

# February 25, 2018

**Bible Focus:** Jesus never stops loving us. Peter's Denial and Restoration •  
*Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75; John 21:15-17*

**Memory Verse:** "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

**Key Question:** Who does Jesus love?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus loves everyone.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Here's what you'll be teaching in 3s–5s this week.**

**Social (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

- THREE Ring Toss

**10:15**

- Stop and Go

**Bible (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)**

**All Service Times**

- Bible History Presentation in the Sandbox

**Journaling (9:30, 10:45, 12:00)**

**All Service Times**

- Small Group Time
- Prayer

**Groups (9:35, 10:50, 12:05)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

- Three Times

**10:15**

- Gumballs Galore

**All Service Times**

- Dismiss–Parent CUE

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## **Social (Introductory Activities, 10 minutes)**

Let one teacher lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **THREE Ring Toss**

**What You Need:** Start line taped on the floor, 3 "lifesaver" water rings; and a laundry basket

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Place the laundry basket about two feet away.

*During the Activity:* Line up the children behind the starting line. Give the first child three water rings. Ask the child to stay behind the taped line and toss the rings into the laundry basket. Make sure each child has three turns. If time allows for a second round, move the laundry basket a little further away from the starting line and let the children play again.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Today I thought it would be fun to play a game called 'THREE Ring Toss'! I want each of you to stand right here behind the tapeline. (*Point.*) Then you will each have a chance to toss these three candy rings into the laundry basket! But you must stay behind the line. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Let's line up right here."

*After the Activity:* "That was super fun! Tell me: How many chances did you get to make it into the laundry basket? (*Pause.*) Yes! Three tries. I want you to remember that number, because we'll hear it again in our Bible Truth today. I can't wait!"

**10:15****Stop and Go****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:***Before the Activity:* Guide the children to stand on one side of the activity area.*During the Activity:* Ask the children to walk toward the other side of the activity area. As they are walking, say, "STOP," and have the children stop and freeze. Then say, "GO," and encourage the children to continue walking. Repeat several times.**What You Say:***Before the Activity:* "We are going to play STOP and GO. You are going to walk to that side of the room. (*Point.*) When you hear me say, 'STOP,' everyone stop and freeze. Then when I say, 'GO,' you can walk again. Are you ready?" (*Pause.*)*During the Activity:* "Here we go! Start walking. (*Pause.*) STOP! Great job! Now GO! Wonderful!" (*Continue activity.*)*After the Activity:* "Great job stopping and going! Today we are going to talk about how Jesus never STOPS loving us no matter what. I am so excited about today's Bible Truth!"**Bible (Large Group, 20 minutes)**

After children have participated in Social, gather them for a large group time that includes interactive worship, introductory sketch and Bible Truth. Place your "We are in The Sandbox" sign on the door as you leave. Travel to the Sandbox.

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## **Journaling** (Small Groups, 5 minutes)

Journaling is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests.

Give each child a cup of Chex cereal to snack on while you take them through the following exercise.

**What you Need:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at John 15:12. Journal and a fun-shaped pen. Reward stamps.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time!"

"We have talked a lot about how **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone**. Today we heard a Bible Truth about how Jesus NEVER stops loving us. His love just doesn't stop! Peter wasn't a great friend to Jesus when he told people he didn't know who Jesus was. Did that make Jesus stop loving Peter? *(Pause.)* No way! **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone** and His love never stops. **Who does Jesus love?**"

**CHILDREN and SGL:** **[Bottom Line] "Jesus loves everyone!"**

**SGL:** "This time say it in a whisper. **Who loves everyone?**"

**CHILDREN and SGL:** **[Bottom Line] "Jesus loves everyone."**

**SGL:** "That means we should never stop loving others since the Bible verse we've been learning says we should love others the way Jesus loves us. Listen to this.

*(Open Bible to verse.)*

*"Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.*

*(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

"It's right there! Jesus wants us to love others the way He loves us. And because Jesus never stops loving us, we should never stop loving others. Let's stand up and say our

Bible verse together with the motions and then anyone who wants to try and say it for a sticker/hand stamp can try. Just say what I say and do what I do.”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** *“Love each other (give yourself a big hug) as I (point up with both fingers) have loved you (bring fingers down and point all over the room at all the kids), John 15:12.” (Open your hands like a book.)*

**SGL:** *“You sound so ready to say this verse! (Give each child a high-five.)*

“Okay, I want everyone to sit down. When it’s your turn to say the verse you can stand up. Who wants to try and say the verse first?

