

**April
Week 3**



Overview Card



Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.
Key Question: Who is your friend?
Bottom Line: Jesus is my good friend.
Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NIV
Bible Story: Jesus is a good friend.
Mary and Martha • Luke 10:38-42

God Made Me

God Loves Me

Jesus Wants To
Be My Friend Forever



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ARRIVAL ACTIVITY

Where Is It?



What You Need: “Clue Cards” (from the Activity Pages on the Web site), white cardstock, scissors, an apron, a broom, a kitchen sponge, a plastic dinner plate, a plastic drinking cup, a large mixing bowl, a large mixing spoon, and a mop.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy “Clue Cards” onto white cardstock. Cut apart the cards.

During the activity: Hide the kitchen-related items around the classroom. Sit with the children and place the cards facedown in front of them. Allow the children to draw one card at a time and then, as a group, try to find the item pictured on the card somewhere in the room. Once you have collected all eight items, discuss with the children what a person does with each item.

What You Say:

At the start of the activity: “Let’s play a game. All you have to do is turn over a card and then try to find what you see.”

During the activity: (Line the items up for the children to see.) “What all did you find? I see an apron. You wear an apron like this. (Tie it on a child volunteer.) It helps keep you clean while you cook. I also see a broom. Who wants to show us how to use a broom? (Allow a volunteer to demonstrate.) I see a kitchen sponge. What do we do with a kitchen sponge? (Pause.) Yes! We wash dishes! What about a plate? What do you do with a plate? (Pause.) Yep! You got it! We eat on a plate. And what do we do with a cup? We all know what to do with a cup. We drink out of cups. What about this funny looking thing? What is it? (Pause.) This is a mop. We use mops to clean floors, like this (demonstrating the motion). What do you think we could do with this big bowl? Maybe mix something up in it? Like a cake or cookies! Yum! And we could use this big mixing spoon to stir it all together.

“You know, all this stuff reminds me of someone in our Bible story today. Her name is Martha. She does a lot of cooking and cleaning.”



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Clean Up Game



What You Need: Play dishes, a broom and dustpan, a feather duster, and a mop.

What You Do: Place all the items in the center of the room or area and allow the children to play as if they were cleaning the room.

What You Say: “Everyone did such a wonderful job cleaning today. It is very important to keep your house clean, but that is not the most important thing. Today we are going to hear a story about a woman who found out what is much more important than keeping her house neat and clean. Are you ready to hear a true story from the Bible? (Pause.) Me too!



April Week 3



Colorful Chairs



What You Need: A chair for each child, red and yellow construction paper, tape, a CD player, and a CD of fun music.

What You Do: Place the chairs in a circle. Tape one piece of construction paper to the back of each chair, alternating between the red and yellow papers. Instruct the children to stand in front of a chair. Explain that when they hear the music, they are to walk in a circle. When the music stops, they are to sit in a chair. You will then call out either red or yellow. Everyone with the color you call out on the back of their chair must stand and say the Bible verse together. Continue playing as long as the children are interested.

(Option: If chairs are not a good option for you, try laminating the pieces of yellow and red construction paper and then tape them to the floor in a circle. The children can just walk on the colors. Then when the music stops, they can sit on their color. Call out either red or yellow. Then the children sitting on the color you call out will stand up and say the verse together.)

What You Say:

At the start of the activity: “Okay, everyone! Are you ready to play? When you hear the music, start walking in a circle. When the music stops, sit down. It’s that easy! I’ll give you the next instructions after you sit down. Here we go!”

After you stop the music: “Now, if you have the color red on the back of your chair (or if you are standing on the color red), stand up. We are going to say our Bible verse together.” (Do this over and over, alternating red and yellow.)

At the end of the activity: “Jesus is your good friend and He loves you at all times. Who is your friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is my good friend.”

We will adapt this game by using 2 different color placemats instead of chairs and construction paper. This way you can throw them down on the floor easily to play!



