

Bible Point

Jesus is our friend.

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that Jesus cares for them,
 - discover that Jesus helps them when they're sick, and
 - thank Jesus for being a friend.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- **Our friend Jesus helps us when we're sick.**

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



In Bible times, practically the only friends lepers had were other lepers. No one else wanted to be around them because of fear of catching the disease. It was a cruel, disfiguring disease that even made people not want to look at a leper. But Jesus cares for everyone, especially those who acknowledge their need for him. When the lepers called out for Jesus' help, he responded. And he'll respond to our cries for help, too!

Prayer

- Read Hosea 14:4-7.
- What kind of healing is this passage talking about?
- What kind of healing do you need from Jesus today?
- Pray: Dear God, heal the hurts in my life. Help me to be more...



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: Sort the Spots! —Sort paper dots by size or color.	Blue, red, and yellow construction paper; scissors	
	Option 2: Dough Dots —Make modeling-dough people.	Vinyl place mats, modeling dough, gingerbread-man cookie cutters, plastic forks	
	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 Jesus healing the 10 lepers from Luke 17:11-19.	Paper, tape	
	My Special Friend —Sing a song about our friend Jesus.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Spot patterns (p. 99), scissors, tape, red construction paper	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song about our friend Jesus, and play a fun game.	CD player, partially deflated beach ball, washable marker, baby wipes	
	Bible Craft —Make pretend stethoscopes, and “listen” to their hearts.	Stethoscope ear piece patterns (p. 99), tape, scissors, empty paper towel tubes	
	Bible Game —Play an exciting game using dot stickers.	Dot stickers	
Closing 	Healthy and Happy —Say a prayer and have a snack.	Apple slices, cheese slices, crackers, plate, 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**



Option 1: Sort the Spots!

SUPPLIES: blue, red, and yellow construction paper; scissors

Before class, cut three sizes of dots from blue, red, and yellow construction paper. Make sure you have at least two dots of each color and size.

As children arrive, have them sort the dots by color and then by size. Encourage the children to work together.

As children sort the dots, ask questions such as "These spots remind me of chickenpox. Have you had spots all over you?" and "How does it feel when you're sick?" Tell children they'll hear a story about some men with spots on their skin and how Jesus helped them feel better. Remind children that ► *Jesus is our friend!*



teacher tips

Toddlers and 2s love to play with modeling dough. Use place mats to alleviate crowding. A rule of thumb is to allow one child per place mat.

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Option 2: Dough Dots

SUPPLIES: vinyl place mats, modeling dough, plastic forks, gingerbread-man cookie cutters

Set out vinyl place mats on a table, and place a small handful of modeling dough on each one. (See page 13 for modeling dough recipe.)

Place gingerbread-man cookie cutters and two plastic forks in the center of the table. Show children how to flatten the modeling dough with their palms and use cookie cutters to make figures of people. Let the children add "spots" to their dough people by gently pushing fork tines into the dough. Circulate among the children, and make comments such as "The dough people look like they have spots like people get with chickenpox" and "I'm glad friends care about me when I'm sick." Encourage the children to talk about times they felt sick and the friends who helped them feel better. Remind children that ► *Jesus is our friend.*

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."



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.

teacher tips

After pick-up time, accompany the children to the story area. Have the adults in the room join the children in the story area to show the children that this is an important time.

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 sing a song about the Bible.** Using the CD (track 3), lead the children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

teacher tips

Young children often need a great deal of modeling and encouragement to work together. Place no more than two children in a working group and limit their time together. Reinforce the partners' efforts with comments such as "I like how you're sharing" and "You're working so well together." In a short time, children will look forward to activities that call for working with a friend.



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!

■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Our Friend

SUPPLIES: paper, tape

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



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so children can touch them without danger of pulling them off or

putting them into their mouths.

Cover Panels 2 and 3 with two sheets of paper large enough to hide the pictures. Be sure the red color card is showing through the spots on the lepers' hands on Panel 2.

Panel 1



Hold the folded StoryBoard. Say: **We've been learning that Jesus is our friend. And we've been learning that Jesus is a friend who helps us.** Unfold Panel 1 of the StoryBoard. Be



BIBLE POINT

sure the little girl on Panel 1 is lying down. Point to the little girl and ask:

• **How did Jesus help this little girl?** (He made her feel better; he made her alive again.)

Say: ► ***Jesus is our friend*, and friends help each other. Jesus helped the little girl who was sick.**

Ask: • **What's it like to be sick?** (Icky; I don't like it.)

• **How does your mommy or daddy help when you're sick?** (They tell me stories; they cover me up; they hug me; they give me good things to eat.)

Say: **We can help people when they're sick just as Jesus helps us. Let's be a friend to the little girl. Tuck in her blanket, and pat her forehead.**

Have children touch the blanket and pat the little girl's forehead. Lead each child in saying the Bible Point.

Jesus wants to help us because ► *Jesus is our friend*. Let's hear a story about another time Jesus was a good friend.

