

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2025, Week 5

Today's Bible Story: Be a friend to one another.

Peter and Cornelius • *Acts 10; Romans 15:7*

Memory Verse: "Think and act as Jesus did." Philippians 2:5, NIRV

Key Question: Who shows you how to love others?

Bottom Line: Jesus shows me how to love others.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Additional Materials for Today's Activities Not in Bags

Partner Games

- Mr. Potato Heads Bin

Sing the Memory Verse

Bible Story Review- Full House

- gluesticks

Application Activity- Everyone in the House

- floor tape-make the shape of a house on the floor

Craft- Friendship Bracelets

- clear or floor tape

BEFORE Large Group Activities that you may want to do.

Partner Games

What You Need: “Partner Games” Activity Page, and Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head® games

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Fold and assemble both dice and secure with tape. Set up the Potato Heads, with the parts and die near each one. Ask children to line up at each of the toys.

During the Activity: Encourage children to roll the dice and add the body part it lands on to the toy. Allow one roll per child. Continue rolling back and forth until they complete their toys. Point out how different each toy looks.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come line up in front of one of the toys. These toys are called Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head because they look like a potato!”

During the Activity: “These potatoes are missing their parts! I want you to take turns rolling this special die to see which part to add. [Children’s names], step up and roll the dice! (*Pause.*) Pick that item out of your pile and add it to the toy. (*Pause.*) Good job! Go to the back of the line and the next friend in line, [children’s names], step up and roll the die. If you roll something that’s been added, roll the die again. (*Continue with each child.*) Wow! Your potato people look different!”

After the Activity: “Today in our Bible Story, we are going to hear how Jesus loves everyone, no matter what we look like or where we live. Jesus loves everyone! Let’s go!”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by calling on the children to point to different body parts. “[Child’s name], point to your head. (*Pause.*) [Child’s name], point to your nose.” Continue with each child. Repeat as desired.

After Large Group

1. Sing the Memory Verse

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Stand together with the children in an open area of the room. Review the Memory Verse and motions.

During the Activity: Lead children to sing the Memory Verse to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come gather here with me. Let's say our Memory Verse and do the motions together. 'Think (*point to head*) and act (*walk in place*) as Jesus did,' (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) Philippians 2:5. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!"

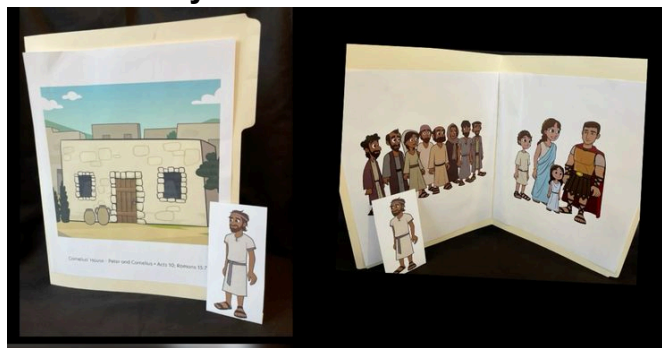
During the Activity: "Let's sing the Memory Verse together. To the tune of 'Mary Had a Little Lamb.' Listen to me sing, then we can sing together. Ready?"

"Think and act as Jesus did, Jesus did, Jesus did
Think and act as Jesus did.
Philippians 2:5.

"Great job! Let's sing it again. (*Repeat as desired.*) Let's say our Memory Verse one more time as we do the motions. 'Think (*point to head*) and act (*walk in place*) as Jesus did,' (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) Philippians 2:5." (*Open hands like a book.*)

After the Activity: "When we make peace with others, we're thinking and acting like Jesus because Jesus shows you and **[Bottom Line] Jesus shows me how to love others! Who shows you how to love others? [Bottom Line] Jesus shows me how to love others!**"

2. Bible Story Review- Full House



What You Need: “Full House” and “Full House Card” Activity Pages, glue sticks, standard file folders, and a permanent marker

What You Do:

During the Activity: Encourage children to make Cornelius’ house by gluing the house picture to the outside of their folder. Ask children to open their folders and glue the picture of Cornelius’ friends to the left side and family to the right side. Give each child a Peter cutout to go with the house they made. Show the children how they can open their folder just enough to make them stand up or they can play with them flat. Use the Peter cutout as you review the story with the children.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey, everyone! Come sit with me! We are going to make a house!”

