

Jesus Is Our Friend

Bible Basis: Mark 5:21-24, 35-42; Luke 17:11-19; John 6:1-13

The Bible passages in this unit cover three miracles Jesus performed: the raising of a girl who had died, the healing of 10 men with leprosy, and the feeding of 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. Why did Jesus perform these miracles? Because he cares about people. There's a common thread through these three miracles: Jesus has compassion for people who are hurting and in need. And as a faithful friend, he meets our needs.

We can see that compassion in the first of these three miracles, described in Mark 5:21-24, 35-42. Jesus was teaching a large crowd when a distraught father fell at his feet, pleading that Jesus heal his critically sick daughter. So Jesus left and went with him. And the miracle was even greater than Jairus had hoped: Even after his daughter had died, Jesus brought her back to life!

In the second miracle, seen in Luke 17:11-19, 10 men with leprosy cried out to Jesus for help. Because Jesus had compassion and because the men had faith, Jesus healed them.

And in John 6:1-13, we see Jesus again demonstrating his compassion. This huge crowd of people had followed him out into the countryside to hear his teaching. When it came time to eat, Jesus was concerned about feeding them. He even asked his disciples where they could buy food. And then he multiplied the small lunch that a boy offered to feed 5,000 men, plus women and children!

What a friend we have in Jesus!

Jesus is our friend.

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Toddlers & 2s

Parent Page

Jesus Is Our Friend

For the next four weeks, your child will be introduced to a very special friend—Jesus! Toddlers and 2s will have opportunities to experience Bible stories through their senses. Your child will touch, see, hear, and taste items that help bring the stories alive.

Tips for Ts and 2s

Toddlers are just beginning to discover a new world of friends outside of their homes. A new classroom ushers in exciting new adult friends and peers. Sharing, caring, and helping become important elements in learning how to socialize with new friends and peers—and what better friend to learn from than Jesus? Have fun exploring the wondrous reasons why Jesus is your child's best friend.

Together Time

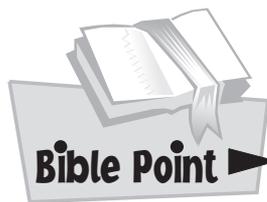
- Make an easy-to-prepare treat together—friendship cookies. Let your toddler help spread marshmallow creme on graham crackers. Then add tiny candies for eyes, a chocolate chip nose, and a licorice-whip smile. Let your child make enough cookies to share with family and friends.
- Cut out seven construction paper hearts—one for each day of the week. At prayer time each night, encourage your child to thank Jesus for being a friend. Each time your child remembers to thank Jesus, tape a heart beside his or her bed.
- Sing this song from class with your toddler:

My Special Friend

(sung to the tune of “London Bridge”)

**Jesus is my special friend,
Special friend, special friend.
Jesus is my special friend.
He cares for me.**

**Jesus loves and cares for me,
Cares for me, cares for me.
Jesus loves and cares for me.
He's my special friend.**



Bible Point

Jesus is our friend.

Bible Verse

Jesus is our friend (adapted from John 15:15).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that Jesus was a friend to Jairus' daughter,
 - discover that Jesus is their friend, and
 - learn how to be friends to others.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- **Our friend Jesus cares for us.**

**Mark
5:21-24, 35-42;
Luke 17:11-14;
John 6:1-13**



If you're a parent, you've got to feel the anguish Jairus must have been experiencing when he fell at Jesus' feet. And perhaps the despair that might have hit when the servant came with news of his daughter's death. But then you would also feel how his mourning turned to joy when his new friend, Jesus, raised his daughter back to new life. What a wonderful friend we have in Jesus!

Prayer

- Read John 15:15.
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is your friend?
- In what ways is Jesus much more than a friend?
- Pray: God, thank you that Jesus is my friend. Help me to remember...



Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins	
	Option 1: Two by Two —Learn to cooperate with friends.	Two medium-sized cardboard boxes, laundry basket, small toys	
	Option 2: Baby Boo-Boos —Practice being friends to their dolls and to one another.	Dolls, doll beds, masking tape, doll blankets	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	Jesus Is Our Friend —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Jairus' daughter from Mark 5:21-24, 35-42.	Tape, paper	 
	My Special Friend —Sing a song about how Jesus cares.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Pink paper, bear pattern (p. 87), scissors, transparent tape or stapler, masking tape, marker	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song about how Jesus cares.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make friendship bracelets with partners.	String, scissors, transparent tape, colorful loop cereal, paper cups	
	Bible Game —Play a game of Musical Squares, and participate in a fun finger play.	Carpet squares, CD player, cupcake liners, washable marker	 
Closing 	Appreciating Jesus —Say a prayer and enjoy a snack.	Hand mirror, picture of Jesus, tape, heart-shaped cookies, napkins	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), tape or safety pins, marker



- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child's clothing.
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that** ► *Jesus is our friend.*
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won't be distracted by him during the next activity.

teacher tips

If you wish to provide soothing background music as the children arrive, play a CD of your choice.

BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

Repetition is an essential tool when teaching young children. When adult teachers begin to get bored or even tired of songs or activities, young children are often just starting to understand them. For the sake of your children, keep teaching with enthusiasm even if you feel a little bored with an activity or song.

Option 1: Two by Two

SUPPLIES: cardboard boxes, small toys, laundry basket with handles

Set two medium-sized cardboard boxes at either end of your play area. Put a collection of small toys, such as stuffed animals, books, and blocks, in one of the boxes. Give the children a laundry basket with handles on it. Have children take turns using the basket to transport the toys to the empty box at the other end of the play area. Suggest to the children that they work together as friends do by filling the basket and helping each other carry it. Remind children that ► *Jesus is our friend* and that he likes to see friends helping each other and taking turns.

Option 2: Baby Boo-Boos

SUPPLIES: dolls, doll beds, masking tape, doll blankets

Set out dolls, doll beds, masking tape to serve as bandages, and doll blankets. Tell children that they will be learning about a time Jesus was a friend to a girl who was sick. Encourage children to wrap the dolls in the doll blankets and lay them in the doll beds. Show children how to be friends to the hurt dolls or to one another by “bandaging” their dolls’ or their friends’ fingers. Explain that ► *Jesus is our friend* and that we can be friends to each other.



teacher tips

Working in pairs may be new to your toddlers. Encourage them to share and take turns, and remind them that friends help each other just as Jesus helps us.

A fun way to modify the “Two by Two” activity is to organize an assembly line. Have children form a line between the two containers and pass the toys down the line.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things.” Use the CD (track 2), and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

teacher tips

After pick-up time, accompany the children to the story area. Have the adults join the children in the story area to show them that this is an important time and to comfort any children who need help in adjusting to this routine.



SING

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
It's time to stop our play.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let's put it all away.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



BIBLE POINT



track 3

Say: ► **Jesus is our friend.** How do we know that? **The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let's learn a song about the Bible.** Using the CD (track 3), lead children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



SING

This is God's special book.
Yes, it's God's book you see!
I learn about all God has done,
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

teacher tips

During this module, you'll be presenting one new StoryBoard panel each week while reviewing the previous panels.

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Our Friend

SUPPLIES: tape, paper



Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions included in the Learning Lab box. The purpose of the StoryBoard is

to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1



You may leave the basket, fish, and loaves off of Panel 3 for this lesson. Cover Panels 2 and 3 with sheets of paper large enough to hide the pictures. These panels will be revealed in later lessons.

Lightly tape a 5x5-inch square of paper over the picture of Jesus on Panel 1. Hold the folded StoryBoard. Say: **We're going to hear a Bible story about how ► Jesus is our friend.**

Unfold Panel 1 of the StoryBoard, which shows Jairus' daughter lying down in bed. Say: **This little girl was very sick. We don't know what her name was. Let's give her a name.**

Ask: • **What do you want to call her?**

Say: [Name] **was sad because she wanted to be out playing, but she felt too sick to play. [Name] had to stay in her bed under the covers. Let's touch her blanket.** Hold the StoryBoard down so each child can touch the girl's blanket.

