

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page, and Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child. Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children.

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times. Give each child a sticker after saying the memory verse.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Matthew's Party
LUKE 5:27-32

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Today we are going to learn a memory verse from the Bible and the motions that go with it. I will say the memory verse and do motions that will help us remember our memory verse. Everyone listen and watch me. 'You (point up) will fill me with joy (brush flat hands upward twice) when I am with you (fists together with thumbs on top),' Acts 2:28." (Open hands like a book.)

During the Activity: "Now let's try it together. Are you ready? You (point up) will fill me with joy (brush flat hands upward twice) when I am with you (fists together with thumbs on top),' Acts 2:28. (Open hands like a book.) One more time! You (point up) will fill me with joy (brush flat hands upward twice) when I am with you (fists together with thumbs on top),' Acts 2:28. (Open hands like a book.) Great job, friends. I have a special sticker for you."

After the Activity: "Our memory verse teaches us that Jesus fills us with joy when we are with Him. We can celebrate Jesus because Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** One more time. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

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2. MATTHEW MEETS JESUS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Matthew Meets Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, painter's tape, two bowls, plastic coins, and confetti

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Matthew Meets Jesus" on cardstock, one set per small group. Tape the pictures on three different walls around your activity area at child's eye level. Place the coins in one bowl and place it near the picture of Matthew at the tax collector booth. Place the confetti in the other bowl and set it near the picture of Matthew's house.

During the Activity: Point out the three pictures on the wall. Lead children to the picture with Matthew at the tax collector booth. Encourage children to take a few coins from the bowl and hold them. Talk about how Matthew was a tax collector and how he took more money than he was supposed to and kept the extra. Talk about how this made people upset with Matthew. Lead the children to return coins to the bowl and follow you to the next picture.

At the picture of Jesus, talk about how Jesus stopped at Matthew's tax collector booth. Jesus showed love to Matthew and asked Matthew to follow Him. Encourage children to give Jesus a high five!

Lead the children to the picture of Matthew's house. Remind children that Matthew was so happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend that he threw a party to celebrate Jesus at his house. Encourage children to pick up a handful of confetti and throw it in the air as you say the Bottom Line.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over here with me! There are pictures from our Bible story around the room. Let's go check them out."

During the Activity: "In our Bible story today, we heard about a man named Matthew. He was a tax collector. Do you see a picture of Matthew? Follow me. (Lead children to the picture of Matthew at the tax collector booth) Pick up a few coins, friends. As a tax collector, Matthew would take more money than he was supposed to and keep extra for himself! This made people very upset with Matthew. Put the coins back in the bowl. (Pause.) Good job!

"But one day, Jesus stopped to talk to Matthew. (Lead children to the picture of Jesus) Jesus loved Matthew and invited Matthew to follow Him. Let's give Jesus a high five! (Pause.) Yay, Jesus!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Matthew's Party
LUKE 5:27-32

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

(2. MATTHEW MEETS JESUS, CONTINUED)

"Matthew was so happy, he invited Jesus to his home for a big party. *(Lead children to the picture of Matthew's house.)* He wanted to celebrate Jesus! Grab a handful of confetti. Everyone ready? **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus.** Toss that confetti, friends!"

After the Activity: "I'm so glad Jesus stopped to talk to Matthew that day and invited Matthew to follow Him. Jesus is such a good friend! Matthew was so excited, he threw a party for Jesus! He wanted to celebrate Jesus and we can too. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



3. SET THE TABLE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Set the Table" Activity Page, cardstock, a large bucket, paper or plastic plates in a variety of colors, paper napkins in a variety of colors, plastic cups in a variety of colors, and spoons

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Set the Table" on cardstock, one per child. Set a placemat at each spot at the table. Fold the napkins in half so they'll fit in the rectangle spot on the placemat. Place the plates, napkins, cups, and spoons in the bucket and set in the center of the table.

During the Activity: Encourage children to find a seat at the table. Ask children to set the table for a party by adding a plate, spoon, napkin, and cup to the designated spots on their placemats.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story. Send home a placemat with each child if desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come find a seat at the table! In our Bible story today, we heard about the party Matthew threw to celebrate Jesus! We can have a party too. Will you help set the table?"

During the Activity: "On your placemat, there is a spot to add a cup, a plate, a napkin, and a spoon. Look in the bucket for the items you need to fill your placemat. (Pause.) Look at this table! It's ready for a party. Great job, friends!"

After the Activity: "Matthew was so happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend, he threw a party to celebrate Jesus. We can celebrate Jesus too because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. I'm so happy we can celebrate Jesus! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Matthew's Party
LUKE 5:27-32

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

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4. CONFETTI MOVERS

WHAT YOU NEED: Wrapped gift box, confetti, turkey basters, cardstock, small brooms, and empty squeeze bottles
Optional: Helium-filled mylar balloons and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the gift box on one side of the activity area with the opening facing out. Set a few piles of confetti three or so feet away. Fold the cardstock accordion style to create several fans. Set the turkey basters, cardstock fans, brooms, and empty squeeze bottles next to the piles of confetti. *Optional: If using balloons, tape them to the gift box.*

During the Activity: Encourage children to move the confetti to the gift box by using the different tools. Demonstrate how to squeeze the end of the turkey baster or squeeze bottles to blow air, wave the fan, and sweep with the brooms to move the confetti.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand over here with me! What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! So much confetti!"

