

*Preschool Spring*  
*Lesson 9:*  
*Jesus is My Friend*

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Know that Jesus is our friend
- 2) See that Jesus had friends and is our friend too – review Jesus and His friends Bible accounts
- 3) Feel happy and loved by Jesus

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for ideas

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**Supplies:** Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

**Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)**

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Sheet
- Stickers – enough for each child to have one every lesson for 13 lessons
- Jesus is My Friend Booklet – one sheet per student
- Jesus is My Friend Activity Sheet – one per student
- Jesus is My Friend Teddy Bear Sticker – one per student (12 on a page) cut out before class
- Glue sticks to share
- Scissors
- Zacchaeus Visual Aid – one per class (from lesson 8)
- Jesus and His Friends Popsicle Pictures – one set for class (from lesson 6)
- Jesus Visits Popsicle Pictures – one set for class (from lesson 7)

**Optional Activities**

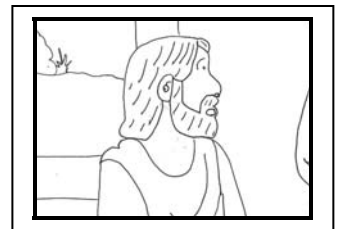
- Unbreakable Mirror – one for class to share
- Jesus is My Friend Circle Craft – one set of sheets per student cut out before class
- Brad or Paper Fastener – one per student
- Tin Foil – one 2 inch x 2 inch piece per student
- Large Paper Plates – one per student (black if possible)
- Cleaning supplies such as small dustpans, brooms, clothes, dusters, empty spray bottles – enough for students to share
- Popcorn in paper cups or paper lunch bags – one cup or bag of popcorn per student
- Wet wipes or paper towels – one per student to clean hands
- Snack – Popcorn in cups or paper lunch bags
- Napkins
- Cups with water
- Puppet to tell students the real events from the Bible

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**Lesson:**

**1) Introduction to lesson:**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Have them sit around the table.



\*Optional: Print and show visual aids/popsicle people to students while you wait for all to arrive.

As you wait for all students to arrive, ask students:

**What do you see in the pictures?**

**Who do you think Jesus is in the pictures?**

**What do they think He is doing?**

**What do you remember about these pictures?**

**Do you have people come and visit you in your home?**

**What do you like to do when people come to visit you?**

**Jesus made many friends – are you Jesus' friend too?**

**Can you name some of the friends Jesus made from the Bible?**

(point to each person in a picture and ask) **Who is this person? Are they Jesus' friend?**

Tell students: **Today we are going to remember all the ways we have learned that Jesus is our friend by looking at the Bible stories of Jesus and the friends He made. Jesus is God's Son – He is our friend and a friend to everyone who follows Him. And we will review that He goes and visits some of His friends in today's lesson.**

**Let's sing some songs about Jesus.**

**If My Name is.....**

If my name is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is my friend.

If my name is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is my friend.

Jesus is my friend, Jesus is my friend.

If my name is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is my friend.

\*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

**\*You can use a mirror to hold up to each child as you sing about them as well.**

**Jesus loves me!**

Jesus loves me! This I know,

For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong;

They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died

Heaven's gate to open wide;

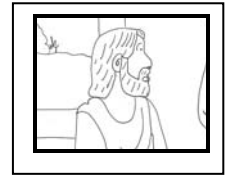
He will wash away my sin,

Let His little child come in.

## 2) Jesus and His Friends Bible Review and Popsicle People

10 minutes

**Before Class:** Gather Popsicle people and visual aids from lessons 6, 7 and 8 to help remind students of what they have learned. Gather mirror and puppet – if using.



Say: **Let's see what we can all remember about Jesus and His friends.**

(Hold up the picture of Jesus and fishermen) **Jesus went walking by the water and met four fishermen who would become His very good friends. Can you raise your hand if you can tell me one of the names of the fishermen friends Jesus made?.....Peter and his brother Andrew left their fishing nets to be friends with Jesus.** (Show popsicle picture of Peter and Andrew) **Who were the other two fishermen?** (Hold up picture of James and John).....**James and his brother John. James and John said good-bye to their dad and went to be Jesus' friends.** (Show picture of Jesus with James, John, Peter and Andrew.)

**Who can tell me the names of the two friends Jesus had in these pictures?** (Hold up Mary and Martha) as students say Mary and Martha – encourage if needed to remind them **Where did Jesus go with them?** To their home. **That's right. Jesus also had some friends who invited Him to stay in their home and rest. Mary was the one who sat down and listened to Jesus talk, and her sister Martha, was the one who kept working until Jesus told her to come and rest and listen to Him as well. Jesus likes us to listen to Him too!** (Show picture of Mary and Martha with Jesus)

(Hold up picture of Zacchaeus) **Do you remember who this is?** (point to Zacchaeus)....**Yes, that is Jesus' friend Zacchaeus. Where did Jesus see Zacchaeus?** In a tree!

