

**Bible Point** ▶

# Jesus is our friend.

## Bible Verse

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

## Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will

- express thanks for their friend Jesus,
- review the module's Bible stories, and
- learn that Jesus is their best friend.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

■ We can thank Jesus for being our friend.

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



Jesus is truly a friend like no other. He's more faithful than any other friend. He's more powerful than any other friend. He's more loving than any other friend! What more could we ask for in a friend? Yet sometimes our serving him becomes a burden. Sometimes we live as if we'd rather not have him as a friend. Help your class be thankful for the friendship with God that we have through Jesus. And don't forget that Jesus is your best friend, too!

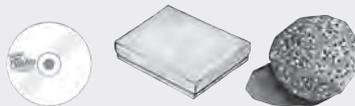
### Prayer

- Read Proverbs 18:24.
- In what ways is Jesus closer to us than a brother?
- How is Jesus more than a brother to you?
- Pray: God, thank you that Jesus is such a faithful and loving friend. Help me demonstrate my friendship to him by...

## 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
<b>Arrival Activities</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Welcome Time</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins	
	<b>Option 1: Chalk-and-Crayon Pictures</b> —Make pretty designs with colored chalk and crayons.	Paper, colored chalk, crayons	
	<b>Option 2: Helping Blocks</b> —Help each other build a “friendly town.”	Building blocks	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Bible Song</b> —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Jesus Is Our Friend</b> —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they review the Bible stories.	Fish crackers	
	<b>Sharing Song</b> —Sing a friendship song, serve each other snacks, and thank Jesus for all he does for them.	CD player, small fish-shaped crackers, other small crackers	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Heart patterns (p. 124), tape	
	<b>Sing It Out</b> —Sing a song about being a friend.	CD player	
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Create colorful streamers to remind them that Jesus is their best friend.	Purple, yellow, and other colors of construction paper; tape; drinking straws; scissors	
	<b>Bible Game</b> —Play a game and review the Bible stories.	Bandage, bread, fish, and spot patterns (p. 124); scissors; paper; tape; streamers from previous activity	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Friendly Faces</b> —Say a prayer and have a snack.	Graham crackers, icing, mini chocolate chips, plastic knives, paper towels	

\*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: Chalk-and-Crayon Pictures

**SUPPLIES:** white paper, crayons, colored chalk

Hand each child a sheet of white paper. Give half the children crayons and the others pieces of colored chalk. Tell children to make a mark or draw a shape on the paper in front of them. When you clap your hands, have children pass the papers to the person sitting beside them. Then tell them to make a mark on that piece of paper. Continue clapping and having children pass papers until each child has drawn on every sheet of paper. As they're drawing, make comments such as "Friends have fun drawing together" and "Look at the pretty colors our friends like!" Remind children that ► *Jesus is our friend*—in fact, Jesus is our *best* friend.

**teacher tips**

To prevent chalk from smearing, spray the pictures with hair spray after the children are finished.

**BIBLE POINT**



## Option 2: Helping Blocks

**SUPPLIES:** building blocks

Set out building blocks in one corner of the room.

Have each child find a friend to work with. Encourage children to help each other build a town where lots of friends live. Tell children that good friends help each other and share just as Jesus helps us and shares with us. Help the children build their town. Make affirming comments such as "I can see you're a good friend because you're so helpful" and "Sharing with friends is fun." Tell the children they'll hear a story about how ► *Jesus is our friend* and how he helped and shared with different people.



## 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 in the room join the children in the story area to show the children that this is an important time.



**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 sing 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!**



See page 5.

### ■ Bible Story: Jesus Is Our Friend

SUPPLIES: fish crackers

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at [group.com](http://group.com).



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

Before class, place fish crackers in the basket on Panel 3. Make sure the little girl on Panel 1 is lying down and that the red color card is showing through the spots on the men's hands on Panel 2.

#### Panel 1

Hold the folded StoryBoard. Say: **We're going to learn about how ► Jesus is our friend.**



**BIBLE POINT**



Unfold Panel 1 of the StoryBoard, which shows Jairus' daughter lying in bed. Say: **Let's help each other remember our Bible stories.** Point to Panel 1 and ask:

• **Why is this little girl in bed?** (She's sick.)