During the Activity: "Let's start the party and get the confetti to the gift box. We can use these items to move the confetti. Let me show you how! (Demonstrate.) Listen for your name and I'll send you to one of the piles of confetti. (Call out names and send two or three children to each pile.) Choose one of the items and use it to move the confetti all the way to gift box. (Pause.) Wow! Great job! Come back to the line so another friend can have a turn! (Continue until each child has a turn.) Confetti is so fun! Thank you for starting the party and moving the confetti!"

After the Activity: "Confetti always makes a party more fun. Jesus wanted to be Matthew's friend forever, and Matthew celebrated Jesus by throwing a party. Jesus wants to be OUR friend forever too! And we can celebrate Jesus! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Matthew's Party
LUKE 5:27-32

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages
personal application
and prayer



5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per group. Place the Memory Verse Card in your Bible at Acts 2:28.

During the Activity: Lead the children to use different motions as they walk to the Small Group spot. Talk about today's Bible story, say the memory verse, and write in the journal.

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! Everyone, stand up and follow me! Make sure you watch me closely and do what I do. Here we go! (*Do different actions, like jazz hands, hop on one foot, or zigzag as you lead the children to your Small Group spot. Encourage the children to do what you do as they follow you.*) You did a great job following me! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible story today, Jesus told Matthew to follow Him. Matthew was so excited that Jesus wanted to be his friend that he got up and followed Jesus! Then Matthew threw a party to celebrate Jesus at his house. Matthew invited lots of people so they could meet Jesus and celebrate Jesus too.

"Matthew celebrated Jesus, and so can we! So when I ask you, '**Who can celebrate Jesus?**' I want you to say, '**I can celebrate Jesus!**' Let me hear you say it! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** Again! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** Yay, Jesus!"

"Okay, now we are going to start learning a new Bible verse. It will help us remember one of the reasons we celebrate Jesus. Are you ready to hear it? The Bible verse we are going to learn says this. (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*),' Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Close Bible and lay it down.*) "When Matthew followed Jesus, Jesus gave him joy. And when we follow Jesus, Jesus will give us joy, too! Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Matthew's Party
LUKE 5:27-32

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

(5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*).¹ Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

"Hearing you say that verse makes me want to celebrate Jesus! (*Clap and cheer.*) Yay, Jesus! Woo-hoo! Yay, Jesus! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) We are going to make a list of people and things we celebrate with a party, like Christmas, a person on their birthday, first day of school, end of soccer season—it can be anything or anyone you celebrate with a party. Listen for your name and be ready to tell me one person or thing you celebrate. (*Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

"Wow! Look at all the things we celebrate! Now I'm going to add one more person to our list: JESUS! (*Write "JESUS" in the journal.*) We celebrate Jesus because Jesus is God's Son, AND Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Thanks for making this list with me. We can use it when we pray."

After the Activity: "Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, we have so many wonderful things to celebrate. We celebrate (*read the list the children made*). Help us remember to celebrate Jesus, too. Jesus is special because Jesus is Your Son, AND Jesus wants to be our friend forever. THAT is good news worth celebrating! We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THE DAY

1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

Made to Move: an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child.

2. MATTHEW MEETS JESUS

Made to Move: an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Matthew Meets Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape
- Two bowls
- Plastic coins
- Confetti

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Matthew Meets Jesus" on cardstock, one set per small group.
- Tape the pictures on three different walls around your activity area at child's eye level.
- Place the coins in one bowl and place it near the picture of Matthew at the tax collector booth.
- Place the confetti in the other bowl and set it near the picture of Matthew's house.

3. SET THE TABLE

Made to Play: an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Set the Table" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- A large bucket
- Several paper or plastic plates, in a variety of colors
- Paper napkins, in a variety of colors
- Plastic cups, in a variety of colors
- Plastic spoons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Set the Table" on cardstock, one per child.
- Set a placemat at each spot at the table.
- Fold the napkins in half so they will fit in the rectangle spot on the tablecloth.
- Place the plates, napkins, cups, and spoons in the bucket and set in the center of the table.

4. CONFETTI MOVERS

Made to Explore: an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Wrapped gift box
- Confetti
- Turkey basters
- Cardstock
- Small brooms
- Empty squeeze bottles
- *Optional:* Helium-filled mylar balloons
- *Optional:* Tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the gift box on one side of the activity area with the opening facing out.
- Set a few piles of confetti three or so feet away.
- Fold the cardstock accordion style to create several fans.
- Set the turkey basters, cardstock fans, brooms, and empty squeeze bottles next to the piles of confetti.
- *Optional:* If using balloons, tape them to the gift box.

5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

Made to Reflect: an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Bible
- Scissors
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THE DAY

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per group.
- Place the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Acts 2:28.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_VBS_StartTheParty

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



1. CELEBRATION POM-POM

WHAT YOU NEED: "Pom-Pom Label" Activity Page; Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent; crepe paper streamers in a variety of colors; jumbo craft sticks; pipe cleaners; stickers; scissors; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Pom-Pom Label" on label paper, one label per child. Cut streamers into 16-inch lengths, five per child. Write each child's name on a craft stick. Review the motions as you say the memory verse together.

