**The Calling of the Disciples**

**Bible Story:** The Calling of the Disciples • *Luke 15:1-11; 27-32*

**Bible Story Focus:** I belong because Jesus loves me.

**Memory Verse:** “Love each other as I have loved you.” *John 15:12 (NIV)*

**Key Question:** Who loves you?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus loves me.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Check In: 5:45-6**

**Worship: 6-6:30** Worship with K-5 in the fellowship hall

**Make It Fun Centers 6:30-7**

**Let’s Pretend**

*Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning*

**What You Need:** masking tape or painter’s tape, toy fishing rods, small fish nets, toy fish (or paper fish cut outs), paper play money

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Use the tape to make a boat outline on the floor.

*During the Activity:*

* Use the boat outline and other story props to act out the different things Jesus did in the story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Everyone come get in this boat with me! *(Step inside the boat outline.)* We are going to talk about today’s Bible story.”

*During the Activity:*

“Jesus loves everyone. And He showed that He loves everyone when He chose His disciples—the people who would be His special helpers.

“First, Jesus went to where the fishing boats were. That’s why we’re in this pretend boat. And why you need these fishing rods and nets. *(Pass out the fishing rods and nets.)* Now you can pretend to go fishing like Peter, Andrew, James, and John. *(Spread the toy/paper fish on the floor around the boat.)* Now it probably surprised everyone in town when Jesus chose fishermen to be His friends. Fishermen were not fancy people at all. In fact, they were dirty and smelled like fish. But Jesus loves everyone, and He wants all people to be His friend. So, Jesus told Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him. And they did! Okay, how are you doing? Are you catching any fish?

*(Step out of the boat and leave all of the fishing props inside the tape outline of the boat.)*

“Another person Jesus loved and wanted to be friends with really surprised everyone! His name was Matthew, and he was a tax collector. You will need some play money for this part of the story. *(Give each child some paper money.)* Does everyone have some money? *(Look around)* A tax collector is someone who takes money from people. The problem was that Matthew worked for bad people, so no one in the town liked him very much. *(Start taking money from the children.)* I’ll take your money and your money and your money and yes, I’ll take your money too. I’ll take everyone’s money. But Jesus still wanted Matthew to be His friend, because He loves everyone. So, one day, Jesus walked up to Matthew and said, ‘Follow Me,’ and Matthew did!”

*After the Activity:*

“I am going to leave all of this paper money here so you can pretend to be Matthew the tax collector and the fishing toys will be over here if you want to pretend to be fishermen. The important thing to remember is that Jesus loves everyone, and He wants everyone to be His friend forever. And that means YOU too! **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Heart Lacing**

*Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts*

**What You Need:** “Heart Lacing Cards” Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, single hole punch, yarn pieces or shoelaces, clear tape

*Optional: jingle bells*

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Copy “Heart Lacing Cards” on cardstock and cut on dotted lines, one heart per child.
* You may choose to laminate these cards to make them more durable.
* Use the hole punch to punch out the holes along the edge of each card.
* Secure a shoelace or piece of yarn to each lacing card by running it through one hole and tying a knot at the end to secure.
* If using yarn, run a small piece of clear tape around the other end of the yarn to make it easier for children to run through the holes.
* Place the lacing cards and optional jingle bells on the table.

*During the Activity:*

* Encourage the children to weave the ends of the laces or yarn through the holes of their lacing cards in any pattern they choose.
* They may also choose one jingle bell to lace on their cards if provided.

*After the Activity:*

Be sure the child’s name is on each child’s heart and set them aside to take them home.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Time for some lacing fun! Take the end of your lace and run it through every hole all the way around your heart. You can even add a jingle bell.”

*After the Activity:*

“I LOVE your hearts! There is someone who LOVES you always. Do you know who it is? It’s Jesus! Jesus wants to be your friend forever! I’m so glad to know that ***[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Make It True 7-7:15**

Use the computer and TV to lead kids in a time of learning. Lead students to find a comfy spot to sit and help them watch our digital friends as they talk about today’s bible story.

**Snack 7:15-7:30**

**Make It Stick 7:30-8**

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today’s Bible story and Bottom Line. Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and let half the kids participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities

**Follow the Lines**

*Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts*

**What You Need:** “Follow the Lines to Jesus” Activity Page, cardstock, tape, gallon-sized zip-top bags, hair gel, several cookie sheets

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Copy “Follow the Lines to Jesus” on cardstock.
* You will need several copies.
* Tape an Activity Page to the center of each cookie sheet.
* Fill the zip-top bags with hair gel, push out the excess air, and securely seal the bags shut.
* Lay each gel bag flat on top of the Activity Page on the cookie sheet.
* Tape all four sides of the bag down with masking tape to secure.

*During the Activity:*

* Call for the children to gather around the cookie sheets on the tables.
* Encourage them to use their fingers to trace the lines from the disciples at the top of the page to Jesus at the bottom.

*After the Activity:*

* Collect all cookie sheets and move them out of reach of the children for clean-up.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Jesus had friends who followed Him called the disciples! Let’s see if we can trace the paths on these pages to get to Jesus at the bottom of the page like this.”

*After the Activity:*

“The disciples were so happy to follow Jesus because they knew He loved them and wanted to be their friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend forever too! He loves you and He loves me. That’s why we can follow Him. Tell me, **who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Sing It Memory Verse**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

Gather the children in your activity area. Review the Memory Verse and motions together.

*During the Activity:*

Lead the children to sing this month’s Memory Verse to the tune of “Three Blind Mice” as written below.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“We are learning a GREAT verse this week about how much Jesus loves us. Let’s say it together with the motions.

“Love each other *(hug yourself)*

as I *(point up)*

have loved you.” *(point thumbs to chest)*

John 15:12 *(open hands like a book)*

*During the Activity:*

(Lead children to sing the verse together. Repeat several times.)

*(To the Tune of “Three Blind Mice”)*

Love each other

Love each other

As I have loved you

As I have loved you

Love each other

Love each other

Love each other

As I have loved you.”

*After the Activity:* “Yay! Great job! Tell me, **who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**