Say: **She's very sick and has to stay in bed under the covers. Let's touch her blanket and pat her head to help her feel better.** Hold the StoryBoard so each child can touch the girl's blanket and pat her head. As children touch the girl, help them say, ► *"Jesus is our friend."* Then ask:

• **Who made the little girl well again?** (Jesus.)

Say: **Yes, Jesus came to her house and held her hand. Jesus made the girl healthy again. Can you find Jesus in the picture?** Let the children point to Jesus and touch his beard.

**Let's help the little girl sit up.** When everyone has had a turn, say: **Jesus was a friend to Jairus' daughter, and ► *Jesus is our friend,* too.**



### Panel 2



Reveal Panel 2. Say: **Let's look at our StoryBoard and remember another time Jesus was a friend.**

Ask: • **What's happening in this picture?** (The men have spots; Jesus is being nice to them; the men are sick.)

• **Why do some men have bandages?** (They have owies; to cover the spots.)

Say: **Let's touch the bandages.** Allow each child to come to the StoryBoard and touch the gauze bandage.

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

Say: **People were afraid to be around these people because they were sick and had spots. They didn't have any friends. And what do you think Jesus did? He took their spots away!**

Change the colored card on the back of the panel so the spots change from red to flesh-colored. Say: **The spots were gone! Hooray!** Have children clap with you. **The men were happy, but only one said "thank you" to Jesus. Let's touch Jesus' beard and thank him for being our friend.** Have children touch Jesus' beard and say, "Thank you, Jesus, for being my friend."

**Isn't it nice that we have a friend who loves us? ► *Jesus is our friend,* and I'm so glad. Let's see who else Jesus helped.**



Try one or more of the following techniques if children in your class experience separation anxiety.

- Allow the child to bring a security object from home.
- Invite one of the parents to help in the classroom for a couple of weeks.
- Have parents tell the child matter-of-factly when they will return and then leave promptly.
- Have one of the adult helpers pick up the child and get him or her involved immediately in one of the Arrival Activities.

### Panel 3



Unfold Panel 3 of the StoryBoard, which shows Jesus and the little boy with the basket. Say: **Here's another time Jesus was a friend. There were lots of people with Jesus, and they were hungry. Show me how you rub your tummy when you're hungry.** Pause for children to respond. **Jesus was a good friend and wanted to help the people—but where was some food?**

Ask: • **Who shared his lunch?** (The little boy.)

• **What did he have in his basket?** (Bread; fish; lunch.)

Say: **Let's peek in the boy's basket.** Allow pairs of children to pull out two crackers to eat. Then have them touch Jesus' beard and say, "Thank you, Jesus."



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



**BIBLE POINT** ▶



When everyone has had a turn, say: ▶ ***Jesus is our friend.***  
**Jesus is our best friend. Jesus teaches us to help our friends and to share. I'm so happy that ▶ *Jesus is our friend.* Now let's share a song.**



Consider putting the crackers in a small plastic bag or lining the box with plastic wrap before filling it with the snack.

## ■ Sharing Song

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, small fish-shaped crackers, other small crackers



Before class, remove the *surprise ball* and *gift box* from the Learning Lab. Fill the box with small fish-shaped crackers. Keep the box lid off.

Using the *CD* (track 8), lead children in singing the “Sharing Song” to the tune of

“Jesus Loves Me.” Lead the children in doing the motions in parentheses.



**I will share a smile with you.** (*Make a big smile.*)  
**I will share a hug with you.** (*Hug someone.*)  
**I will share my love with you.** (*Put your hand on your heart.*)  
**That is what a friend can do.** (*Point to a friend.*)

**Yes, I will share.** (*Nod your head.*)  
**Yes, I will share.** (*Nod your head.*)  
**Yes, I will share.** (*Nod your head.*)  
**That's what a friend can do.** (*Point to a friend.*)

(Repeat.)

Have children wash their hands and sit in a circle on the floor. Show children the *gift box*. Say: **That was a fun song about sharing! Friends share with each other, don't they? ▶ *Jesus is our friend.* He loves to help us and give us everything we need. We've been learning about ways that Jesus helped people when he was on earth. One time, Jesus helped his friends when they were hungry. He gave them some fish and bread.**

Ask: • **What do you think Jesus' friends said when Jesus gave them something to eat?** (Thank you!)