During the Activity: Encourage children to pick five streamers of any color and stack them together. Fold them in half and attach them to one end of the craft stick by wrapping a pipe cleaner tightly around the streamers and craft stick. Let children place their labels and stickers on the handle. Shake pom-poms as you say the memory verse together.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line and encourage the children to shake their pom-poms and shout, "I can celebrate Jesus!"

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hooray! I'm so glad you're here! Let's practice our memory verse together.

"You (point up) will fill me with joy (brush flat hands upward twice) when I am with you (fists together with thumbs on top), Acts 2:28. (Open hands like a book.) (Repeat a few times.)

"Great job! Come to the table. I have something fun for you to make today! It's a pom-pom to celebrate Jesus with."

During the Activity: "Look at all these colors! You need five streamers for your pom-pom. They can be all the same color or different. Pick the colors you want. (Count as the children pick their streamers to make sure they get five.) Great job! Let's stack them like this. (Demonstrate.) Now let's fold them in half like this. (Demonstrate.) I'll wrap them around your craft stick. (Pause.) Put this sticker on. It says, 'You will fill me with joy when I am with you,' Acts 2:28. Now decorate the handle with any of these other stickers. (Pause.) Great job! Give them a little shake and let's say our memory verse together. 'You will fill me with joy when I am with you,' Acts 2:28. (Repeat.) That is so fun to see you celebrate with the colorful pom-poms!"

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible story, Jesus taught us that everyone is invited to be friends with Jesus forever. And that makes me want to celebrate! So let's start the party and celebrate Jesus. Everyone, shake your pom-poms with me. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** Say that with me one more time. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Wedding Feast
MATTHEW 22:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

MADE TO MOVE

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2. COME TO THE PARTY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Come to the Party" Activity Page, cardstock, large wrapped box with removable lid, party horn, several plush friends, toy food, paper plates and cups, and a toy crown

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Come to the Party" on cardstock, two per small group. Place the plush friends in a pile in the center of your activity area with the gift-wrapped box. Hide the following items in places where the children can easily find them: party horn, toy crown, paper plates and cups, toy food, and "Come to the Party" Activity Page.

During the Activity: Encourage children to search the classroom to find the items you hid and bring them to you to place in the gift box. Give hints as needed. Once all items have been found, encourage the children to set up the plush friends in front of them on the floor. Then pull out each item from the box in order in the dialogue below as you review today's Bible story.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Everyone come stand with me at this gift box and all these plush friends. Today we heard an awesome story from the Bible. It's a story Jesus told about a big party to show us that we are all invited to be friends with Him."

During the Activity: "I need your help filling this gift box. There are hidden parts of our story in the room. Will you help me find the things that someone would need for a party? Find ONE item and bring it back here to place in this box. Ready? Let's go! (*Give hints as needed.*) Yay! You found some of our story helpers! Place your item in the box, and take a plush friend to sit with.

"In our story, (*pull out the crown*) Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like a king that threw a big party for his son. (*Pull out the plates and cups and set them on the floor in front of you.*) There would be special food and drinks. (*Pull out the toy food and set it on the plate.*) This would be a very special party. When the king had everything ready, he sent his helpers to tell everyone invited that the party was starting. (*Pull out a sad face.*) But the people said, 'No.' They didn't want to come. So the king sent more helpers to ask again. (*Pull out the sad face.*) This time the people wouldn't even listen!

"Then the king told his helpers to go out and invite EVERYONE to his party! And guess what. So many people came! Everyone pick up your plush friend and say, 'HOORAY! HOORAY!'"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Wedding Feast
MATTHEW 22:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

(2. COME TO THE PARTY, CONTINUED)

After the Activity: "Jesus told this story because He wants everyone to know we are ALL invited to be friends with Jesus. Jesus loves you and He wants to be your friend forever. Let's celebrate! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** One more time! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

MADE TO PLAY

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3. PARTY JOY

WHAT YOU NEED: Spring-loaded clothes pins, smiley face stickers, and party-themed paper plate

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Add one smiley face sticker to the top end of each clothes pin, one per child.

During the Activity: Encourage children to name someone they would invite to a party. Then ask them to pinch open the clothespin and clip it to the party plate. Continue with each child. Remove and repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends, come sit with me at the table. Look at this plate. It's a party plate! Look at the clothespins. They have smiley faces on them, so they can be people. The people are going to the party (clip one pin on the plate), but they need to be invited before they can come."

During the Activity: "Before you clip the person at the party, you can say someone's name and invite them. It can be a friend at the table or a family member or a friend from the neighborhood. Watch me. *(To clothespin)* Hey, [friend's name], do you want to come to my party? *(Pause and pretend.)* [Friend's name] said yes! She/He is coming to the party! *(Clip the pin onto the plate and pass it to the child next to you.)* Who will you invite? *(Continue with each child.)* Look at all the people who were invited to the party! Our party plate is full. Great job!"

