

April Week 1

April 6th/7th

CRAFT

JESUS IS MY FRIEND

SUPPLIES: Jesus Is My Friend page, crayons, glue sticks, “Jesus” cut out, “Friends” cut out, one smiley face sticker per child, one memory verse label per child.

TIP: Consider tearing or cutting smiley face stickers so they are singles to give to the children. When you are passing out supplies, you could give one item to each volunteer to pass out to make the process go faster.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Begin by passing out the “Jesus” and “friends” cut outs.**

- *“Our craft today shows us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! Everybody find Jesus. Jesus is a good friend! Let’s color Jesus! Now find the friends! Can you color the friends?”*

⇒ **Have volunteers pass out the Activity Page and glue sticks.**

- *“Boys and girls, our craft today is like a puzzle. Do you see the first box? Let’s glue Jesus to the first box!”*
- *Now, let’s find the second box. Glue the friends to the second box!*

⇒ **Have volunteers pass out the smiley face stickers.**

- *“Now, find the circle. Can you put your smiley face in the circle? It makes me so happy when I see that Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”*

⇒ **Complete activity by placing the memory verse sticker on the top and then Bring it Back to Jesus**

- *“Let’s put our new memory verse at the top. Way to go! Jesus is a good friend and He wants to be our friend forever. Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!”*
- *Let’s say our memory verse one more time so you can show your family when you get home! A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17.*

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ACTIVITY #1

FOLLOW THE FEET

SUPPLIES: 20 Cardstock Foot Prints, Floor Tape

SET UP: Create a pathway by taping down each footprint.

TIP: You can do this while kids are playing or have a helper stay behind during Large Group to do it!

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children up for the activity.**

- *“Friends! Does anyone notice something interesting on our floor? It looks like a path to me! Let’s line up!”*

⇒ **Line the class up at the start of the footpath.**

- *“Let’s walk along this path right on the footprints! Remember, follow behind the person in front of you!”*

⇒ **Lead the children walking through the footpath. Gather them in a group at the end of the path.**

- *“Boys and Girls, I have an important question for you. When I say ‘Who is your friend?’ you say ‘Jesus is my friend!’ Let’s try it!”*

⇒ **Bring children back to the start of the path. Repeat in different ways for as long as children are interested: tiptoe, stomp, skip, hop, march, crawl, elephant steps, gallop, etc.**

Each time, ask children:

- *“Who is your friend?” “Jesus is my friend!”*

⇒ **Complete activity and Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“We heard about feet in our story today! Jesus was such a good friend that he washed his friends’ feet to show them how much he loved them. He loves us and wants to be our friend, too!”*

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ACTIVITY #2

WATER TOSS

SUPPLIES: Laundry Basket “Wells”, Blue beanbags in a bucket, floor tape

SET UP: Place the “well” on one end of the room. Tape a line off a few feet away from the well for children to stand behind. Place the bucket of beanbags by the tape line.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Guide children to stand in a single file line.**

- *“We have a bucket of water here in our room! Let’s work together to try to toss beanbags into the well!”*

⇒ **Have the first child toss beanbags into the basket.**

- *“Great job! Now let’s say our memory verse together! “A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17”. Nice work! Alright let’s let our next friend take a turn.*

⇒ **Let each child take a turn and follow each turn with the memory verse. You can encourage them by saying things like:**

- *“You are waiting so patiently! What a good friend!”*
- *“Let’s all cheer our friends on!”*
- *“What good friends you all are!”*

⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to Jesus**

- *“You did a great job working together as friends to fill our well up with water. Jesus used the water in our bible story today to wash his friends’ feet. He was such a good friend. Let’s say our memory verse one more time as loud as we can!
A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17*

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ACTIVITY #3

WASH THOSE FEET!

SUPPLIES: “Trace These Feet” pages in clear plastic sleeves, dry erase markers, paper towels

SET UP: Place one sleeve one dry erase marker, and one paper towel at each child’s spot.

TIP: Give children a paper towel to wipe the feet clean, not a wet wipe. If they use the wet wipe, the marker will be ruined.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **While holding a sheet, demonstrate the first time through as you introduce the activity.**
 - *“Can anyone tell me what you see on this page? That’s right! Feet! Jesus washed his friend’s feet. He was a great friend. Let’s trace the dotted lines to make the feet.”*

- ⇒ **Give children a moment to trace the lines and then go on:**
 - *“Now we are going to make those feet so dirty! When Jesus and his friends walked around in sandals they had stinky, yucky feet! Let’s mess them up!”*

- ⇒ **Demonstrate making muddy feet. Give children a moment to do the same.**
 - *“Would you want to wash someone’s stinky, dirty feet? I sure wouldn’t! But that’s who Jesus was! He was a good friend!”*

- ⇒ **Show the children the paper towel.**
 - *“Now it is time to clean up these feet! Can you wash your feet clean?”*

- ⇒ **Repeat the activity as many times as they are interested and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Wow! Jesus is such a good friend! He loved his friends so much that he washed their yucky feet. And he loves you that much too! Jesus wants to be your friend forever!”*

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REFLECTION & REVIEW

Let's remember: Every moment of time we have with these little ones is precious! Whether these activities are done in a station, during playdoh, while coloring, or otherwise, let's send the kids out the door really confidently and remembering these big ideas!

READ

⇒ The Bible

- *God's Story for Me: Jesus' Last Supper, p. 419-421*

⇒ *That's What a Friend Is* by P.K. Hallinan

- Read the story and then say: Wow! I loved reading about ways to be a good friend! Do you know who wants to be our friend forever? Jesus!

REVIEW

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- **Who is your friend? Jesus is my friend!**

⇒ Memory Verse

- **A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17**

⇒ Basic Truth

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

⇒ Connect it!

- **Jesus was a good friend when he washed his friend's feet. Let's think of some ways we can be good friends! I want each person to tell me one way that we can be a good friend and then I will write it on the board.**

- Have each child share and write the ideas down on the board. Consider using these ideas in your prayer!

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus to be our friend. He is such a good, good friend! Help us to be good friends like Jesus. We want to love people and be a good friend to them no matter what. We love you, God! In Jesus' name, Amen!