey? *(Pause.)*

"Noooo. Did Jesus teach us to love people the way bees love flowers? *(Pause.)*

"Nooo. Did Jesus teach us to love people the way He loves us? *(Pause.)*

"YES! Jesus said the most important thing we can do is love people the way He loves us! And Jesus loves us A LOT because He wants to be our friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

"Okay, let's write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Today we are going to make a list of ways we can love people the way Jesus loves us. Jesus says kind words to us. He forgives us. He teaches us what is best. He helps us. Jesus really is the best at loving us!

"So, tell me one way you can love people the way Jesus loves you, and I'll write it down."

(Write down what everyone says.)

"Look at this list! All of these are wonderful ways to love people the way Jesus loves us. Let's use it when we pray."

PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that He wants to be our friend forever. Please help us love people the way Jesus loves us by doing things like *(read the list you made)*. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



HOME ACTIVITY | DAY 3

Bible Story: Look for ways to love people like Jesus. | The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: "Let us keep looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:2, NIV

1. LOOK AT THOSE GLASSES

What You Need: paper plates (one per child); a pencil; scissors; heart stickers or heart stamps; crayons or markers; yarn

What You Do:

- On paper plate, starting at the outer edge, draw a two-inch wide spiral into the center of the plate with a pencil. This line marks where the plate will be cut after decorating to create the spiral.
- Cut the yarn into 12 inch lengths. You will need one per child.
- Once children are finished decorating, use the scissors to cut along the pencil line on the plate to create a spiral.
- Tape one end of the yarn to the top of the spiral.

What You Say:

Today we're learning to look for ways to love people like Jesus. Let's make a wind spinner to remind us that Jesus loves us and He wants us to spread His love to others too. As you add stickers and colors, be sure not to cover the line on your plate so we can't see it. I will make a careful cut along that line as you finish decorating. Let's also add a piece of yarn at the top for hanging. Where should we hang your spinner?

*"Every time you watch this spinner spin around and around, I want you to think about showing love to all the people around you just as Jesus loves you! Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"*