After the Activity: "In our Bible story, Jesus told a story about a king who invited everyone to his party. This story is important because everyone is invited to be friends with Jesus. Yes, everyone, and that makes me want to celebrate! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Wedding Feast
MATTHEW 22:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

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4. BALLOON ADDITIONS*

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," "Balloon Additions" Activity Page, cardstock, laminating pouches, and Play-Doh®

**Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.*

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh®, and post on the door. Copy "Balloon Additions" on cardstock, one per child. Laminate each child's copy and set at the table with the Play-Doh.

During the Activity: Encourage children to follow the shapes of the balloons and fill each one with Play-Doh to create a colorful bunch of balloons!

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit at the table with me. We've had a great day learning that everyone can celebrate Jesus."

During the Activity: "Look at the picture on your paper and tell me what you see. (Pause.) Yes! I see lots of balloons too! Balloons make me think of a party! Let's use the Play-Doh to add some color to your balloon shapes. (Pause.) Your balloons look amazing! Great job!"

After the Activity: "In today's Bible story, Jesus told a story about a king who threw a party to celebrate his son. Jesus told this story to teach us that everyone is invited to be His friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend and your friend and my friend too! Jesus wants to be everyone's friend. Let's start the party and celebrate Jesus. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of
the Wedding Feast**
MATTHEW 22:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

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5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Day One in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

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

Acts 2:28. Keep this card in your Bible all week.

During the Activity: Lead the children to play pretend party horns as they walk to Small Group spot. Talk about today's Bible story, say the memory verse, and write in the journal.

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! Stand up and make a party horn with your hand, like this. (*Make a horn with your hand.*) Now follow me and play your pretend party horns! (*Make trumpet noises with your hand horn as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) That was fun! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible story today, Jesus told a story about a king who had a HUGE party to celebrate his son. The first people he invited wouldn't come to the party. So what did the king do? (*Pause.*) The king invited EVERYONE to his party! All of the people who went to the king's party got to celebrate his son!"

"Jesus told this story to teach us that EVERYONE is invited to be His friend forever! Wow! That is such good news! That means everyone can celebrate Jesus! That's why when I ask you, '**Who can celebrate Jesus?**' I want you to say, '**I can celebrate Jesus!**' Ready? **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

"You sure can! And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember one of the reasons we celebrate Jesus. It says (turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card), 'You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*),' Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Close Bible and lay it down.*) "Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*).' Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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MATTHEW 22:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

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ACTS 2:28, NIRV

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BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

(5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Yay, Jesus! *(Clap and cheer.)* Jesus fills us with joy! Yay, Jesus! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)* Today we are going to make a list of people that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. It can be ANYONE, because Jesus wants to be friends forever with EVERYONE! Listen for when it's your turn and tell me one person's name. *(Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)* Wow! Look at all these people! We can use this list when we pray."

After the Activity: "Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, thank You that EVERYONE is invited to be Jesus' friend forever. Jesus wants to be *(read the list the children made)* friend forever. And Jesus wants to be *(say each child's name)* friend forever. And Jesus wants to be my friend forever, too! That is good news worth celebrating! We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THE DAY

1. CELEBRATION POM-POM

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:

- "Pom-Pom Label" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- Crepe paper streamers in a variety of colors
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Pipe cleaners
- Stickers
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Pom-Pom Label" on label paper, one label per child.
- Cut streamers into 16-inch lengths, five per child.
- Write each child's name on a craft stick.

2. COME TO THE PARTY

Made to Move: an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Come to the Party" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Large wrapped box with removable lid
- Party horn
- Plush friends
- Toy food
- Paper plates
- Paper cups
- Toy crown

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Come to the Party" on cardstock and cut, two per small group.
- Place the plush friends in a pile in the center of your activity area with the gift-wrapped box.
- Hide the following items in places where the children can easily find them: a party horn, toy crown, paper plates and cups, toy food, and "Come to the Party" Activity Pages.

3. PARTY JOY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Spring-loaded clothespins
- Smiley face stickers
- Party themed paper plate

WHAT YOU DO:

- Add one smiley face sticker to the top end of each clothes pin, one per child.

4. BALLOON ADDITIONS

Made to Explore: an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- "Balloon Additions" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Laminating pouches
- Play-Doh®

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh®, and post on the door.
- Copy "Balloon Additions" on cardstock, one per child.
- Laminate each child's copy and set at the table with the Play-Doh.

5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

Made to Reflect: an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" from Day One in Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group.

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THE DAY

- Place one card in your Bible at Acts 2:28. Keep this card in your Bible all week.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_VBS_StartTheParty

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. SING AND CELEBRATE MEMORY VERSE

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool music shakers or party streamers

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Gather the children in your activity area.

Review the memory verse with the motions.

During the Activity: Pass out the shakers or party streamers. Lead children to sing the memory verse to the tune "The Wheels on the Bus" as they shake their shakers/wave their streamers.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Everybody come stand with me over here. We've been learning an awesome memory verse this week. Let's say it together with the motions we've learned. 'You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*); Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!"

During the Activity: "Today we are going to make our memory verse into a song. Let's celebrate Jesus as we sing this verse. You can shake the shaker / wave your streamer as you sing to the tune of 'The Wheels on the Bus.'"

