

FOCUS

DAY
FIVE

FOCUS VBS

PRESCHOOL
SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

**Look for ways to love
people like Jesus.**

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40;

1 Corinthians 13

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus."

Hebrews 12:2, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.**

1. LOVE PARACHUTE

WHAT YOU NEED: Foam hearts or cut-out paper hearts and a sheet or towel

WHAT YOU DO:

Place the hearts in the middle of the sheet or towel. Help the children hold the edges of the sheet or towel and make the hearts fly into the air and then land on the towel or sheet again. Continue as long as there is interest. For older children, say "Jesus wants to be my friend forever" as you bounce the hearts.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus loves everyone all the time! We should show love to others, too! We're going to use this parachute and hearts to help us to remember that Jesus loves us SO much and we can love others the way Jesus loves us. And that's a lot of love like all of these hearts. Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever.

Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

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JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Open the Bible and lay it where the children can see it.)

"Our story today was about something very, very important that Jesus taught us to do. Listen and see if you can remember what it was.

"Did Jesus teach us to love people the way bears love honey? *(Pause.)*

"Noooo. Did Jesus teach us to love people the way bees love flowers? *(Pause.)*

"Nooo. Did Jesus teach us to love people the way He loves us? *(Pause.)*

"YES! Jesus said the most important thing we can do is love people the way He loves us! And Jesus loves us A LOT because He wants to be our friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

"Okay, let's write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Today we are going to make a list of ways we can love people the way Jesus loves us. Jesus says kind words to us. He forgives us. He teaches us what is best. He helps us. Jesus really is the best at loving us!

"So, tell me one way you can love people the way Jesus loves you, and I'll write it down."

(Write down what everyone says.)

"Look at this list! All of these are wonderful ways to love people the way Jesus loves us. Let's use it when we pray."

PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that He wants to be our friend forever. Please help us love people the way Jesus loves us by doing things like *(read the list you made)*. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



HOME ACTIVITY | DAY 5

Bible Story: Look for ways to love people like Jesus. | The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Memory Verse: "Let us keep looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:2, NIV

1. LOOK AT THOSE GLASSES

What You Need: paper plates (one per child); a pencil; scissors; heart stickers or heart stamps; crayons or markers; yarn

What You Do:

- On paper plate, starting at the outer edge, draw a two-inch wide spiral into the center of the plate with a pencil. This line marks where the plate will be cut after decorating to create the spiral.
- Cut the yarn into 12 inch lengths. You will need one per child.
- Once children are finished decorating, use the scissors to cut along the pencil line on the plate to create a spiral.
- Tape one end of the yarn to the top of the spiral.

What You Say:

Today we're learning to look for ways to love people like Jesus. Let's make a wind spinner to remind us that Jesus loves us and He wants us to spread His love to others too. As you add stickers and colors, be sure not to cover the line on your plate so we can't see it. I will make a careful cut along that line as you finish decorating. Let's also add a piece of yarn at the top for hanging. Where should we hang your spinner?

*"Every time you watch this spinner spin around and around, I want you to think about showing love to all the people around you just as Jesus loves you! Tell me: **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"*