• **What do you say when someone gives you something?** (Thank you!)

Say: **That's right! It's important to say thank you when someone is nice to you! Let's practice being nice and saying thank you right now.**

Remind children how Jesus gave his friends fish to eat. Explain that you'll go around the circle and offer each child a fish cracker from the *gift box*. Tell children to be sure to say thank you after taking a cracker.

After everyone has eaten a cracker, say: **Thank you for saying thank you! What nice manners! Let's practice saying thank you some more.**

Refill the *gift box* with another type of small cracker to represent bread. This time, let children carefully pass the box around the circle themselves. Encourage children to each take a cracker and then offer the box to the next person. Tell children to be sure to say thank you when their neighbor offers them a cracker. When the box comes back to you, place it out of sight.



**BIBLE POINT** ▶



Say: ► ***Jesus is our friend.*** He gives us everything we need and he takes care of us. Remember how we learned that he healed the sick little girl? Jesus helps us in so many ways! Let's think of things we can say "thank you" to Jesus for. We can thank him for giving us food and making us well when we're sick and giving us families and for houses to live in and bright sunshine to enjoy. Think of one thing you can thank Jesus for.

Roll the *surprise ball* to a child in the circle, and have that child say one thing he or she is thankful to Jesus for. Then have the child roll the ball back to you. Repeat the process until you've rolled the ball to everyone in the circle. (Be sure you thank Jesus for something, too!)

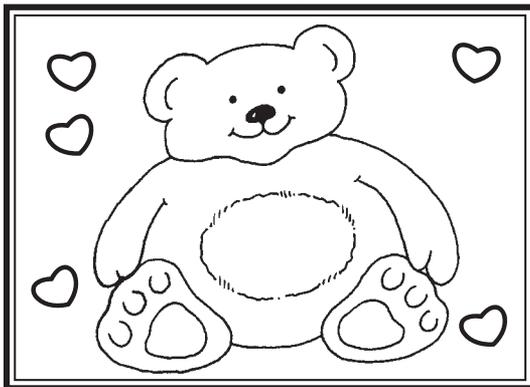
End by praying: **Thank you, Jesus, for being our friend! We love you! Amen.**

Say: **Now let's share some fun with our friend Cuddles.**

## Bible Activities

### ■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

**SUPPLIES:** heart patterns (p. 124); tape



Before class, photocopy the hearts from the pattern. Be sure to make enough copies so each child will have one. Cut out the patterns.



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

- **Cuddles:** Hello, everyone. What have you been learning today?
- **Teacher:** Hi, Cuddles. We've been learning about our best friend.
- **Cuddles:** I wish *I* had a best friend. That would be lots of fun.
- **Teacher:** But you *do* have a best friend, Cuddles. We all do. Children, can you tell Cuddles who our best friend is?
- *Lead children in saying, "Jesus is our best friend."*
- **Cuddles:** Oh, boy! I have a best friend! I'm glad Jesus is my best friend!
- **Teacher:** We're happy, too. Would you like to help us with the bulletin board, Cuddles?
- **Cuddles:** Yes, I would. I like to help. Friends help each other, you know—and friends share things.

**Teacher:** Yes, Cuddles. Friends help and share. And we have something to share with the bear. Let's share our love with him by giving him some paper hearts!

*Let children come to the bulletin board and pat the bear. Have Cuddles pat the bear, too. Help them each tape a heart to the bulletin board.*

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When all the children have taped a heart to the board, say: **Sharing with friends is fun. The little boy shared his lunch with Jesus, and we can share, too. We showed the bear that he is our friend and we love him by sharing our paper hearts with him. We love Jesus, too, because ► Jesus is our friend.**



## ■ Sing It Out

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Using the CD (track 8), lead children in singing the "Sharing Song" to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Lead the children in doing the motions in parentheses.



**I will share a smile with you.** (*Make a big smile.*)  
**I will share a hug with you.** (*Hug someone.*)  
**I will share my love with you.** (*Put your hand on your heart.*)  
**That is what a friend can do.** (*Point to a friend.*)

**Yes, I will share.** (*Nod your head.*)  
**Yes, I will share.** (*Nod your head.*)  
**Yes, I will share.** (*Nod your head.*)  
**That's what a friend can do.** (*Point to a friend.*)

(Repeat.)