"You will fill me with joy when I am with you, when I am with you, when I am with you.
"You will fill me with joy when I am with you, Acts 2:28.

"Great job! Let's sing that again!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

After the Activity: "What a great verse! Jesus fills us with joy! Jesus wants to be our friend forever, and that is a great reason to celebrate. We can celebrate and say, 'Yay, Jesus!' **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son**
LUKE 15:11-32

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



2. LOST SON STORY SCENES

WHAT YOU NEED: "Lost Son Story Scenes" and "Lost Son Story Stickers" Activity Pages, cardstock, and Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Lost Son Story Scenes" on cardstock, one per child. Copy "Lost Son Story Stickers" on label paper, one set of stickers per child.

During the Activity: Give each child a paper and ask them to point to the picture with the dad giving the son money. Give each child a sticker with the money bag to add to the picture. Review this part of the story. Next, have children point to the picture of the son feeding the pigs. Give each child a pig sticker to add to the page as you review the next part of the story. Then, have children point to the picture of the dad hugging the son. Give each child a heart sticker to add to that page as you review that part of the story. And finally, ask children to point to the picture of the dad and son at a party. Give each child a sticker with the party horn to add to their last picture as you review the rest of the story.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come find a seat at the table. I love today's Bible story! Jesus told this story because He wanted us to know that God loves US no matter what."

During the Activity: "Your page has several different pictures from our Bible story today. I have a sticker for you to add to each part as we review. The first picture I want you to find is the picture of the dad giving the son money. The son asked his dad for a lot of money so he could leave home. The dad didn't want his son to leave, but he gave him the money anyway. Let's put this sticker on that picture. (Pass out money bag stickers.) The next picture I want you to point to is the picture of the son feeding the pigs. The son had spent all his money and made bad choices, and now he didn't have money to buy food. He was so hungry he thought about eating pig food. Let's add a pig sticker to this picture. (Pass out the pig stickers.) Now point to the picture of the dad hugging his son. The son decided he would go back home and tell his dad he was sorry for the bad choices he made. While he was walking, his dad saw him and ran to him and gave him a big hug! The dad was so happy to see his son again. Let's add a heart sticker to this picture. (Pass out the heart stickers.) The last picture is the dad and son at a party. The son told his dad he was so sorry for the bad choices he made. But the dad loved him no matter what. He was SO happy to have his son home that he threw a huge party to celebrate. Let's add a party horn sticker to this picture. (Pass out the party horn stickers.) Great job completing your pictures."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son**
LUKE 15:11-32

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

(2. LOST SON STORY SCENES, CONTINUED)

After the Activity: "I'm so glad God loves us no matter what. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to be our friend forever. We can celebrate Jesus, our forever friend. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



3. MOVE THAT BALL!

WHAT YOU NEED: Ball pit balls, box lid with sides (like a copy paper box lid), and a box cutter

NOTE: Use the box cutter before children arrive and store it in another room, out of reach.

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Use the box cutter to cut a hole larger in diameter than the ball in one corner of the box lid. If you have a large group of children, consider offering an additional box lid and ball.

During the Activity: Set the box and ball pit ball on the table. Call on the children to find a spot at the table. Grab the box lid by both hands and demonstrate moving your hands back and forth to roll the "lost" ball so it falls through the hole to get "home." Ask children to try to move the "lost" ball around. If they make it through the hole, lead the group to celebrate together.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit at the table with me. I have a game for us to play today with this ball and box lid. Let's pretend the ball is the son from our story and we need to get him back home."

During the Activity: "Do you see the hole in the box? I want you to get the ball through the hole. Watch me! (*Demonstrate.*) Move your hands back and forth to get the ball through the hole. You got the ball through the hole! Everyone clap and cheer with me to celebrate! Yay! Hooray! Next friend's turn. (*Continue until every child has a turn.*) You did a great job getting the ball home!"

After the Activity: "Jesus told this story so we would know God loves us no matter what. The son went away from home with a lot of money his dad gave him. He made bad choices and spent all his money. The son decided to go back home, and his dad met him on the road with a big hug! God loves us SO much that he sent Jesus to be our friend forever. Now that is something to celebrate! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son
LUKE 15:11-32

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



4. PIGS IN THE MUD SENSORY BIN*

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, plastic tablecloth, shallow plastic bin, shaving cream, brown washable paint, large spoon, plastic pig toys, and baby wipes

*Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.

TODAY'S

BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son**
LUKE 15:11-32

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list shaving cream, and post at the door. Cover the table with the tablecloth. Squirt all the shaving cream into the bin and mix in some brown paint to create "mud." Use the spoon to incorporate the paint and add more if needed to get to your desired color. Place the sensory bin on the covered table with the pig toys nearby.

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

During the Activity: Gather the children around the sensory bin. Encourage them to play with the pigs in the mud. Remind them to keep the mud and mud-covered pigs inside the bin! Clean hands and move bin and pigs out of reach of children.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come find a spot at the table with me."

During the Activity: "What do you see? (Pause.) Pigs! And what do pigs love? Mud! You can play with the pigs in the mud, but let's keep the mud and the pigs in the bin. (Pause.) That was fun squishing around in the mud. Let's clean hands."