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Panel 2



Unfold the StoryBoard so that Panel 2 faces the children. Panel 2 should be covered. Say: **I wonder what's under this paper? Pretend to peek. Oh! What an exciting picture! Would you like to see it?**

Uncover Panel 2.

Ask: • **What's happening in this picture?** (Jesus is with some men; the men look hurt; they have spots.)

• **What's on the men's hands?** Point to the red dots on the lepers' hands. (Spots; dots; chickenpox.)

Say: **Jesus went to a small town. Ten men had red spots on their skin. How many is 10?** Count to 10 slowly, holding a finger up as you say each number. Then count to 10 again, pointing to each of the men with leprosy as you count. Encourage children to count with you.

The spots itched and itched like lots of mosquito bites! Make scratching motions, and encourage children to imitate you. **The spots hurt.** Rub your arms and groan. **The men had bandages to cover the spots.** Point to the spots and the bandages. Allow each child to come to the StoryBoard and touch the gauze bandage.

Ask: • **How does the bandage feel?** (Scratchy; bumpy.)

Say: **The men with the spots were very sad. Show me a sad face.** Pause for children to respond. **Nobody wanted to be their friend because they had itchy spots. But guess what? We always have a friend, and so did these men. Jesus was their friend!** Clap your hands with joy.

The men saw Jesus. "Please help us, Jesus!" they cried. And Jesus helped them! Jesus took their spots away. Would you like to see? Have children come to the StoryBoard one at a time and place their hands over the lepers' hands. Change the color card on the back of the panel from red to flesh-colored. As children lift their hands to reveal the "healthy" skin, say: ► ***Jesus is our friend—he made the spots go away.*** Continue until each child has had a turn seeing the dots "disappear."

Say: **The spots were gone! Hooray!** Have children clap with you. **The men were happy, but only one of them said "thank you" to Jesus. Let's touch Jesus' beard and tell him "thank you" for being our friend. Then we'll sing a special song to Jesus.**



Repetition is an extremely important and effective tool for teaching young children. While the StoryBoards may become a little too familiar to the teachers, weekly use allows young children to discover and rediscover the Bible truths.



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

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



■ My Special Friend

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*.



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



Understanding Your Toddlers’
and 2s’ Communication
Development

Toddlers and 2s...

- engage in simple dramatic play.
- use 50 to 100 recognizable words.
- put together two or more words to make a sentence.
- constantly ask, “What’s that?”
- refer to themselves by name.
- can point to and identify parts of the body and pictures of familiar objects.



BIBLE POINT

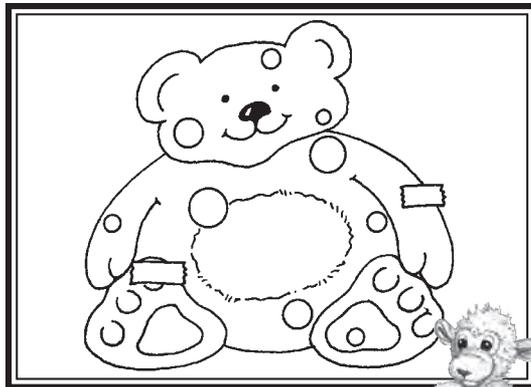


Say: ► Jesus is our friend, and he cares for us. Jesus always loves us and knows what’s best for us. Jesus loves us so much! Let’s find out more!

Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: red construction paper, spot patterns (p. 99), scissors, tape



Before class, photocopy the spot patterns onto red construction paper. Cut out the spots and tape them onto the bear. Be sure to place one spot on the bear for each child.

When you’ve finished the bulletin board activity, have children toss the spots in the air and say, ► “Jesus is our friend.” Have children collect the spots and hand them to you.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb. Go through the following script; then put Cuddles away out of sight.



Teacher: Cuddles the Lamb is here to visit us again today. Let's say hello to Cuddles.

Cuddles: Hi, boys and girls! I'm happy to be here with you. What did you learn today?

Give children a chance to respond.

Teacher: We learned that ► Jesus is our friend and wants to help us when we feel sick. Cuddles, can you help us make a bulletin board about helping friends?

Cuddles: I like to help. And I especially like to help my friends! What do we do?

Teacher: We're going to help our friend, the bear.

Cuddles: *(Looking at the bear.)* Oh! Look at his spots! How can we help him?

Teacher: Children, let's tell Cuddles about the story of the men with the spots and how Jesus helped them.

Encourage children to tell Cuddles that Jesus helped his friends by taking their spots away.

Cuddles: ► Jesus is our friend. He helped the men with spots. Can we help take the bear's spots away?

Teacher: That's a good idea, isn't it, children? Each one of you can take a spot off of our bear, and Cuddles can help.

Have Cuddles help each child remove a spot from the bear. Each time a child removes a spot, lead the child in saying, "I help my friends." Then have children toss the spots in the air all together and say ► "Jesus is our friend!"



Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Toddlers & 2s granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com

■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: inflatable beach ball, washable marker, baby wipes, CD player



track 7

Before class, remove the *surprise ball* from the Learning Lab. Use a washable marker to make spots on a partially deflated beach ball.

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*.