**How did all of Jesus' friends feel when they knew that they could be friends of Jesus?**  
Happy!

**Look, I know of more people Jesus wants to be friends with. That is all of you!** (point to each student). **The Bible tells us that Jesus wants to be your special friend too. He will always be with you if you follow Him – and we follow Him by learning about Him in Sunday school and church services.**

(Hold up mirror if you have one.) **Jesus has many friends right here in this room. I will come around and let you look at one of Jesus's special friends.** (Hold up small mirror so each student can see him/herself. As the student looks in the mirror, ask one of the following questions:

**Which special friend of Jesus do you see? ....Yes \_\_\_\_\_(insert students name) you are a special friend of Jesus!**

**How do you feel about being Jesus' friend?** (Show a big smile) **Yes, we feel happy that Jesus is our friend!**

**Can you name a place your friend Jesus will go with you?** (Help students realize – Jesus can go to the park, home, school, Sunday school, grocery store)....**Yes, He is with us wherever we go!**

**Let's all sing some songs about Jesus!**

Sing:

**Jesus Loves (Action Rhyme)**  
Thea Cannon

**Jesus loves all children –**  
**The ones still very small**  
(Use hand to indicate knee-high child.)  
**The baby in the cradle,**  
(Fold arms to form cradle and rock.)  
**The ones so big and tall.**  
(Hands reached high over head.)

From song sheet sing:  
**I Love Jesus or With Jesus in the Family**

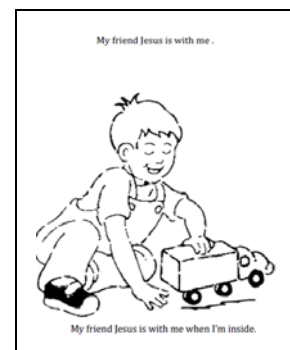
**Thank class for singing and then have them sit at the table for the next activity.**

**3) Jesus is My Friend Booklet**

**10 - 15 minutes**

**Before class:** Have one sheet per student with crayons.

Tell class: **To help us remember that Jesus is our friend; we are going to make a “Jesus is my friend” booklet. Let’s go through each picture as I read it out loud while you color.** (Go through pictures, talking about what/who is in the picture and what it means to be Jesus’ friend wherever we are) When done fold the booklet and read it again aloud to the class. Ask students to help clean up before moving on to the next activity.



**4) Optional: Jesus is With Me Play Time – Paper Plate Steering Wheels**

**5 minutes**

**Before Class:** Gather one paper plate for each student. Preferably black if possible to look like steering wheels. You can also use a black marker to make a steering wheel design if preferred.  
**During Class:** Hold up a steering wheel and say, **“When your mom and dad drive, they hold a special wheel that lets them turn the car – it looks like this. What is it called? A steering wheel. I’m going to give you each a steering wheel so you can play like you are driving a car. We can “drive” wherever we want and our friend Jesus will go with us. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is your friend? \_\_\_\_\_insert each student’s name....Yes, it makes you feel happy! I am happy that Jesus is my friend too. Let’s all drive our cars, follow me.** Lead the students around the classroom. You can even lead them outside or in the halls if the weather is nice so long as students do not disturb others while they are driving around. Pretend to make frequent stops in new places. Say: **Here we are at Grandma’s house, the church building, the store, home, over the mountains, our friends house.....etc.) Jesus is with us wherever we go – isn’t that wonderful? Let’s all drive back to our classroom and get ready for the next activity.**

**5) Optional: Jesus is Our Friend Parade**

**5-10 minutes**

Tell students: **Just like Jesus' friends followed Him when He called and when He visited. We will follow too in a "Jesus is our Friend" parade!** Hand out one popsicle stick picture to each student to hold while you line them up in a row and lead them in a march through the classroom showing everyone that Jesus is our friend! (If you have an assistant or two to help, and if students will not disrupt other classes/lessons going on, you can take them through the halls and/or outside if the weather permits to march in their Jesus is our Friend Parade.)

#### 6) Jesus is My Friend Activity Sheet with Sticker

10-15 minutes

Hand out sheets with crayons to students. Have teddy bear stickers cut out and glue sticks to attach them to the sheet when students are done coloring the page.

While students color ask them to tell you all that they can remember about the events they learned about today from the Bible as they look at the picture such as:



**Who were Jesus friends?**

**Are we Jesus' friends too?**

**This little child is reading about Jesus – her friend. She is doing this at bed time. What do you do at bed time that helps you to remember that Jesus is your friend?**

**Do you pray or read the Bible with your mom or dad?**

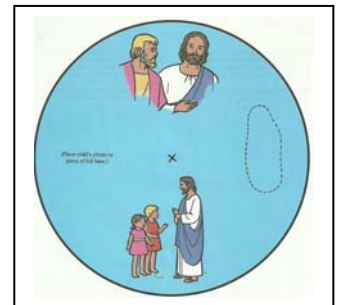
Hand out one teddy bear sticker to each student and let them glue it to the "x" mark on the sheet. Ask students to help clean up before moving onto the next activity.