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

After the Activity: "In our Bible story Jesus told a story about a dad and his son. The son asked his dad for a lot of money so he could leave home. He made bad choices and spent all his money. He was so hungry that he even thought about eating pig food! Yuck! The son went back home and when the dad saw him, he ran to his son and gave him a big hug! The dad loved his son no matter what. He ran to his son, hugged him, and then threw a BIG party to celebrate. Jesus told this story to show us that God loves us no matter what. God loves us so much that he gave us His Son Jesus to be our friend forever. We can celebrate Jesus! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

BASIC TRUTH

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

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages
personal application
and prayer



5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Memory Verse Card” from Day One in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

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

Acts 2:28. Keep this card in your Bible all week.

During the Activity: Lead the children to oink like pigs as they walk to the Small Group spot. Talk about today’s Bible story, say the memory verse, and write in the journal.

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! Let’s pretend we are little pigs while we walk to our Small Group spot. What does a pig say? (Pause.) Oink! Oink! That’s right! So oink this way and follow me! (Oink like a pig as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) We made it, little pigs! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

During the Activity: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) “In our Bible story today, Jesus told a story about a son who left home, spent all of his money, and got a job feeding pigs. The son was so hungry, he even thought about eating the pigs’ food. The son went back home and told his dad he was sorry for making bad choices. Do you remember what the dad did when he saw his son? (Pause.) Yes! The dad was so happy his son was home that he hugged him, kissed him, and threw a party with lots of food! The dad even gave his son a robe, ring, and shoes. Jesus told this story to teach us that God loves us no matter what. We can always talk to God when we make bad choices, and God will forgive us. God will never, ever, EVER stop loving us! Wow! That is such good news! I’m SO glad we have Jesus to teach us how much God loves us. I want to celebrate Jesus! Yay, Jesus!”

“You can celebrate Jesus, too! So when I ask you, ‘**Who can celebrate Jesus?**’ I want you to say, ‘**I can celebrate Jesus!**’ Let me hear you say it! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** Yay! (Clap and cheer.) I love celebrating Jesus together.

“Now let’s talk about the Bible verse we have been learning. It will help us remember one of the reasons we celebrate Jesus. It says (turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card), ‘You (point up) will fill me with joy (brush flat hands upward twice) when I am with you (fists together with thumbs on top);’ Acts 2:28. (Open hands like a book.)

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Jesus’ Parable of
the Lost Son
LUKE 15:11-32

MEMORY VERSE

“You will fill me with joy
when I am with you.”
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

(5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

(Close Bible and lay it down.) "Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'You *(point up)* will fill me with joy *(brush flat hands upward twice)* when I am with you *(fists together with thumbs on top)*,' Acts 2:28. *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

"You sound wonderful! Way to go! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)* In the story Jesus told, the son told his dad he was sorry for making bad choices. Have you ever told someone you were sorry for something you did? *(Pause.)* Let's make a list of things we've said we're sorry about and then we can use the list when we pray. *(Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)* Thank you for making this list with me. It's hard to say, 'I'm sorry,' when we make a bad choice, but when we talk to God about it, He will always love us and forgive us. Let's talk to God right now."

After the Activity: "Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, sometimes we make bad choices, like when we *(read the list the children made)*. Thank You for sending Jesus to teach us that we can talk to You about everything, and You will always love and forgive us. THAT is good news worth celebrating! You're the best, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THE DAY

1. SING AND CELEBRATE MEMORY VERSE

Made to Move: an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Preschool shakers or party streamers, one per child
- Permanent marker

2. LOST SON STORY SCENES

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:

- "Lost Son Story Scenes" Activity Page
- "Lost Son Story Stickers" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Lost Son Story Scenes" on cardstock, one per child.
- Copy the "Lost Son Story Stickers" on label paper, one set of stickers per child.

3. MOVE THAT BALL!

Made to Play: an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Ball pit balls
- Box lid with sides (like a copy paper box lid)
- Box cutter

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the box cutter to cut a hole into the corner of the box lid, larger than the circumference of a ball.
- If you have a large group of children, consider offering an additional box lid and ball.

4. PIGS IN THE MUD SENSOY BIN*

Made to Explore: an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Plastic tablecloth
- Shallow plastic bin
- Shaving cream
- Brown washable paint
- Large spoon
- Plastic toy pigs
- Baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover the table with the tablecloth.
- Set the bin on the covered table.
- Squirt the can(s) of shaving cream into the bin to cover the bottom.
- Add brown paint and use the spoon to mix together. If needed, add more brown paint to get to the color desired.
- Set the plastic pig toys on the table around the bin.

5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

Made to Reflect: an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" from Day One in Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- 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 Acts 2:28. Keep this card in your Bible all week.

First Look Pinterest Page

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MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. SPOTLIGHT DANCE MEMORY VERSE

WHAT YOU NEED: Glow sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Gather the children in your activity area. Review the memory verse with the motions.

During the Activity: Call on the children, one at a time, to dance in the "spotlight" (*Leader will dim the lights and move the glow sticks around the child*) as everyone says the verse. Repeat until each child that wants to dance has a turn.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light of the World
MATTHEW 5:14-16

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand in a circle with me. It has been a very fun week celebrating Jesus with you! Let's do the motions as we say our memory verse together. 'You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*),' Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*) Super job!"

