



SERIES OVERVIEW

God created us for friendships. He wants us to have friends, and He wants us to be a good friend to others. In fact, He wants it so much, God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to show us how to be a good friend and make a way for us to be friends with Him forever.

Through children's early relationships, they are learning how to be a friend, have fun with friends, get along with friends, problem solve with friends, resolve conflict with friends, and above all, love friends. This month, we hope children will learn that Jesus is their friend — the best friend they will ever have!

WEEKLY MAIN POINTS

Week 1: Jesus is a good friend.

Week 2: We can praise Jesus.

WEEK 3: GOD SENT JESUS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

Week 4: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

WEEKLY BIBLE STORIES

Week 1: Washing Feet • John 13:3-17

Week 2: Palm Sunday • Matthew 21:1-16

WEEK 3: EASTER • MATTHEW 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7

Week 4: Breakfast with Jesus • John 21:1-14

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

"A friend (*point to others*)
loves (*hug yourself*)
at all times." (*circle arms overhead*)
Proverbs 17:17, NIRV (*open hands like a book*)

KID CONNECT

KID CONNECT is all about eGROUP CONNECTIONS: for you to make connections with your eGroup and for the kids to make connections with each other. It's okay if you don't complete all the activities - some activities will work better for your group than others. Begin Kid Connect when doors open.

KEY QUESTION

Who is your friend?
(*Jesus is my friend.*)

MAIN POINT

God sent Jesus to be
my friend forever.

BIBLE STORY

Easter
Matthew 26:20-30;
27:45-50; 28:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

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COLORING

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: crayons, giant coloring page set (16 pages), coloring page key (1), Quest check-in sheet (1)

What you do: Place the crayons in the center of the circle and give each child a page from the coloring page set. Explain that after they color, children will put all the pieces from the set together to form one big picture! **Write children's names and tag numbers on the Quest check-in sheet as children arrive.**

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Instruct children to color their coloring page. As children color, get to know them by asking what they have done today or what they are going to do.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Ask children to help you arrange the pages they colored with any unused coloring pages from the set to form one large picture. Use the key to help assemble the big picture if needed. **Keep the large picture assembled to use in the next Kid Connect activity: I Spy.**

KID CONNECT

I SPY

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: coloring sheets from previous activity, finger pointer (1)

What you say: "Wow! This is a big picture! There are some smaller things hidden in our big picture. Let's see if we can find them all!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Explain children will look for hidden objects in the big picture. When they see the object you call out, they should raise their hand. As children raise their hands, choose one child to use the finger pointer to show the rest of the group where it can be found. When there is more than one of the same object, a child should point out just one of them and then let another child have a turn. Continue until all objects have been found.

What you say: "All right, let's see if you can find..."

- "One pitcher of lemonade!"
- "Two bags of marshmallows!"
- "Three burgers!"
- "Four hot dogs!"
- "Five ants!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Set the coloring pages aside until the end of the worship experience. Children may take home the part of the picture they colored. Any leftover pages should be discarded.

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GROUP CONNECT

PACKING YOUR PICNIC

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: no supplies

What you do: Seat children in a circle.

What you say: "Happy Easter, friends! This month we're learning all about the best friend we will ever have! Do you know who that is? (*Jesus*) That's right; Jesus! On Easter, we celebrate because God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. Before we hear more about that, let's meet all the friends in our eGroup!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Encourage each child to say his/her name to the eGroup. After all children have been introduced, pass out a Quest animal sticker to each child. Have each child place it next to their name tag.

What you say: "We are the (insert animal name) today! There are two very special rules to remember so we can have the most fun. The rules to follow are:

1. Be Safe - How can we be safe? (*keeping our hands to ourselves, sitting when others are sitting, walking instead of running, following the rules*)
2. Be Kind - How can we be kind? (*listening when others are talking, sharing, obeying leaders, sitting on our bottoms so others can see*)

If you can obey our special rules and are ready to have fun then put one hand in the middle and repeat after me:

I am (*allow response*)

a (insert animal group name) (*allow response*)

I will (*allow response*)

be kind and safe! (*allow response*)

On the count of three everyone, say 'Go (insert animal name)!'