During the Activity: “In our Bible Story today, Peter went to Cornelius’ house. That means we need to make a house! *(Give each child a folder and the set of pictures.)* Find the picture of the house and glue it to the front of your folder like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Great! Next, open your folder like a book and glue the picture of Cornelius’ friends on the left side. *(Point.)* And glue his family on the right side. *(Point.)* Now all you need is Peter! *(Give each child a Peter cutout.)* Let’s use Peter and the house we made while we talk about the story. *(Demonstrate with your house folder and Peter as you review the story.)*

(Stand the house up and hold Peter away from the house.) “Jesus showed Peter that to love like Jesus means to love everyone and be a friend to everyone. Later, a man named Cornelius invited Peter to his house. Cornelius was different than Peter, but Peter knew that to love like Jesus means to love everyone and be a friend to everyone. So, Peter went to Cornelius’ house. *(Move Peter to the house.)*

“When Peter got to Cornelius’ house, he went inside. *(Open the house and walk Peter inside.)* Many of Cornelius’ friends and family had come to his house when they heard that Peter was coming. Even though the people were different than Peter, Peter told everyone that Jesus loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever! Move your Peter picture around to tell everyone in the house that Jesus loves you and Jesus wants to be your friend forever!” *(Repeat as desired.)*

After the Activity: “Jesus loves people no matter what language they speak, no matter where they live, no matter what they look like. Jesus loves everyone, and Jesus wants to be everyone’s friend forever! Now it’s our turn to love others and be a friend to everyone! I’m so glad Jesus shows us how to love others. **Who shows you how to love others? [Bottom Line] Jesus shows me how to love others! Yay, Jesus!**”

3. Application Activity- Everyone in the House

What You Need: Painter's tape, and heart stamps

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Create a small square or house shape on the floor with tape. Make sure the house is large enough to fit all the children snugly but not with extra space. Gather heart stickers or stamps.

During the Activity: Encourage children to work together to make sure everyone fits inside the house at the same time. Ask children to step into the house carefully, helping one another and making room for everyone. Once everyone is inside, celebrate their teamwork and give each child a heart sticker or stamp as a reminder that they are loved and included. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

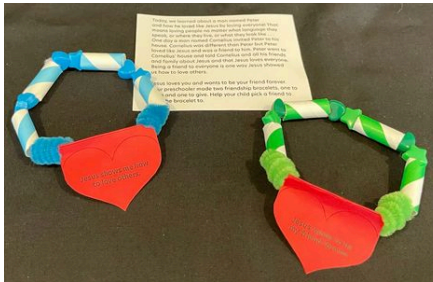
What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand around this square on the floor. We can pretend it's a house."

During the Activity: "Jesus showed Peter that He loves everyone—even people who are different from us. Let's play a fun game where we all work together to fit into one house, just like when Peter went to Cornelius' house! Step into the house carefully and help each other. *(Pause.)* Wow, you're all working together so well to fit into the house! Isn't it great to know that everyone can be included and loved? Here's a special heart sticker/stamp for each of you to remind you that Jesus loves everyone, and we should, too!"

After the Activity: "You all did such a great job making sure everyone was included in the house. When we love everyone, no matter how different they are, we are loving like Jesus taught us. In our Bible Story today, we learned that being a friend to everyone is one way Jesus showed us how to love others. So, tell me: **Who shows you how to love others? [Bottom Line] Jesus shows me how to love others!** Let's say it together one more time. **Who shows you how to love others? [Bottom Line] Jesus shows me how to love others!**"

4. Craft- Friendship Bracelets



What You Need: “Friendship Bracelets” and “Friendship Fun at Home” Activity Pages, paper straws/cut straws, pipe cleaners, paper plates, tape, resealable bags, and a permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Give each child a bag with hearts, parent note, pipe cleaners, and cut straws in them. Tape one end of a straight pipe cleaner piece to each child’s plate, two per plate. Write each child’s name on their resealable bag.