During the Activity: "Today as we celebrate and say our verse, we are going to have a spotlight dance for whoever wants to dance in the middle. [Child's name], come join me in the middle of the circle and do a little dance. (*Move the glow sticks around.*) Everybody, say the verse with me. 'You will fill me with joy when I am with you,' Acts 2:28. Great job! (*Continue with each child. Move to the next child if someone doesn't want to participate.*) That was so fun celebrating Jesus in the spotlight!"

After the Activity: "What a great verse! Jesus fills us with joy because He's the best friend ever! We can shine our light so others can celebrate Jesus too! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



2. PARTY IN A BAG

WHAT YOU NEED: "Party in a Bag Parent Note" Activity Page, cardstock, small gift bags, confetti, streamers, foam hearts, dot markers or washable markers, scissors, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Party Bag Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Use the permanent marker to write "Jesus wants to be my friend forever" in the center of each foam heart, several hearts per child. Put all the items in the center of the table: confetti, streamers, foam hearts, and dot markers or washable markers. Write each child's name on their bag. Place a gift bag at each spot at the table.

During the Activity: Point out the gift bags and encourage children to decorate the outside of their bags with the markers. As they decorate, review the Bible story. Ask children to open the bag to set it on the table. Encourage children to add a handful of confetti, a few party streamers, and four or five foam hearts to their bag. Point out the words on the hearts and read the Basic Truth. Make sure each child's name is on their bag. Line up bags near a classroom wall for pick up.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come find a seat at the table! In our Bible story today, we talked about being party starters. We can be a party starter by shining a light to show others that Jesus wants to be their friend forever."

During the Activity: "Let's use these markers to decorate your party bag. (Pause.) Your bags look great! Open up your bags and stand them on the table. (Pause.) Now let's add some party starter items. How about a handful of confetti? Let's add that to our bags! (Pause.) And you can't have a party without streamers. Let's all some of those too. (Pause.) Do you see the hearts on the table? (Hold up a foam heart and point to the writing.) It says, **[Basic Truth] 'Jesus wants to be my friend forever.'** Let's add a few hearts to our bags too. (Pause.) Fantastic! Now you have a party in a bag!"

After the Activity: "Jesus said that we are the light of the world. What does a light do? It shines to show us where to go. We can be like lights who shine to show others Jesus, the best friend ever! There are lots of ways to shine. We can help. We can be kind. We can forgive and we can share. When we shine bright, we can start the party and celebrate Jesus! I want you to pass out these hearts to people you know to tell them that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. That's worth celebrating. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** One more time! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light of the World
MATTHEW 5:14-16

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



3. ROLL A PARTY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Roll a Party" and "Party Items Stickers" Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent, and large die; *Optional:* Cardstock, one-inch circle craft punch, scissors, and glue sticks in place of labels

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy "Roll a Party" on cardstock, one per child. Copy "Party Items" on label paper, one set per child. Option: Copy "Party Items" on cardstock, one set per child. Cut the "Party Items" with the craft punch.

During the Activity: Roll the die and prompt children to add a party hat sticker if you roll a one or four, a balloon sticker if you roll a two or five, and a party horn sticker if you roll a three or six. Review the Bible story as they add the items. *Option:* If you're using paper circles, children will use the glue sticks to add them to their page.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come find a spot at the table. We heard a great Bible story today about how we can start the party when we shine our light. Do you see Jesus on your page? (Pause.) Awesome! We need to add some party items to your paper."

During the Activity: "I am going to roll the die, and whatever number it lands on will tell us what sticker to add to your picture. (Roll the die.) Look! I rolled a [number]. We need to add a [item] sticker to the party! (Pause.) Can you find a [item] sticker to add to your page? (Pause.) Jesus said we can shine a light so others can know that He wants to be their friend too. When we are kind, we shine our light and start the party. Let's add more to the party! (Roll the die.) I rolled a [number]. That means we need to add a [item] sticker. Do you see a [item] sticker to add? When we forgive, we shine our light and help others see who Jesus is—the best friend ever! (Roll the die.) Look! I rolled a [number]. We need to add a [item] sticker! Can you find a [item] sticker to add to your page? (Pause.) When we share and help, we're shining our lights to help others see that Jesus is the best friend ever. Way to be party starters!"

After the Activity: "Let's shine our light and start the party by being kind and by choosing to forgive, to share, and to help. We want everyone to know that Jesus wants to be our forever friend. So let's start the party and celebrate Jesus. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light of the World
MATTHEW 5:14-16

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light of the World
MATTHEW 5:14-16

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

4. LIGHT IT UP

WHAT YOU NEED: Shallow, clear plastic bins, battery-powered Christmas lights, play sand, and paintbrushes;
Optional: Plastic tablecloth

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: In one bin, place battery-operated lights on the bottom and turn them on. Stack the second clear bin inside the bin with the lights so the bottom of the bin is sitting on top of the lights. Add a thick layer of sand, making sure you can still see the glow of the lights through it. Add paintbrushes to the bin.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to investigate what happens when you move the sand around. Ask children to draw hearts, smiley faces, party hats, etc. in the sand with the brushes.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Friends, look at this awesome light bin I have. There are lights in the bottom, and even with sand over it, we can see the lights shining. What do you think will happen when we use these brushes to swipe the sand away? Let's investigate!"