*(Give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his own. Have your stickers/hand stamp ready to give when they say it.)*

“I am so proud of each of you! I’m proud of *(name each child)*! Now it’s time to write in our journal and pray.

*(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“Have you ever done anything that made you feel like someone would stop being your friend? Maybe you made a mess, broke something, or said something mean to someone. I have. We all have. When we do or say something wrong, I want us to remember that Jesus never stops loving us, and He will always want to be our friend forever no matter what. Got it?

“I want us to make a list of things we think could make someone stop loving us. It can be anything. When we pray, I want to use our list to thank God that Jesus is the kind of friend that will never stop loving us. When I say your name, tell me one thing you think could make someone stop loving you.”

*(Write each child’s name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“That was kind of hard to think about because so many people love us. I want us to always remember how much we are loved! Let’s pray and thank God for Jesus and that He will never, ever, EVER stop loving us. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

## **Prayer**

**SGL:** “Dear God, it feels so good to know that no matter what we say or do, Jesus will never stop loving us. We are that special to Him! Sometimes we do things that make us feel like people can stop loving us, like when we *(read the list the children made)*. But that is so not true! Jesus will always love us no matter what. Please help us remember how much Jesus loves us. We love You, God! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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### **Groups (Application Activities, 25 minutes)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

**Three Times**

**What You Need:** "Peter" and "Jesus" cutouts, "No and Yes" Activity Page, and glue sticks

**What You Do:**

*During the Activity:* Give each child a "No and Yes" Activity Page. Retell the Bible Truth. As you are telling the "three no's" have the children glue the three cutouts of Peter in the boxes that say NO.

*After the Activity:* As you finish telling the Bible Truth and you get to the "three yeses," encourage the children to glue the three cutouts of Jesus and the Peter in the boxes that say YES.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "We heard an amazing Bible Truth today! It was a great reminder that Jesus loves us no matter what!"

*During the Activity: (Give each child a "No and Yes" Activity Page.)* "Peter and Jesus were good friends. Peter loved Jesus and he loved telling other people all about how he loved Jesus. One day, Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed, Peter would say three times that he was not Jesus' friend. Jesus was taken away by some bad men and Peter was left all alone. Then three people asked him if he was Jesus' friend. Do you remember what he said? *(Pause.)* Right! He said NO three times, just like Jesus said he would. On your page, the top three boxes say NO. *(Point.)* Glue the three pictures of Peter in those boxes. *(Hold up.)* Awesome!

"Peter felt bad. He was afraid that Jesus did not love him any more because of what he had done. Then he saw Jesus on the beach and Jesus asked him three times, 'Peter, do you love me?' Do you remember what he said? *(Pause.)* YES! He said YES three times! The bottom boxes on your pages say YES! *(Point.)* Let's glue the pictures of Jesus and Peter in the YES boxes. Perfect!"

*After the Activity:* "No matter what Peter did, Jesus still loved him. He always loves us too! No matter what we do Jesus will ALWAYS love us. **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves EVERYONE! Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**"

**10:15****Gumballs Galore**

**What You Need:** “Gumball Machine” Activity Page and different colored circle dot stickers (5-6 per child)

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Set out the circle stickers.

*During the Activity:* Explain that children will be filling up the empty gumball machines on their pages with gumballs (stickers). Encourage the children to use all the colors of stickers you’ve provided.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Oh no! It looks like our gumball machines are empty! Let’s fill them up with some yummy treats.”

*During the Activity:* “Let’s use these stickers (*hold up*) as our gumballs. Try to use at least one of every color.”

*After the Activity:* “Your gumball machines look fabulous! There are so many different colors, just like there are different kinds of people in the world. Does Jesus only love certain people? (*Pause.*) No way! **Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.** That’s right! I want you to take this home and every time you look at all these different colors, I want you to remember that Jesus loves all different kinds of people. **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”

**All Service Times****Get Ready to Dismiss**