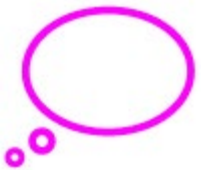




WEEK ONE

**LUKE 22:54-62; JOHN 21:15-19;
EPHESIANS 2:8-9**

Jesus still loves Peter, even though
Peter denies even knowing Jesus
when he is asked about Him.



REMEMBER THIS:

"These are written so that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."
JOHN 20:31, NLV



SAY THIS:

Who can believe in Jesus?
I can believe in Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH:

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.



DO THIS:

Family Challenge

Pass It On

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Ball pit balls, two laundry baskets, carpet squares or construction paper and painter's tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: In the activity area, lay the carpet squares on the floor to create a row. If using construction paper, tape down each piece to the floor with painter's tape to create the row. Place all of the balls in one of the laundry baskets and set on one end of the row. Set the second, empty laundry basket at the opposite end.

During the Activity: Have everyone stand shoulder to shoulder in a line on the squares. Encourage the person on the end to pick up one ball and pass it to the next person. Pass the ball down the line to the other end. The person on the opposite end will place the ball in the basket. Continue until all of the balls are passed down the line.

After the Activity: Gather all of the balls and baskets and set aside.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends are so important, aren't they? Friends can help each other. I want us

to work together to move ALL of these balls from this basket to the empty one on the other end. Let's line up shoulder to shoulder with our friends on these squares."

During the Activity: "Let's work together to pass the balls, one at time, all the way down the line and put them in our empty bin! Let's continue until we've moved every single ball."

After the Activity: "Great job, friends! I love how you worked together. Friends are so fun! We'll hear, today, about one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter. I can't wait!"

Bible Story

Parent: "We have been learning that Jesus loves everyone, and I got to wondering. Do you think that really means EVERYONE? Does Jesus really love everyone, no matter what? *(Pause.)*

"Well, I have a true story from the Bible, and it will help us answer that question.

Hold up the Bible, open it, and lay it on the table.

"Okay, when Jesus was teaching people how to love each other, He had a good friend named Peter. Jesus and Peter spent a lot of time together, and Jesus taught Peter about God's love. "Jesus also let Peter help Him do important jobs, like one time they fed THOUSANDS of people with just one boy's lunch. Can you imagine how amazing that was to help Jesus feed all of those people with just one lunch? Wow! "Jesus and Peter would even go fishing together. "And Jesus and Peter were great friends. "Then, one night some angry soldiers took Jesus away. They hurt Jesus and said mean things to Him. This scared Jesus' friends, so they ran away! But Peter wanted to see what would happen, so he followed Jesus and the angry soldiers. "While Peter waited to see what would happen, a girl asked him if he was Jesus' friend. Peter was so scared that he said, 'No!' Peter said he was not Jesus' friend. That's very sad. Can you make a sad face? *(Make a sad face.)*

"A little while later, another person asked Peter if he was Jesus' friend. And guess what Peter said this time? He said, 'No!' That's two times Peter said that he was not Jesus's friend. That's very, very sad. Can you make another sad face like this? *(Make a sad face.)*

"Then, another person asked Peter if he was Jesus' friend, and guess what he said this time? He said, 'No,' again! That's three times Peter said that he was not Jesus' friend. That's very, very, VERY sad. Can you make another sad face? *(Make a sad face.)*

"After the third time, Peter looked over and saw Jesus looking at him. Peter knew saying that he was not Jesus' friend was wrong. He felt so bad that he went away and cried. "But wait! That's not the end of the story. Later, after Jesus died and came back, Jesus went to Peter and talked to him. Jesus still loved Peter, no matter what, even though Peter said he was not Jesus' friend. Jesus wanted Peter to know that He would be his friend forever, no matter what.

“Knowing that Jesus still loved Peter and that they were still good friends made Peter so happy! Show me your happy faces! *(Make a very happy face.)*

“From that day on, Peter told everyone, everywhere that Jesus is God’s Son. Peter told everyone, everywhere that Jesus is alive, that He loves them, and that He wants to be their friend forever. So many people believed in Jesus because of Peter! And guess what? You can believe in Jesus, too. It’s true! Because Jesus loves EVERYONE! So, tell me, **who can believe in Jesus?**”

CHILD and Parent: *[Bottom Line]* “I can believe in Jesus!”

Parent: “Again! **Who can believe in Jesus?**”

CHILD and Parent: *[Bottom Line]* “I can believe in Jesus!”