#### 7) Optional: Jesus is My Friend Circle Craft

10-15 minutes

Before class: Print and cut out the two circle templates, the sticker of the child and cut a piece of tin foil 2 x 2 inches for each student. Gather brads, glue sticks and/or tape.

During class – hand out the circle picture as shown to the right. Let students look through it and see the different ways Jesus is a friend – to adults, children and to us too! Help them glue the sticker of the child on the page and then help them glue or tape the tin foil where marked on the sheet so that when the students look they will see themselves.



Place the top circle over this one and attach them together using the brad/paper fastener. Hold the top piece as you rotate the circle to show each part of the pictures to the students. Talk about how wonderful it is to have Jesus as our friend as you clean up.

#### 8) Catching Fish Action Game

5 minutes

Line the students up in a row so that they can all see you and have enough space to move their hands and feet without hitting anyone beside them.

Say to the students: **We are going to play a game. The fishermen had to listen to Jesus when He asked them to. They obeyed and so should we. I am going to say "Fishermen and then an action word." I want you to follow and do what I say. Just like Jesus' fishermen friends**

were to follow Jesus and what He said to them. Ready? Everyone quiet and listen.....good job

Fishermen – follow Jesus (pretend to have students follow you – walk or march)

Fishermen – touch your feet.

Fishermen – say “Thank You God.”

Fishermen – row your boats

Fishermen – gather the fish

Fishermen – show your smiling faces

Fishermen – jump up and down

Fishermen – turn around

Fishermen – sit down!

**Thank class for playing and then have them sit at the table for the next activity.**

## 9) Optional: Action Rhymes and Songs

5-10 minutes

**Let's play a game. When you hear your name, stand up and come make a circle of Jesus' friends.** Call students one by one while singing “Jesus is my Friend” as you say the name of each student have them join you in an open space and hold hands. When they all come, walk around in a circle and then sit down.

**If My Name is.....**

If my name is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is my friend.

If my name is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is my friend.

Jesus is my friend, Jesus is my friend.

If my name is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is my friend.

\*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

**Jesus Loves (Action Rhyme)**

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(Fold arms to form cradle and rock.)

**The ones so big and tall.**

(Hands reached high over head.)

## 10) Optional: Clean and Relax Time

10-15 minutes

Hand out small brooms, dustpans, feather dusters, clothes and empty spray bottles. Ask children to pretend to be Martha and clean up the house/play area while waiting for Jesus to come and visit. Help them dust, pick up from the floor, pretend to spray and clean the tables, etc. When done, ask them to put the supplies away and then say: **Martha was a good friend, she was trying to make sure her house was clean and food was ready for when Jesus came. But Jesus said that all she needed to do was sit and relax and enjoy being with Jesus. Jesus is our friend. He wants us to spend time learning and being with Him – we do that by going to church services and Sunday school and reading our Bibles, and praying. Let's all sit and**

**enjoy some popcorn while we think about how nice it is to be Jesus friends and how important it is to come, sit and listen whenever we can learn about Jesus!**

Hand out popcorn in small paper cups or paper bags to each student. Have some water and glasses handy and have some paper towels or wet wipes to wipe hands when done.

Talk about how Jesus visited his friends – Mary and Martha and what it means to follow Jesus: to go to church services, pray, read the Bible, and obey.

**I'm sure Mary and Martha were glad Jesus was their friend. Maybe they said, "Thank you Jesus, for being our friend." Let's thank Jesus too. Say together – Thank You Jesus, for being our special friend!**

### **11) Sing**

Choose songs from the Songs Pages.

### **12) Optional – Snack: Popcorn in paper cups or paper lunch bags**

**5 minutes**

Hand out snack to each student along with a glass of water. Ask them what they remember learning in the story today.

**We are going to each get some popcorn to help us remember that Jesus visited his friends and wanted them to sit and relax and enjoy spending time with Him. Jesus is our friend too. He loves us and takes good care of us. Isn't that wonderful? Let's think about how wonderful Jesus is as we eat our snacks.**

Talk about and review the stories they reviewed today while they snack.

After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

### **13) Close in prayer**

**Tell students that we are going to pray, to pray we need to put down everything and fold our hands and bow our heads like this (show students). This way we can hear and listen to the prayer and when we sit quietly and focus on God – it makes God happy! We learn this in God's Word the Bible and we need to obey God.**

First: Ask if there are prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or read yourself.

Second: Remind students to fold hands and bow heads then pray:

**Thank You God for Jesus Your Son. Thank You God that Jesus helps us and is our special friend who loves us and will always be there for us. Thank you God for our families, our friends, our pets and our church family too. Thank You God as well that we can know that we are safe and in good hands because Jesus is our friend. Thank you God for your Son Jesus who loves us and thank you God for everyone here today and those who could not be here because they were sick or away. We pray for those who are sick that you will make them better.**

**We pray you will bring us all back to Sunday school next week safely.  
In Jesus name, Amen.**

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!