

JESUS WANTS TO BE  
MY FRIEND FOREVER.

WEEK  
**THREE**  
MARCH 2020

SMALL GROUP  
**2**  
YEAR-OLDS



**first look™**

## TEAM

### CEO

Reggie Joiner

### DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

### DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL STRATEGY

Brittany Compton Robertson

### DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Kathy Hill

### DESIGN AND BRAND MANAGER

Sharon van Rossum

### CREATIVE TEAM

Brittany Compton Robertson

Kathy Hill

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

Donna High

Sharon van Rossum

Deb Springer

McKenzie Causey

Missy Purcell

### WRITERS

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

Donna High

## USER AGREEMENT

Scripture marked NIV is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version™, Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

These resources are intended to be downloaded and printed for use by the subscribing entity only and may not be electronically transferred to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. Any unauthorized reproduction of this material or incorporation into a new work is a direct violation of US copyright laws. ©2020 The reThink Group. All rights reserved. First Look® and the First Look® logo are trademarks of The reThink Group.

### "STATEMENT OF FAITH" USER AGREEMENT

Orange gladly grants permission to churches, schools, and other licensees to tailor First Look® materials to fit their unique leadership requirements, locale and format preferences, and physical environment needs. However, if you wish to edit the content substantively, including Bible stories, learning activities, scripts, and any other content in which biblical principles and concepts are presented, you are obligated to do so within the doctrinal guidelines we've expressed in our Statement of Faith.

PRELUDE

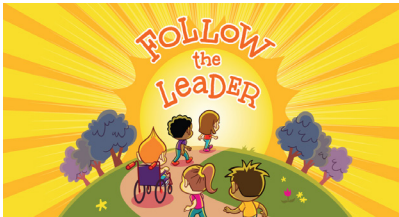
SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



**BIBLE STORY**

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Come and follow me,”  
Jesus said.”

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can follow Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

**PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience**

For Leaders Only  
Monthly Overview  
Create the Environment

**15**  
MIN

**SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.  
Collecting  
Friends Following Jesus  
Magnet Bottle

**10**  
MIN

**WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Follow On

**10**  
MIN

**STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

Bible Story  
Prayer

**25**  
MIN

**GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.  
Get a Dollar  
Follow Me  
Friends of Jesus  
Around the Table

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**



## MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move  
to help them learn

## MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

### 1. COLLECTING

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Gold dessert plates

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Spread the plates all over the activity area. These will be "coins."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to collect the coins from around the activity area. Repeat as desired.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "There are coins all around our room!" (*Point.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's work together to collect all of the coins." (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! You are great coin collectors. Today in our Bible story, we are going to hear about a coin collector."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by chanting this month's Bottom Line as you move to the story area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**



## PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

## MEMORY VERSE

“Come and follow me,”  
Jesus said.”

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

## 2. FRIENDS FOLLOWING JESUS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Standing Jesus” Activity Page, copy paper, small bucket, clear tape, painter’s tape, and 15-20 plush animals

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the paper. Tape the Activity Page on one side of the bucket. Use the painter’s tape to make a 10-foot line in the middle of the activity area. Place the bucket at one end of the line.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to place plush animals on the line behind the bucket. Repeat as desired.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** “All of our friends (*point*) want to follow Jesus.”

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “Let’s help all of the friends line up behind Jesus so they can follow Him!” (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Look at all of the friends that are following Jesus. (*Point.*) Today we are going to hear about how there were many friends who wanted to follow Jesus. Are you ready to hear a true story from the Bible?” (*Pause.*)

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by leading the children to the story area while doing the following movements: walking zigzag, marching, and hopping.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**



## EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

## MEMORY VERSE

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who can you follow?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can follow Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

### 3. MAGNET BOTTLE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Magnet Jesus" Activity Page, copy paper, two-liter empty bottle with label removed, the bottle's lid, water, food coloring, glitter, jingle bells, preschool magnet wand, scissors, and clear tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the paper and cut on the dotted lines. Tape the cutout to the back of the magnet wand. Fill the bottle 3/4 full of water. Drop several drops of the food coloring into the water and replace the lid. Shake the bottle to color the water. Remove the lid and pour in the glitter and add the jingle bells. Hot glue the lid to the top of the bottle.