April Week 3



Martha and Jesus Craft



What You Need: “Mary” and “Martha” (both from the Activity Pages on the Web site), white cardstock, scissors, glue or transparent tape, large craft sticks, and crayons.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy “Mary” and “Martha” onto white cardstock for each child. Cut out the figures.

During the activity: Introduce the pictures to the children as they color them. Point out the facial expressions on the pictures and what their bodies are doing, such as standing, sitting, stirring, listening, smiling, frowning, etc. Assist the children in gluing or taping one picture to one end of a craft stick and the other picture to the other end of the same craft stick. The children should be able to hold the stick in the middle and flip the ends to show Mary or Martha.

What You Say:

At the start of the activity: “Look at the two pictures I just gave you. Put your finger on the picture of the girl that is standing. This is Martha. What is Martha doing? (*Pause.*) It looks like Martha’s making something in that bowl. Does her face look happy or mad? (*Pause.*) She looks mad! Now put your finger on the picture of the girl sitting down. This is Mary. Is she making something in a bowl? (*Pause.*) No. What is she doing? It looks like she’s sitting and listening to someone. Do you remember who she was listening to in our story? Yes! Jesus! That’s why Mary is smiling. Martha was mad at Mary because she wasn’t helping her cook and clean. Mary was happy because she was listening to her good friend Jesus. I’m going to help you make something, and then we’ll play a game with it.”

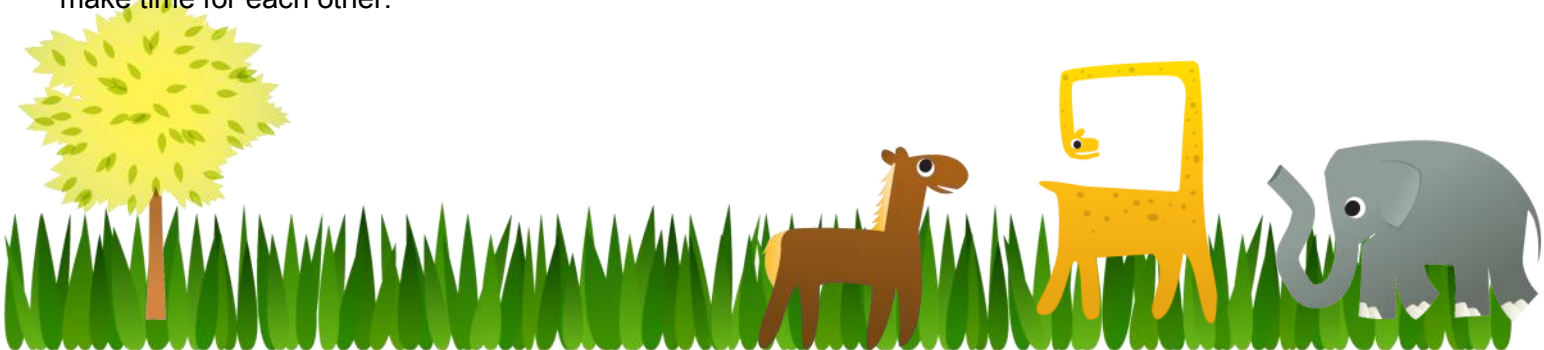
After the craft: (Each child will be holding their Mary/Martha craft stick.) “When I say something that sounds like Mary, I want you to hold up the Mary end of your craft stick. If I say something that sounds like Martha, I want you to hold up the Martha end of your craft stick. Got it?”

“Hmm ... I have so much to do! I just can’t stop! Who does that sound like? Mary or Martha? Yep! That’s Martha!”

“How about this one? Jesus is my best friend. I love to sit and listen to Him. Mary or Martha? You got it! That’s Mary.”

“Here’s another one: I need to wash the clothes and bake the bread. I’m running out of time! Mary or Martha? Martha again!”