Parent: Let’s close our eyes and talk to God together.”

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that He loves us, no matter what. I pray we will have courage, like Peter, to tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Activity

Magnify

Live for God I Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Magnify” Activity Page, card stock, scissors, sentence strips (long enough to wrap around a child’s head), glue sticks, heart stickers, and clear tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Magnify” onto card stock and cut on the dotted lines, one cutout per child.

During the Activity: Help the children glue the magnifying glasses to the middle of the sentence strips. Encourage the children to place heart stickers on the magnifying glass and sentence strip.

After the Activity: Place the sentence strip around the child’s head and secure with the tape.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to make ‘I Spy’ hats!”

During the Activity: “First, we need to glue the magnifying glass to this long strip of paper (*point and do activity*). Great job! Let’s place hearts all over our hat.”

After the Activity: “Way to go! Let’s put on our hats. (*Wrap strips around children’s heads and secure with tape.*) With our hats, we can spy someone who Jesus loves. Jesus loves everyone!

Who can believe in Jesus? [*Bottom Line*] I can believe in Jesus!”

Prayer Activity

Pray to God

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

Parent: “Our Bible story, today, was about a man named Peter. Peter was a friend of Jesus, but when Jesus was taken away, Peter told people he didn’t even know Jesus. Do you know how many times Peter said he didn’t know Jesus? (*Pause.*) Three times! One, two, three! “But Jesus loved Peter, anyway. That’s right. Jesus loved Peter, no matter what. You can read all about it, right here in the Bible. (*Hold up the Bible.*) “And we know if Jesus loved Peter, no matter what, we can believe Jesus loves us, no matter what, too! That’s why when I ask you, ‘**Who can believe in Jesus?**’, I want you to say, [*Bottom Line*] ‘**I can believe in Jesus.**’ Ready? **Who can believe in Jesus?**”

CHILD and Parent: [*Bottom Line*] “**I can believe in Jesus!**”

Parent: “You got it! And we’re going to keep practicing the same Bible verse this month. “The Bible verse we are learning says that the stories in the Bible, like Peter’s, are written so we can believe in Jesus. The verse says . . .

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, John 20:31. (Close Bible and lay it down.)

“Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

CHILD and Parent: *“These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God. (Rock baby.) John 20:31.” (Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with the motions a few times.)*

Parent: “Wow! You sound awesome! (*Give each child a high five.*) “Do you think it was right or wrong for Peter to tell people he wasn’t Jesus’ friend? (*Pause.*) You’re right. It was wrong. But we all do wrong things, sometimes. Right? I know I have. One time I (*appropriately share a time when*

you made a wrong choice).

"I think we should make a list of some of our wrong choices. Maybe, you had a bad attitude, or you didn't share, or you said mean words to your brother or sister. Maybe, you didn't obey your mom or dad, or you broke something and told people you didn't. Whatever it is, we can use our list to thank God that Jesus loves us, no matter what. After all, Jesus wants to be our friend FOREVER!

"So, think of one wrong thing you have done, and when I say your name, tell it to me. "I know it's hard to talk about the wrong things we have done, but the fantastic, amazing, wonderful news is that Jesus loves us, no matter what! Jesus will never, ever, EVER stop loving us! Let's use the list we made when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

PARENT: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us, no matter what. Sometimes, we mess up and we don't even mean to do it. Other times, we choose to do the wrong thing, and we're sorry for that. We're sorry for doing things like *(read the list you and the children made)*. We are so thankful to have a friend like Jesus who will never stop loving us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



MORNING TIME

When you go into your child's room, say, "Good morning! I see some (color) hair. I see some (color) eyes. I see a cute nose. I see a beautiful smile. I see a ticklish tummy (give a little tickle). I see someone Jesus loves, and He wants to be [his/her] friend forever. Who could it be? (Smile.) Yes! Jesus loves YOU and wants to be YOUR friend forever!"

FROM PARENT CUE:



3 HOUSEHOLD RULES I NEVER KNEW I NEEDED

By Jennifer Walker



Often in our households, we have so many rules that the toddler cannot remember and categorize them all.

- Don't touch the stove.
- Don't disturb anyone when they are on the phone.
- Don't run into the road.
- Don't throw your toys.
- Don't pee in the Home Depot parking lot.
- (And just for parents of boys like ours) Don't hit your own self in your own head with your own foot! (Long car ride! Enough said.)

There are just too many rules. We can keep track, but they cannot. They are just trying to sort out a few colors and put together a sentence! So, we want to narrow the list to three rules that they can understand.

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