During the Activity: "Let's take turns and use the brushes to wipe the sand away. What do you see? Yes, you see the light shine through. Wow! Now can you draw a heart? (Pause.) Great! Can you make a smiley face? Yes, that is awesome. Look at the light! (Repeat as desired.) It was so fun to play with the light box today!"

After the Activity: "Friends, WE have a light we can shine. It might not look like a flashlight or a box with lights, but it does look like kindness, sharing, and forgiveness. When we shine our light, we show everyone that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. That is a great reason to celebrate! Jesus wants to be your friend, (*point to a child*) and your friend, (*point to a child*) and your friend, (*point to a child*) and my friend too! (*Point to yourself.*) That's a great reason to celebrate! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages
personal application
and prayer



5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Day One in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen, 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 Acts 2:28. Keep this card in your Bible all week.

During the Activity: Lead the children to do a conga line as they walk to Small Group spot. Talk about today's Bible story, say the memory verse, give stickers or handstamps, and write in the journal.

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, party starters! Line up behind me! We're going to do a conga line all the way to our Small Group spot. Just do what I do! Step, step, step, stop! (*Put right foot out to the side.*) Step, step, step, stop! (*Put left foot out to the side.*) Step, step, step, stop! (*Put right foot out to the side.*) Step, step, step, stop! (*Put left foot out to the side.*)"

(Continue to lead the children in a conga line all the way to your small group spot.) "Yay! Thank you for dancing with me! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible story today, Jesus told us to let our light shine. We shine when we are kind, share, forgive, and help others. And when we shine, we show others that Jesus wants to be their friend forever! Loving people the way Jesus loves us is another way to celebrate Jesus. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** Again! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!** (*Clap and cheer.*) Woo-hoo! Yay, Jesus!"

"We have been learning a Bible verse that will help us remember one of the reasons we celebrate Jesus. It says (*turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card*), 'You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*),' Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*)"

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light of the World
MATTHEW 5:14-16

MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy
when I am with you."
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can celebrate Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can celebrate Jesus!

BASIC TRUTH

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

(5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions one time together. 'You (*point up*) will fill me with joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) when I am with you (*fists together with thumbs on top*); Acts 2:28. (*Open hands like a book.*) You sound SOOO good! (*Clap.*) Okay, everyone, it's time to sit down. Anyone who wants to try and say that verse can give it a try. I have my stickers/hand stamp ready! (*Give each child the opportunity to try and say the Bible verse.*) Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is your sticker/handstamp! (*Say this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*)

"I'm so proud of each of you for trying! Now, when I count to three, I want you to stand up and show me your sticker/handstamp. One, two, three! (*Pause.*) Yay! (*Give fist bumps and high fives.*)

"Now let's sit down again so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) We are going to make a list of ways we can help others, because when we help others, we shine our light! So, when I say your name, tell me one way you can help. (*Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*) Look at all of these wonderful ways we can help others. Let's use this list when we pray."

After the Activity: "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 teach us to be kind, help, share, and forgive. Help us do these things so we can shine our light and show other people that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Jesus IS the good news, and He is so worth celebrating! We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THE DAY

1. SPOTLIGHT DANCE MEMORY VERSE

Made to Move: an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Glow sticks, three or four per small group

2. PARTY IN A BAG!

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:

- "Party Bag Parent Note" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Small gift bags, one per child
- Confetti
- Streamers
- Foam hearts, three per child
- Dot markers or washable markers
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Party Bag Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Use the permanent marker to write "Jesus wants to be my friend forever" in the center of each foam heart, several hearts per child.
- Put all the items in the center of the table: confetti, streamers, foam hearts, and dot markers or washable markers.
- Write each child's name on their bag.
- Place a gift bag at each spot at the table.

3. ROLL A PARTY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Roll a Party" Activity Page
- "Party Items Stickers" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent
- Large die
- *Optional:* Use cardstock, one-inch circle craft punch,

scissors, and glue sticks in place of Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Roll a Party" on cardstock, one per child.
- Copy "Party Items" on label paper, one set per child.
- *Option:* Copy "Party Items" on cardstock, one set per child.
- Cut the "Party Items" with the craft punch.

4. LIGHT IT UP

Made to Explore: an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Shallow, clear plastic bins, two per small group
- Battery-powered Christmas lights
- Play sand
- Paintbrushes
- *Optional:* Plastic tablecloth

WHAT YOU DO:

- In one bin, place battery-operated lights on the bottom and turn them on.
- Stack the second clear bin inside the bin with the lights so the bottom of the bin is sitting on top of the lights.
- Add a thick layer of sand, making sure you can still see the glow of the lights through it.
- Add paintbrushes to the bin.

5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

Made to Reflect: an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" from Day One in Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen
- Reward stickers or handstamp

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group.

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THE DAY

- Place one card in your Bible at Acts 2:28. Keep this card in your Bible all week.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_VBS_StartTheParty