

February Week 1

Garden
Candy Hearts

February 5th

CRAFT

Jesus and the Children

SUPPLIES: Jesus/children/disciples cut-outs, craft sticks, tape, crayons, parent note

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children take a seat. Pass out the story cut-outs and crayons.**

- *“Wow! What a great story today. We are going to make some puppets to help us remember our true Bible story today.*
- *There are three different pictures for our puppets. Who are these people? [Hold up picture of disciples.] The disciples! That’s right! Good job. And who is this? [Hold up picture of Jesus.]. Jesus! Of course! And who is this in the picture? [Hold up picture of the children.] Yay! Children just like you! Let’s color these pictures.”*

⇒ **Help children attach the craft sticks to the backs of the pictures.**

- *“Great coloring everybody. Now we are going to turn these into puppets. Let’s flip them over and attach our craft stick with tape. I can help you.”*

⇒ **Use puppets to retell the story.**

- *“Now hold up your Jesus puppet and your disciples puppet. When Jesus was teaching, a lot of people came to hear Him. And one day, people brought their children to see and hear Jesus! Now hold up your children puppet! The people wanted their children to get so close to Jesus because these parents knew how special and amazing Jesus is. But Jesus’ disciples didn’t want the children to be near Jesus.*
- *Now hold your disciple puppet in front of your Jesus puppet. The disciples told the children to go away. Now put your Jesus puppet in front of the disciple puppet! But Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me.’ Let’s say that together!*
- *Jesus opened his arms wide and the children went to Him. Hold your Jesus and children puppets together! The children were able to be near Jesus and know how much Jesus loved them!*

⇒ **Complete craft and Bring it Back to Jesus**

- *“Great job helping me tell our story with the puppets! You can take these puppets home and retell the story over and over!*
- ***Who loves you? Jesus loves me!”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Come to Me

SUPPLIES: Floor tape, Jesus picture taped to a cone

SET-UP: Place a long piece of floor tape on the floor on one side of the room for the children to stand spaced out on. Place the “Jesus” cone directly across the room from the line.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children stand spaced out on the floor tape line.**
- *“Friends, let’s gather over here on the line and spread out. Everyone put their arms out to the side like this (demonstrate) to make sure there is space around us!”*
 - *Do you see that picture of Jesus? Hi Jesus!*
 - *We are going to do something fun and kind of silly. I will call out an animal or a funny movement. I want you to move like I say. Keep moving until I say, ‘Come to me,’ then come over to me! Remember - Jesus said ‘let the little children come to me.’ That is what you are going to do! Are you ready to try it?”*
- ⇒ **Call out a command. After a few seconds, say “Come to me!”**
- *Okay friends, march in place like an ant! (Let them march for several seconds.) Come to me!*
 - *Great job, friends. Head back to your spots, and let’s do it again. This time...*
 - Run in in place like a cheetah
 - Hop in place like a kangaroo
 - Swim like a fish
 - Waddle like a penguin
 - Star jump like a starfish
 - Chomp like an alligator
 - Move SLLLOOOOWWWWLLLLYYY like a turtle
 - Any others you come up with 😊
- ⇒ **Repeat activity as long as kids are interested and Bring it Back to Jesus.**
- *“Wow! That was so much fun! Jesus wants the little children to come to him! We can always remember that. Jesus loves you so much, friends!”*
 - ***Who loves you? Jesus loves me!”***

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ACTIVITY #2

Heart Look and Find

SUPPLIES: Heart-shaped Stress Balls, parachute (optional)

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room.**

- *“In our true Bible story today, we heard about how Jesus LOVES us! Jesus especially loved little children! When his disciples turned the children away he said “let the children come to me!”*
- *Jesus loves us so much. And he loves everyone! I have a bunch of hearts here. Let’s pretend that all of these hearts represent Jesus’ love for us.”*

⇒ **Scatter the hearts around the room.**

- *“I am going to put these hearts all over the room while you close your eyes. Then when I’m done I want you to try to find them and bring them back to me!*
- *Are you ready? Go find the hearts!*

⇒ **Have children collect all the hearts.**

- *“Great work, everybody! You found all the hearts!*
- ***Who loves you?***
- ***Jesus loves me!***

⇒ ***Optional Variations**

- Have children come back with the hearts in different ways: hopping on one foot, with the bow on their head, jumping like a bunny, etc.
- Get a parachute and put the hearts on the parachute and pop them out.

⇒ **Let the children play as long as they are interested.**

⇒ **Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“Wow, boys and girls! That’s a lot of hearts and a lot of love. But do you know what’s cool? Jesus loves us even more than all of the hearts we have here! He loves you so very much!*
- ***Who loves you?***
- ***Jesus loves me!***

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Read – Ask – Practice – Pray

Here are some ideas to try in a group or one-on-one.

2-year-olds are all at different stages of development! Some are ready to answer big questions and say the memory verse, while others aren't ready to talk yet. Even if they aren't ready to answer, they are listening!

READ

⇒ Read from the Bible.

- *The Beginner's Bible: Jesus and the Children*, p. 409

⇒ Read from the February story books.

- *Jesus Loves Me* by Debby Anderson
- *Jesus Loves the Little Children* by Debby Anderson

ASK A QUESTION

Who loves you? Jesus loves me!

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

“How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

Ephesians 3:18

SAY A PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for making me.

Thank you for loving me.

Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.

Amen.