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . .

Go (insert group name)!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: "Now that we all know each other and we know the rules, we're ready to read our Bible story!"

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BIBLE CONNECT

BIBLE CONNECT is all about BIBLE CONNECTIONS: for kids to make connections with the Bible and learn to love the Bible! Children will make connections to the Bible in two ways: by hearing and talking about the Bible story and practicing the memory verse.

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EASTER MATTHEW 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: Bible story cards, Bible story stickers

What you say: "We can find true stories in God's book, the Bible! These Bible story cards can help us learn something important God tells us in the Bible."

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Show and read the Bible story using the Bible story cards. Ask the Bible story review questions. Each time a child answers a question correctly, give the child a sticker. If children can't remember the answer, take time as an eGroup to look back through the Bible story cards and find the answer together.

What you say: "Let's see how much you remember from our Bible story!"

1. "The Easter story begins with whose love for us?" (*God's*)
2. "God loves us so much that He sent His Son to Earth. Who is God's Son?" (*Jesus*)
3. "Did God send Jesus to be our friend forever or our father forever?" (*friend*)
4. "Where was Jesus praying before the angry people took Him away?" (*in a garden*)
5. "Did the angry people help Jesus or hurt Jesus?" (*hurt*)
6. "After Jesus died, where did they put His body?" (*in a tomb*)
7. "How many days was Jesus' body in the tomb?" (*three days*)
8. "When Jesus' friends came to the tomb three days later, was Jesus' body still there?" (*no*)
9. "Was His body missing or was Jesus alive?" (*He was alive.*)
10. "Because Jesus is alive, can He be our friend forever?" (*yes*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: "Easter is a celebration because Jesus is alive, and God sent Him to be our friend forever! Who is your friend?" (*Jesus is my friend.*)

BIBLE CONNECT

During the memory verse activity children will learn and practice the Bible verse together. **AFTER THE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY, all eGROUPS TRANSITION TO FREE PLAY.**

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VERSE VOICES

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: no supplies

What you say: "Our Bible verse tells us that real friends will always love us!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Say the memory verse and do the motions in front of the children. After showing them once, encourage children to practice the memory verse with you using different voices. You can use all of the voice options or choose a few, depending on time and interest.

What you say: "I am going to say our memory verse. Everyone watch me! (*Demonstrate the memory verse as shown in the sidebar.*) Now let's do it all together! Are you ready? (*Say the memory verse with the motions several times.*) Now let's try the verse in some silly voices!"

- "Say the verse in a **quiet** voice, like an ant sneaking onto a picnic blanket!"
- "Say the verse in a **silly** voice, like you're trying to talk with a mouth full of food!"
- "Say the verse super **fast**, like a bee buzzing by the picnic blanket!"
- "Say the verse in an **excited** voice, like you just found your favorite dessert in the picnic basket!"
- "Say the verse in a **loud** voice, like you're yelling to a friend who is sitting on another picnic blanket!"
- "Say the verse in a **sad** voice, like you just realized all the picnic food is gone!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: "Great job, friends! Good friends love each other no matter what. Since Jesus is the best friend ever, we can trust that He will always love us!"

What you do: Tell children they will have the opportunity to say the memory verse on their own during Free Play. Each child who can say the memory verse correctly will get a sticker and will then get to choose a prize before they leave!

YOU CONNECT

YOU CONNECT is about the eGroup leader (**YOU!**) helping children make connections with the main point and their lives. You Connect activities reinforce the main point with fun and engaging activities. **BEGIN YOU CONNECT AFTER LARGE GROUP.**

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EASTER CELEBRATION

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: Easter crowns (1 per child), crayons

What you say: "On Easter, we celebrate that Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend forever! I'm going to give each of you a special Easter crown to wear today, but before we put them on, we're going to color them while we review the Easter story!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Give each child an Easter crown and place the crayons in the center of the circle where every child can reach them.