“Who is this? There is so much to do, but nothing’s more important than spending time with Jesus. Mary or Martha? You are so smart! That was Mary! Mary took time to sit and listen to her good friend Jesus. Jesus is our good friend too. **Who is your friend? [Bottom Line] Jesus is my good friend!** And friends always make time for each other.”



April Week 3



Apron Game



What You Need: Aprons, two large bowls, and two wooden spoons.

What You Do: Line children up in two teams. Place the bowls and spoons on the opposite side of the room. Have the children put the aprons on and race to the other side of the room and use the spoon to mix in the bowl. After mixing, encourage the children to run back to their team. Continue to play until everyone has a turn.

What You Say: "Wow! What an amazing job did in your race. Who in our story today who wore an apron? Was it Mary or Martha? (*Pause for responses.*) That is right! Martha would have worn an apron, because she was so busy cleaning and cooking that she hardly had time to sit down and listen to Jesus. You were all really busy mixing in our game. Sometimes you need to sit down and listen to Jesus just like Mary did. Jesus is our friend. He helps us and talks to us. Who is your friend? [*Bottom Line*] Jesus is my good friend!"



April Week 3

Mary and Martha Jesus is a Good Friend Luke 10:38-42

“One day while Jesus was walking along, He decided to stop and visit His friends Mary and Martha. When Martha saw Jesus, she looked around her house and thought, ‘Good golly, Miss Molly! This house is a MESS! I have to get cleaning! And what will we feed Jesus? I haven’t cooked any dinner yet. Oh, me! Oh, my!’ (Put on the apron and get busy.) Martha got busy, and I mean busy! First she started sweeping. Can you help sweep? Stand up and pretend you are holding a broom and you can sweep with Martha. (Walk around sweeping with a broom.)

“Next she started washing dishes. Can you help wash the dishes? Pretend you are holding a sponge and you can wash dishes with Martha. (Use a kitchen sponge to wash the toy dishes.)

“Oh, goodness me! Now we need to cook something for Jesus to eat. Can you help stir the bread mix? Pretend you are holding a big bowl and a spoon and you can stir the bread mix with Martha. (Stand with a bowl and spoon making a stirring motion.) Thank you for helping. You can sit back down now. (Let the frustration in your voice build.) As Martha was sweeping AND washing AND cooking, she peeked into the other room, and guess what she saw! There was her sister Mary, just sitting on the floor at Jesus’ feet listening and talking to Jesus. She wasn’t doing ANYTHING to help. No sweeping, no washing, no cooking. Nothing! What was up with Mary? (Leaning in to the children and smiling) I love what happens next. Martha walked right into the other room. She looked right at Jesus and said, ‘Jesus, don’t you care that Mary has left me with ALL the work to do? Tell her to help me!’

“Do you think Jesus made Mary get up and start sweeping and washing and cooking? (Pause.) Jesus said, ‘Martha, you’re all upset about sweeping and washing and cooking when there’s really only one thing you need to do right now.’

“Hmmm .. Jesus said Martha only needed one thing. What do you think it was? (Pause.) Do you think it was to make the beds? Do you think it was to bake a cake? Do you think it was to pick up toys? Do you think it was to feed the dog? No! Jesus told Martha that her sister, Mary, had chosen what was best, and that was spending time with her good friend Jesus. Who was Mary’s good friend?”

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: “Jesus!” “Yes! Jesus was Mary’s good friend. Jesus didn’t want a clean house and food to eat. He just wanted to spend time with Mary and Martha. The same is still true today. Jesus wants to spend time with you. He wants to be your good friend. In fact, Jesus wants to be your friend FOREVER! Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: [Basic Truth] “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

STORYTELLER: “Good friends always make time to hang out together, don’t they? Who is your friend?”

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is my good friend.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right! Let’s pray and thank Jesus for being our good friend.

“Jesus, thank You for wanting to spend time with us. Help us not be too busy to just sit and talk with You. You are the best friend EVER, and we love You very much. Amen.”