Ask: • **How does the blanket feel?** (Soft; warm.)

• **What do your parents do when you're sick?** (Hold me; give me medicine.)

Say: [Name]'s **blanket kept her warm, but she was still very, very sick. Poor little girl! Let's pat her head.** Have children gently pat the little girl's head and say, "Jesus is your friend." **The little girl's daddy heard about Jesus and that he helped people. So the daddy ran to find Jesus.** Pat your knees to make "running" sounds, and encourage children to pat their knees, too. **The daddy found Jesus in a big crowd. The daddy said,**

"Jesus, Jesus, please come quick.

My little girl is very sick!"

Encourage children to repeat the rhyme a few times with you.

Say: **But then something sad happened. Before Jesus and her daddy came home, the little girl died. Oh, everyone was so sad.** Look sad, and slowly shake your head. **But wait! ► Jesus is our friend, and Jesus can do anything. There was a knock at the door.** Make knocking sounds on the floor, and encourage children to follow.

Who was at the door? Let's find out. Gently remove the paper square covering the picture of Jesus. **It was Jesus!** Let children touch Jesus' beard. **Jesus said, "Why are you sad? The girl is only sleeping!" Jesus took her little hand, and the girl sat up!** Move the girl into a "sitting" position on the StoryBoard. **Isn't that wonderful? The little girl smiled and said,**

"I'm not sick—I'm feeling fine.

And Jesus is a friend of mine!"

Have children scatter around the room and lie on the floor. Say: **Let's play a fun game. We'll pretend we're sick in bed. When I count, "one, two, three," you can sit up and say, "I'm not sick, I'm feeling fine. And Jesus is a friend of mine!"** Lead children in playing this action game several times. Encourage children to repeat the rhyme with you as they sit up "in bed." Remind children that ► Jesus is our friend and he helps us when we're sick.



Say: **Jesus was a friend of Jairus' daughter, and ► Jesus is our friend, too. Jesus can do anything! When we believe in Jesus, he'll be our forever friend, and we can live with him someday in heaven. Let's sing a song about our friend Jesus.**



Allow the children to suggest names, and select one. Use that name as you tell the story.



Model Christ's love to your students by bending down to their level when you listen or speak to them. Be sure to make eye contact, hold a hand, pat a shoulder, and say each child's name sometime during the class. Take a few moments to find out how each child is feeling before directing him or her to the Arrival Activities.



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



■ My Special Friend

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 7), lead children in singing “My Special Friend” to the tune of “London Bridge.”



SING

Jesus is my special friend,
Special friend, special friend.
Jesus is my special friend.
He cares for me.

Jesus loves and cares for me,
Cares for me, cares for me.
Jesus loves and cares for me.
He’s my special friend.



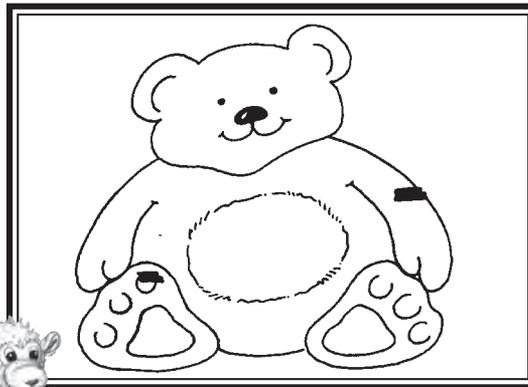
BIBLE POINT

Say: It’s fun to have special friends, isn’t it? We’ve been learning that **Jesus is our friend** and that he’s the best friend we have. We can see what another friend of ours is up to. Let’s visit Cuddles.

Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: pink paper, bear pattern (p. 87), scissors, transparent tape or stapler, masking tape, marker



Before class begins, cover the bulletin board with pink paper. Using the pattern at the end of this lesson, make a large bear and attach it to the bulletin board. For this lesson, make marks on its elbow and foot. Have masking tape available for “bandaging” the bear. Place a bandage on Cuddles’ leg.

teacher tips

For a more exciting bulletin board, enlarge the bear pattern two or three times its size.