Tell children you will tell them which parts of the picture to color as you review the Easter story. Read the instructions below one at a time and encourage children to color their crowns as directed.

What you say: "Let's make our special Easter crowns look great while we review the Easter story together!"

- "One night, Jesus was in a garden praying. He was talking to God because He was scared. He knew He would have to do something really hard. But He did it anyway because He loves us! Let's all color the garden together."
- "While Jesus was in the garden, a group of angry soldiers came and took Jesus away. Let's all color the soldiers together."
- "The angry soldiers took Jesus away. They hurt Jesus, and He died on a cross. It was a very sad day. Let's all color the cross together."
- "After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb on the side of a mountain. His body was in the tomb for three days. Let's all color the tomb together."
- "Three days after Jesus died, His friends went to the tomb and found something amazing. The giant, heavy stone that had been covering the door to the tomb was rolled away from the entrance ... and Jesus' body wasn't inside! Let's all color the stone together."
- "Jesus' friends were scared at first, but then an angel appeared to tell them Jesus wasn't there because He was alive again! Let's all color the angel together."
- "Now Jesus' friends were happy! They couldn't wait to tell all their other friends that Jesus was alive! Let's all color Jesus' friends together."
- "Every year on Easter, we celebrate that Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! Let's all color Jesus together."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: "Today we are celebrating because Jesus is alive! We can keep celebrating this good news every day, because God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. Who is your friend? (*Jesus is my friend.*) Let's bow our heads and close our eyes and thank God for our awesome friend, Jesus. *Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. He is the best friend we will ever have, and we love celebrating Him today! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.*"

What you do: Help children put on their Easter crowns by securing the crowns around their heads using the adhesive strips.

DISMISSAL

QUEST DISMISSAL CARD GAMES

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: Quest playing cards

What you do: Choose one of the card games to play with your group as parents arrive to pick children up.

CATCH OLLIE

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Deal the cards evenly among the children by placing cards in a face-down pile in front of each child. Stack any extra cards face-up in the center of the group.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Instruct children to take turns turning over the top card from their pile and placing the card face-up in the middle of the group. The next child will do the same by placing the card from the top of their personal pile on top of the card in the center. Play continues this way until someone turns over an Ollie card on top of the center pile. When the children see Ollie, they will compete to be the first to "catch" Ollie by covering the card with their hand. The child who catches Ollie first takes all the cards from the middle and puts them at the bottom of their stack. A child wins when they have collected all of the cards! (NOTE: If time runs out or if children are disengaging with the game, the player with the most cards can be declared the winner.)

FACE-OFF

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: Quest playing cards (1 deck)

What you do: Deal the whole deck of cards evenly among all children. Each child should have a small stack of cards face-down on the floor in front of them.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Instruct children to flip over their top card and place it on the floor close to the center of the circle. The highest card (two is lowest; ace is highest) wins that hand and takes the cards from the center. These cards can be added to their personal stack. Continue having children flip over their top card and allowing the child with the highest cards to take all the cards from the center. When a child runs out of cards, the child is out. The player to collect all the cards first is the winner!

If two people both play the card with the highest value, they will compete in a "face-off." Each child will lay down three cards, face-down, and then flip the fourth card face-up. The highest cards wins all the cards played!

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DISMISSAL

MATCHING

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Spread out the playing cards face-up and encourage children to help you find 10 matching pairs of cards. Set aside the other playing cards; they will not be used in the game.

Seat children in a circle. Shuffle the matching pairs together and lay them face-down in the center of the eGroup in a 4-by-5 grid.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Children will take turns flipping over two cards. If the two cards match, the child can hold onto the two cards until the end of the game. If the two cards do not match, the child will return them to the same spots, face-down. The child with the most matches at the end wins!

eGL Note: If there are more than 10 children in the eGroup, split children into two smaller groups. Encourage children to help you create another set of 10 matching pairs of cards. Create another 4-by-5 card grid and allow each group to play with their own set of cards.

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