



WEEK 3 | January 19, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Jesus is a good friend when I am sad.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus • *John 11:1-3, 20, 28-36*

Memory Verse: "A friend loves you all the time." Proverbs 17:17, NCV

Key Question: Who is always a good friend?

Bottom Line: Jesus is always a good friend.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SOCIAL: Time to have fun!

ACTIVITY: Weather Sort

What You Need: Shallow bin; three white paper cups; blue, yellow, and white pom-poms; black, yellow, and blue permanent markers; and preschool tongs

What You Do: Draw an outline of a cloud on one cup with the black marker, a sun on another cup with the yellow marker, and a raindrop with the blue marker on the last cup. Sprinkle the pom-poms around the inside of the bin. Set the cups in the bin. Place the bin on the table with the tongs.

What You Say: "Look at this fun bin I have. There are yellow, blue, and white pom-poms in the bin. These pom-poms remind me of different weather. Oh, look, this cup is for rain, and the blue pom-poms will go in it. This cup is for sunshine, and the yellow pom-poms will go in it. This last cup is for the clouds, and the white pom-poms will go in it. Use the tongs to pick up the pom-poms and sort them into their specific cups. (Pause.) Great! Now put a pom-pom into your favorite weather cup. My favorite weather is [rainy, cloudy, sunny]. Wow! Look, the weather cups are almost full. Let's pour the cups out and do it again."

After the Activity: "You know, sometimes the weather changes. It can be sunny, then cloudy. And sometimes it rains. No matter what the weather, there is Someone who is always our friend—rain or shine! I can't wait to learn Who is always our friend!"

Large Group: Time to Praise & Worship God!

Memory Verse: Review the Memory Verse

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God.

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

SMALL GROUP: Time to connect with the children. PRAYER: Praise God! Thank God!

CRAFT: Picture This!

What You Need: "Picture This!" and "Picture This! Pictures" Activity Pages, cardstock, glue sticks, scissors, and permanent marker

What You Do: Copy "Picture This!" on cardstock, one per child. Copy the "Picture

This! Pictures" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.

What You Say: "Friends, we're learning a great Memory Verse this month about being a good friend. Let's say it together with the motions. 'A friend (hook index



fingers twice) loves you (cross arms over chest) all the time,' (tap wrist) Proverbs 17:17. (Open hands like a book.) Great job! Come find a seat at the table. I have a paper with our Memory Verse on it for each one of you. It says: 'A friend loves you all the time,' Proverbs 17:17. Do you see the pictures on your page? Let's match these cutouts to the pictures and glue them into place. (Pause.) You did a great job! Let's say our Memory Verse together one more time—you can point to the pictures as we say it. 'A friend loves you all the time,' Proverbs 17:17. Super-duper! I'm going to come around the table and write your names on your papers." *After the Activity:* "A friend loves you all the time! That's the kind of friend Jesus is—a friend who loves us rain or shine, no matter how we're feeling! If we're sad, Jesus cares for us. If we're happy, or afraid, or excited—Jesus cares for us. Because **Jesus is always a good friend.** Who is always a good friend? **Jesus is always a good friend!**"

ACTIVITY: Mixed Emotions

What You Need: Emotion rubber balls and a parachute

What You Do: Ask children to stand around the parachute and pick up a section of it.

What You Say: "We've been learning that no matter if we're afraid, excited, sad, or happy, **Jesus is always a good friend!** Stand around the parachute and pick up a section. Look at this ball! (*Hold up a ball.*) There is an emotion on it! This emotion is [emotion on the ball]. We know that Jesus is our friend when we are [emotion on the ball]. (*Throw the ball on the parachute, show the children another ball with an emotion on it, and repeat.*) Okay, friends, let's bounce these emotions! (*Pause.*) Whoa, we bounced them right off the parachute. Let's put the

parachute down and go get those emotions! (*Repeat as desired.*) That was fun playing with the parachute today." *After the Activity:* "I'm so glad that Jesus loves us and is our friend no matter how we are feeling! Who is always a good friend? **Jesus is always a good friend.** That's right! Let's say it again! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**"