Bring out Cuddles the Lamb wearing a bandage on his leg. Go through the following script; then put Cuddles away out of sight.

Cuddles: Hi, everyone! Guess what I have? (*Shows his bandage.*) I have an owie, but Mommy helped it get better.

Teacher: That's a nice bandage, Cuddles. Your mommy is a good friend, and she cared for you. We've been learning that ► Jesus is our friend and cares for us.

Cuddles: Would Jesus put a bandage on my owie?

Teacher: Jesus would help you, Cuddles. Jesus helps us because he is our friend.

Cuddles: I like to help my friends!

Teacher: Good! Then you can help us with our bulletin board.

Cuddles: Why do we have a bear there?

Teacher: Teddy bears are our friends, and today we learned about our friend Jesus. Who can tell Cuddles how ► Jesus is our friend from our story today?

Wait for children to tell what they remember from the story.

Cuddles: Jesus made a sick girl well. Wow! It looks as if the bear on our bulletin board has some owies. How could we be a friend to him?

Wait for the children to suggest ideas.

Teacher: Let's put a bandage on his elbow. Who will help me be a friend to Bear?

Let children tape a few masking tape bandages to the bear's elbow.

Cuddles: Uh-oh! He has an owie on his foot. He really needs a friend.

Teacher: Let's put bandages on Bear's foot, too. We can be friends to Bear just as Jesus was a friend to the little girl.

Allow children to tape masking tape bandages to the bear's foot.

Cuddles: I'm glad that ► Jesus is our friend and that you are my friends, too! You were such good friends to Bear today. Bye!

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 7), lead children in singing "My Special Friend" to the tune of "London Bridge." Encourage children to point to their hearts each time they sing the word *friend*.

Say: **Let's sing a special song about our special friend Jesus.**



Jesus is my special friend,
Special friend, special friend.
Jesus is my special friend.
He cares for me.

Jesus loves and cares for me,
Cares for me, cares for me.
Jesus loves and cares for me.
He's my special friend.

Say: **Friends are such fun. Let's make colorful necklaces with our friends.**

teacher tips

Working together is a new skill for toddlers and 2s. You may need to remind them to help each other.



BIBLE POINT



Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: string, scissors, colorful loop cereal, transparent tape, paper cups

Before class, cut a 7-inch length of string or yarn for each child in your class. Tie a piece of colorful loop cereal to one end of the string, and wrap the other end of the string with a piece of transparent tape.

Help children form pairs. Give one partner two lengths of string and the other partner the loops cereal in a paper cup. Have partners help each other make friendship bracelets, one for each child, with the cereal. Remind children that ► Jesus is our friend and that we can be friends to each other, too. Help children tie their bracelets in large loops to slip over their hands.

Say: **We can wear our bracelets while we play a musical game with our friends.**

Bible Game

SUPPLIES: carpet squares, paper cupcake liners, washable marker, CD player



Before class, remove the *small fuzzy flower* from the Learning Lab.

Help children get into pairs to play this version of Musical Chairs. Arrange carpet squares in a circle, making sure there's a carpet square for each pair. Have partners hold hands and walk around the circle as you play "My Special Friend" from the CD (track 7). Pause the CD, and have partners sit on the carpet square nearest them. Start the music again, and have partners hop up and walk again. Repeat stopping and starting the music several times. Remind children that ► Jesus is our friend and he likes to see us have fun with our friends.