During the Activity: Encourage children to pick a handful of “beads” and thread them onto their pipe cleaner along with a heart. Help twist the ends of each pipe cleaner together to make a bracelet. Guide each child to make two bracelets. Put child’s bracelets in their bag and send them home with a note.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come over and sit with me at the table. We’re going to make something super special today. We’re going to make two friendship bracelets—one for you to keep and one for you to give away!”

During the Activity: “Take a handful of straw pieces and put them on your plate. Thread them onto your pipe cleaner and add one heart cutout to each. *(Pause.)* Your bracelets look so nice! Let me twist the ends together to make your bracelets. *(Pause.)* Hooray! Put your bracelets into your bag to take home. You can keep one to wear and give your other bracelet to a friend.”

After the Activity: “Today we heard a Bible Story about when Jesus taught His friend Peter what it means to love everyone. Jesus told Peter that He loves everyone—no matter what language they speak, no matter where they live, no matter what they look like. Jesus loves everyone, and Jesus wants to be everyone’s friend forever! And if Jesus loves everyone, Peter should love everyone, too. One day, a man named Cornelius invited Peter to his house. Cornelius was different than Peter. Peter loved like Jesus and was a friend to Cornelius. Peter went to Cornelius’ house and saw Cornelius and all his friends and family! Peter told them about Jesus and that Jesus loves everyone. Being a friend to everyone is one way Jesus showed us how to love others. You can be a friend and share one of your bracelets! **Who shows you how to love others? [Bottom Line] Jesus shows me how to love others.”**

5. Journal and Prayer

What You Need: a journal, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or handstamp

What You Do:

Encourage children to pretend they are driving a racecar to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions. Then encourage children to help you make a list of friends in the journal.

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It’s Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are driving race cars to our Small Group spot. Are you ready? Start your engines! VROOM! VROOM! Follow me! (*Pretend to drive a racecar as you lead the children to your spot.*) Put on your brakes! We’re here! Let’s sit down so we can talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me.”

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) “In our Bible Story today, Peter went to Cornelius’ house. Peter probably walked. Do you think he would have liked driving a racecar? (*Pause.*) I do, too! Peter went to Cornelius’ house, even though Cornelius was different than Peter, because Jesus showed Peter that Jesus loves everyone. One way we can love people is by being their friend. Peter went to Cornelius’ house and was a friend to everyone there because Jesus showed him how to love others. I’m so glad Jesus shows us how to love others! **Who shows you how to love others? [Bottom Line] Jesus shows me how to love others!**

“And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember to ‘think (*point to head*) and act (*walk in place*) as Jesus did,’ (*tap finger to middle of each palm*). That means we will love like Jesus and be a friend to everyone! Let’s stand up and say our Bible verse together. Just say what I say and do what I do! ‘Think (*point to head*) and act (*walk in place*) as Jesus did,’ (*tap finger to middle of each palm*) Philippians 2:5. (*Open hands like a book.*) Wow! You sound like you’re ready to try and say that verse by yourself! I want everyone to sit down, and we will take turns saying it. Who wants to go first? I have my stickers/hand-stamp ready! Way to go, [child’s name]! (*Give two thumbs up.*) Here is a sticker/stamp for you! (*Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*) I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/stamp. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Yay! (*Clap.*)

“Now let’s sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Peter loved like Jesus and was a friend to Cornelius and Cornelius’ friends and family, even though they were different than Peter. Let’s make a list of people we can love and be a friend to in our journal, and then we will use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one person you can be a friend to, and I will write it in our journal.” (*Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

After the Activity: “Look at all these people! (*Hold up the journal.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love everyone. Thank You that Jesus is a good friend to everyone. Please help (*say each child’s name*) be a friend to (*read the list*) so they can love others the way Jesus shows us how to love others. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”