(NOTE: A hot glue gun should never be used near young children. Be sure to either use the glue gun before the children arrive or in an area away from the children.)

(OPTION: If you have a large class, you may consider making several bottles to use in this activity.)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to use the magnet in the wand to make the jingle bells follow Jesus. Be sure each child gets a turn.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone can follow Jesus."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Hold up bottle.) "There are bells in the bottle. (Point.) Let's hold Jesus (hold up wand) up to the bells and see if they follow Him."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "They followed Jesus! Everyone can follow Jesus! Our Bible story is about how A LOT of people followed Jesus!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Bible story time by asking the children to follow the person in front of them.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR  
FROM GOD**  
MEMORY VERSE  
REVIEW



**MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move  
to help them learn

**BIBLE STORY**

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**

**1. GET A DOLLAR**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Dollar" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. You will need one dollar for each child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to say the Memory Verse with you.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child an Ollie Dollar.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We are all going to say our Memory Verse together."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "After we say our verse, everyone will get an Ollie Dollar!" (Hold up and do activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! Matthew did not make good choices when he collected money from people, but then he made a great choice and followed Jesus! We can all follow Jesus! **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can follow Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



**MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move  
to help them learn

**BIBLE STORY**

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can follow Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

**2. FOLLOW ME**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus Retell" Activity Page, cardstock, paint stirrer, and masking tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock and tape it to the top of the paint stirrer.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to follow you, hold up the Activity Page, and lead the children around the activity area.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Retell the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone can follow Jesus!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Follow me! (Lead children around the activity area.) The people did not like Matthew because he made bad choices. Then Jesus came and Matthew followed Jesus. Then all of the people followed Jesus, too! Let's ALL follow Jesus!" (Finish activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone can follow Jesus. We can, too. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**MOVE**

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move  
to help them learn

**BIBLE STORY**

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can follow Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.

**3. FRIENDS OF JESUS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Friends" Activity Pages, copy paper, butcher paper, painter's tape, gingerbread cutouts, and clear tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Friends" on copy paper. Tape the butcher paper horizontally onto the wall at preschool level. Tape the Activity Page to the middle of the butcher paper. You will need one ginger bread cutout per child. Place a rolled-up piece of clear tape on the back of each cutout before handing it to the child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to stand in a single file line in front of the butcher paper. Give the first child in line a cutout with tape on the back. Ask the child to walk toward the butcher paper and place the cutouts around Jesus. Continue the activity until each child has a turn to place a cutout around Jesus.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We have a picture of Jesus on our wall. (Point.) We can all follow Jesus!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We are going to take turns placing people all around Jesus so they can follow him, too." (Do activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job! Everyone can follow Jesus. We can follow Jesus, too. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE  
FOR GOD  
APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY**



**CREATE**

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

**BIBLE STORY**

Everyone can follow Jesus.

**MATTHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)**  
**MATTHEW 9:9-12**

**4. AROUND THE TABLE**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Table" Activity Page, cardstock, and happy face stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock (*one per child*).

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child an Activity Page, and help the child place happy face stickers around the table on the page.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Send the Activity Pages home with the children.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible story today, we heard about how Matthew and Jesus had dinner and that everyone was invited!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We have a table on the Activity Page with Matthew and Jesus. Let's add all of the people!" (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Way to go! Everyone in the story followed Jesus. We can follow Jesus, too, and be His friend. **Who can you follow? I can follow Jesus!**"

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Come and follow me,"  
Jesus said."

**MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you follow?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can follow Jesus.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my  
friend forever.