Say: **We've been learning about friends and that Jesus is the most wonderful friend we have. But we have other friends who are special, too. I want to introduce you to a special friend of mine! His name is Fuzz Z. Flower. Can you all say his name? Fuzz told me that he wanted to come play a very special game with us today! Doesn't that sound like fun? So, when I count to three, everybody shout, "Come out! Come out! Fuzz Z., come out!"** Count to three as you wrap the stem of the *small fuzzy flower* around your index finger and show it to the children. Make the



BIBLE POINT

teacher tips

Use the pause button on your CD player when you want to signal the children to stop and start in this version of Musical Chairs.

flower puppet say: **Hi! I was so excited to learn about Jesus today! Were you? I learned that Jesus is the most wonderful friend we have. Jesus is my friend, and he's your friend** (make flower point to a student), **and he's your friend** (make flower point to another student), **and he's your friend, too.** Make the flower point to another student. Continue until you've made the flower point to every child. **Jesus is everybody's friend! Let's do a fun finger play together. But first, we need some more flowers!**

Give each child a paper cupcake liner. Help each child to poke his or her right index finger through the middle of his or her liner. Then use a washable marker to draw a smiley face on children's left index and middle fingers, creating their own flowers. Draw smiley faces on your own fingers also. Lead children in the following finger play, using the *small fuzzy flower* to guide them.

I'm a happy flower! (*Wiggle index finger on right hand.*)

Here are my friends, Rose and Parsley. (*Wiggle index and middle fingers on left hand.*)

God helps us grow together (*wiggle all three fingers together*)

Just as friends should be. (*Fold the index and middle fingers from the left hand over the index finger on the right hand as if hugging.*)

When we're feeling lonely (*bend the three fingers at the joint, as if bowing their heads*),

When we're feeling sad (*curl all the fingers down into fists*),

We remember Jesus loves us (*open both hands wide, fingers up*)

And then we feel so glad! (*Wiggle all the fingers on both hands.*)

So say "goodbye" to Rose. (*Bend down index finger from left hand.*)

Say "goodbye" to Parsley. (*Bend down middle finger from left hand; the rest of the fingers on that hand may follow.*)

Remember Jesus loves you (*point up with index finger on left hand*),

Then say goodbye to me! (*Put both hands behind back.*)

Have the *small fuzzy flower* peek back out around from behind your back and say: **Bye-bye friends!** Place the flower out of sight.

Say: **That was fun! Now let's enjoy a special snack with our special friends.**

Closing

■ Appreciating Jesus

SUPPLIES: picture of Jesus, hand mirror, tape, heart-shaped cookies, napkins

Before class, tape a picture of Jesus to the back of a hand mirror.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **We've learned that ▶ Jesus is our friend who cares for us.** Place the mirror in front of each child, mirror side first. Ask each child: [Child's name], **who is your special friend?** As the child says "Jesus," turn the mirror over to show Jesus' face. After everyone has had a chance to look in the mirror, say: **Let's say "thank you" to God for sending Jesus to be our special friend who cares for us.** Encourage the children to say with you: **"Thank you, God, for my friend Jesus."**

Have children wash their hands, and then give children heart-shaped cookies for a snack. Remind children that Jesus loves them and is their friend. Have children wear their friendship bracelets home.



See page 5.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Parent Page” handout (p. 76) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module’s topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Ball Buddies**

Have children sit on the floor in a circle, legs apart and feet touching the feet of the children beside them. Place two balls in the middle of the circle, and encourage the children to roll them back and forth. Make sure each child gets a turn to catch and roll a ball. Remind children that ► Jesus is our friend and that they are showing how to be friends when they share the balls with one another.

■ **Jesus Is My Friend**

Say this rhyme and do the actions described.

I like to march around all day. (*March in place.*)

Jesus is my friend—hooray! (*Clap twice.*)

I like to hop and jump all day. (*Hop up and down.*)

Jesus is my friend—hooray! (*Clap twice.*)

I like to clap my hands all day. (*Clap your hands.*)

Jesus is my friend—hooray! (*Clap two more times.*)

I like to twirl around all day. (*Twirl around once.*)

Jesus is my friend—hooray! (*Clap twice.*)

I like to hug my friends all day. (*Hug someone.*)

Jesus is my friend—hooray! (*Clap twice.*)

Pattern

First enlarge this pattern using a photocopier or overhead projector; then cut loosely around it instead of cutting exactly on the outline.

