



WEEK
THREE
JULY 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



3. LOVE LIKE JESUS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Foam hearts

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children to sit around the table. Give each child five foam hearts to hold.

BIBLE STORY

I can help my friends have joy.

BE JOYFUL WITH OTHERS
ROMANS 12:15

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Read a scenario from the "What You Say" text below. After each one, encourage the kids to toss a foam heart into the middle of the table, and then tell how they can love like Jesus in that scenario. Repeat with each scenario.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come gather here around the table with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to talk about some different situations where we can love like Jesus. After I read each one, I want you to toss your heart into the center of the circle. Then raise your hands and when I call on you, I want you to share one way you could love like Jesus loves us in that situation.

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

"When a friend is playing and they fall down and get hurt, how can you love like Jesus?"

"When a friend is SO happy because it's their birthday, how can you love like Jesus?"

"When a friend drops his ice cream and it's ruined and now he's sad, how can you love like Jesus?"

"When you see someone playing all alone at the playground, how can you love like Jesus?"

"When your little sister is trying to reach a toy that you can reach, how can you love like Jesus?"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We can help someone who is hurt. We can be happy and laugh when our friends are laughing and happy. We can sit with our friends when they're sad. And we can play with them when they're all alone and we can help! There are SO many ways we can love like Jesus. I'm SO glad to know that Jesus gives us joy. **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!** That's right. One more time: **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU DO:

BIBLE STORY

I can help my friends have joy.

BE JOYFUL WITH OTHERS
ROMANS 12:15

“Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we’re going to make a list of our friends. When I say your name, tell me one friend and I will write their name in our journal.” (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Look at all our friends’ names! (*Hold up journal.*) We can use our list when we pray. 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 teaching us how we can help our friends have joy. Please help (*say each child’s name*) help their friends (*read the list the children made*) have joy when they feel sad or happy, by loving them like Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

MEMORY VERSE

“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.