## ■ Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** purple, yellow, and other colors of construction paper; scissors; drinking straws; tape

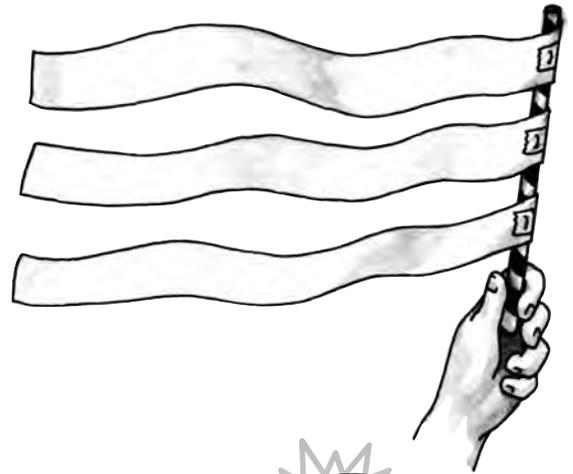
Before class, cut long strips of construction paper to use as streamers. You'll need purple and yellow construction paper and a few extra colors.

Gather children at the table. Hand each child a plastic drinking straw. Set the streamers and tape on the table. Hold up a purple streamer. Say: **It's nice to know that ► Jesus is our friend.**

**Purple reminds us of Jesus.** Hold up a yellow streamer.

**Yellow is the color of friendship.** Hold up your favorite color of streamer. **And [name of color] is my favorite color. I'll tape these streamers to a straw to remind me that Jesus and I are best friends!**

Tape your streamers to the straw. Help each child tape a purple streamer, a yellow streamer, and a streamer of his or her favorite color to a straw. Let the children wave their streamers in the air and use them in the following game.



**teacher tips**

For extra fun, lead children on a special friendship march around the room. Have each child stand beside a friend. As you march around the room waving your streamers, sing the "Sharing Song" without the CD. (Words are on page 120.)

## ■ Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** bandage, fish, bread, and spot patterns (p. 124); scissors; paper; tape; streamers from previous activity



Before class, photocopy the bandage, fish, bread, and spot patterns from the end of this lesson. Cut out the patterns, and tape each one to a half sheet of paper. Then tape the papers to the floor about three feet apart.

Hold up the StoryBoard. Say: **Let's play a game to remember how Jesus helped his friends. When I point to a Bible story picture, you can hop to the correct picture on the floor and wave your streamers.**

Point to the following pictures:

- the boy with the basket (Children should stand on bread or fish pictures.)
- the men's bandages (Children should stand on bandage pictures.)
- the spots on the men's hands (Children should stand on the spot pictures.)
- the crowd of 5,000 (Children should stand on the bread or fish pictures.)
- the little girl (Guide little ones toward the bandage pictures reminding them that Jesus made the little girl feel better just as he helped the men with the spots.)

If you have time, allow each child to have a turn pointing to a StoryBoard picture.

When you've finished playing, say: **It's fun to know that ► Jesus is our friend. Now let's share a snack with our friends.**



## Closing

### ■ Friendly Faces

**SUPPLIES:** paper towels, graham crackers, mini chocolate chips, plastic knives, icing

Have children clean their hands. Gather children at the snack table. Hand each child a paper towel. Make a smiley-face cracker by spreading icing on a graham cracker and adding mini chocolate chips for facial features. As you work, say: ► **Jesus is our friend. He helps us and shares with us and loves us. Jesus makes us smile.** Hold up your cracker with the friendly face. **See? ► Jesus is our friend, and that makes us smile. Before we have our snacks, let's fold our hands and say a prayer.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for our friend Jesus. Amen.** Help children make smiley-face crackers for their snack.

Send the streamers and chalk-and-crayon pictures home with the children.



See page 5.



## 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.

### ■ *My Special Friend Song*

Without using the CD, sing “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.



### ■ *Friendship Rhyme*

Do this action rhyme with the children. Once the children have learned the rhyme and the accompanying actions, repeat the rhyme often. Toddlers love repetition!

**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.*)

# Patterns

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