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: ► ***Jesus is our friend*** and cares for us. He always cares about how we feel.

Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Bring out the *surprise ball*. Say: **Most days we feel super, don't we? We're happy and want to jump around!** Toss the *surprise ball* in front of you several times. **Most days we feel bright and bouncy, just like this ball. This ball is so joyful, it even looks happy when you roll it!** Roll the *surprise ball* to each child, and let the child roll it back to you. After all children have had a turn, hold the *surprise ball* in your lap.

But some days...we don't feel so well. Some days we feel sick. Encourage a few volunteers to tell about times they were sick. **When people get sick, they usually feel sad and they have no energy. Maybe they even get spots!** Bring out the partially deflated beach ball, and show it to the children. Say: **Let's pretend this poor little ball is sick. Awww...poor ball.** Have the children repeat after you, "Awww...poor ball." Then say: **When we bounce this ball, it bounces like it doesn't feel very well. See?** Attempt to bounce the ball in the middle of the circle.

Say: **Sometimes when we're sick we may feel like this sad ball. We don't feel like bouncing. It's not fun to be sick! We want people to care for us when we're sick.**

Ask: • **Who takes care of you when you're sick?** (My mom; my dad; my grandma.)

• **What do those people do for you when you're sick?** (My mom sings to me; my dad reads me a story; my grandma brings me ice cream and gives me hugs.)

Say: **Jesus cares for everyone. Whether we're sick or healthy, Jesus cares for us because he's our friend. It's so nice to have a friend like that, isn't it? Maybe our sick little ball needs to hear that ► *Jesus is our friend!* Let's tell him.**

Hold up the partially deflated ball and lead children in saying, ► ***Jesus is our friend!*** Then blow air into the ball, wipe off the dots with a baby wipe, and show children how the ball can bounce.



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: ► ***Jesus is our friend***, and he cares for us. **Did you know that doctors care for us, too? Let's make some pretend doctor tools.**



BIBLE POINT ►

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: stethoscope earpiece patterns (p. 99), empty paper towel tubes, scissors, tape

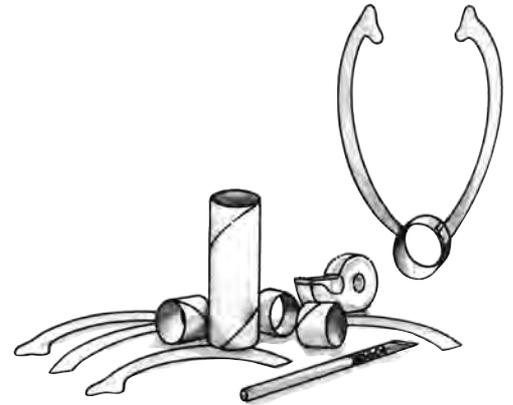
Before class, photocopy the patterns for stethoscope earpieces. Cut out a pair of earpieces for each child. Cut empty paper towel tubes into 1-inch segments.

Say: ► ***Jesus is our friend.* He gives us doctors to help us feel better. Doctors listen to our hearts and look in our ears and eyes to make sure we're healthy. We'll make doctor stethoscopes and listen to our hearts. Can you say "stethoscope" with me? Stethoscope.**

Hand each child a piece of a cardboard tube and help him or her tape a pair of earpieces to it. Encourage children to set the paper earpieces in their ears and take turns "listening" to each other's hearts. Remind children that ► ***Jesus is our friend*** and wants us to be healthy.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: dot stickers

Hand each child a dot sticker. Tell children to place the sticker on one of their fingertips. Say: **Let's play a fun game called Spot. When I point to a part of me, put your spot on that same part of you. If I point to my nose (point to your nose), put your spot on your nose.** Demonstrate by sticking a dot to your nose. Point to the following places:

- chin,
- forehead,
- foot,
- ear,
- knee, and
- tummy.

Say: **Now put your spot on your heart to remind you that ► *Jesus is our friend.* When we feel sick, Jesus wants to help. Jesus wants us to be healthy and feel good. Let's have a healthy snack!**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Closing

■ Healthy and Happy

SUPPLIES: apple slices, thin cheese slices, small crackers, napkins, plate

Gather children at the snack table. Say: ► ***Jesus is our friend*** and wants us to eat good foods so we're healthy.

Ask: • **What are some foods that are good for us?** (Apples; bananas; meat; oranges; milk.)

Say: **God gives us lots of good foods.** Set out a plate of apple slices, thin cheese slices, and small crackers for children to share. **Apples and cheese and crackers are good foods. Let's thank God for giving us good things to eat.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for healthy foods. And thank you, Jesus, for being our friend. Amen.**

Let children wear their "stethoscopes" home.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**





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.

■ *Spot Stick-Ons*

Use the dots from Option 1, or cut out a variety of construction paper circles. Help children create designs by gluing the dots on paper plates. Hand out any dot stickers that are left over from the Bible Game, and let children stick these to their pictures as well. When their creations are dry, allow children to take home their colorful pictures.

■ *Singsong*

Without using the *CD*, 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.**

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

