

February Week 1

Backyard
Candy Hearts

February 5th

CRAFT

Jesus and the Children

SUPPLIES: Jesus/children/disciples cut-outs, craft sticks, tape, crayons, parent note (put in take home bag)

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children take a seat. Pass out the 3 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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ACTIVITY #3

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: None Needed

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **This activity can be done from spots at the table or spaced out in the center of the room.**
 - *“Friends, we have an awesome memory verse to practice! I want to try saying it in lots of different ways!”*

- ⇒ **Do memory verse all together in a variety of ways.**
 - *“How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”*
Ephesians 3:18
 - *Super loud*
 - *Super quiet*
 - *Really fast*
 - *Really Slow*
 - *Jumping up and down*
 - *Running in Place*
 - *All the boys*
 - *All the girls*
 - *Kids only*
 - *Teachers only*

- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested. If time permits, you can do one person at a time and give out stickers.**

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Nice work, my friends!”*
 - ***Who loves you?***
 - ***Jesus loves me!”***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY

FEBRUARY WEEK 1

SANITIZE HANDS AND PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- ⇒ Read from the Bible.
 - *The Beginner's Bible: Jesus and the Children, p. 409*
- ⇒ Read the picture book.
 - *How Much Does God Love You* by Michelle Medlock Adams
 - Tell the children, "This book is called *How Much Does God Love You?* Let's do something fun! Let's read it like this – How much does Jesus love you?"

REVIEW *Pass out stickers as kids answer the questions!*

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - Who loves you?**
 - Jesus loves me!**
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - **"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:18**

CONNECT IT

- ⇒ "Friends, take a look at my question here! It says who does Jesus love? And do you know what I'm going to write? I am going to write down each of your names and then put a special heart next to each one. Because Jesus loves you so much!"
 - *Write each child's answer on the white board or paper.*

PRAY

- ⇒ "I love seeing all of your names with hearts by them. It reminds me that Jesus loves all children and He wants to be your friend forever! Let's pray!"
 - "Dear God, Thank You that Jesus loves *[child's name]* and Jesus loves *[child's name]*...*(continue this with each child's name)*. Thank You that all children can go to Jesus, talk to Him, and be His friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."