

LIVE BIG.

October's B.i.G. Idea

Jesus is the Messiah and our friend forever.

October's Bible Verse

You are the Messiah.

(Matthew 16:16)

October's B.i.G. Theme

Jesus is the Messiah.

Lesson 7 ★ Jesus and the Children

Today's Bible Story

Mark 10:13-16

Objectives

- ★ Children will connect with the biblical story of Jesus welcoming and blessing the children.
- ★ Children will hear that Jesus is their friend and discover ways to build a relationship with Jesus.

"When Jesus Christ asked little children to come to him, he didn't say only rich children, or white children, or children with two-parent families, or children who didn't have a mental or physical handicap. He said, 'Let all children come unto me.'" —Marian Wright Edelman

"Don't bother Grandpa; he's reading the paper."
"Let Aunt Sara rest; she's tired."

We often say such words to young children when we feel that they are bothering others. We make statements like these because we want to teach young children to respect others and their personal belongings. And, indeed, teaching children to respect the privacy of others is vital for a child's well-being and the well-being of others.

In today's lesson the disciples felt that they were setting healthy limitations and respecting Jesus by stopping the parents from bringing their children to Jesus. They were not being mean to the parents, nor did they dislike children. They knew Jesus was tired and busy, so they felt that he should not be bothered.

Boy were they wrong! Jesus' response, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them" (Mark 10:14), tells us a great deal about Jesus' character. Jesus is saying that he's never too busy for you.

When it comes to being accessible to others—whether at work, church, or anywhere else—for our own well-being we must set limitations. But Jesus is always accessible. The only limits are the ones that we place on Jesus.

In today's lesson you will be providing opportunities for the children in your class to feel that Jesus loves them and thinks they are important. In short, you are letting them know that Jesus is accessible all the time. Just as you will read about parents bringing their children to Jesus, as a teacher you too are bringing little ones to Jesus. You are introducing them to the character of Jesus—who Jesus is, what Jesus thinks about the children in your class, how Jesus cares for them.

Think about your own life. How has Jesus been available to you? How has Jesus used family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers to make you feel welcome and accepted? Can you think of two specific examples? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

Now go and welcome the children in your class. Bring them to Jesus and let him touch their lives and bless them.

Activity

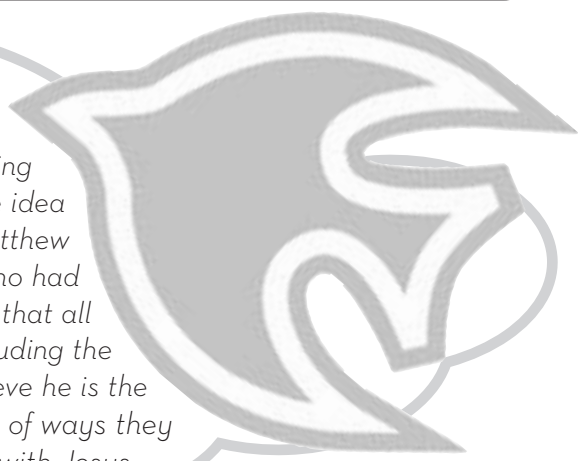
Supplies

Invite them in... (15 minutes)	<i>Resources appear in bold</i>
Welcome!	Stickers , Attendance Chart
Let's Go to Jesus	Leader—page 11 , crayons or markers
It's About Love	play dough, heart-shaped cookie cutters
Guess Who?	Kids' Book—page 2 , crayons, drinking straws or craft sticks, tape or glue, ribbons or crepe paper streamers
Follow the Hearts Transition	Kids' Book—page 2 , tape, construction paper, scissors
...Into the Bible (30 minutes)	
Hear the Bible Story	Bible, Leader—page 10
Backyard Time	DVD , DVD player, television
Just the Right Size	Leader—page 12 , heart sticks made earlier, crayons or markers
Praise Time	DVD , DVD player, television, heart sticks made earlier
...Into Life (15 minutes)	
You Are Welcome!	Kids' Book—page 1 , crayons, markers, stickers, or supplies for marbleizing (Leader—page 13)
Welcome to Snack Time	gingerbread people, napkins, cups, juice
A Game of Hearts	Kids' Book—page 1 , tape
Welcome to Our Room	Kids' Book—page 1 , mural paper, tape, markers, tissue paper, crepe paper streamers, glue

DVD Summary

Jesus and the Children

Mr. Zach leads off this lesson by describing Jesus' fondness of children, and he reinforces the idea that Jesus is the Messiah by having the children read Matthew 16:16. Later Mr. Z tells the story of Jesus blessing the children who had been told to stand back as he walked by, and Mr. Zach explains that all people, regardless of age or size, are important to Jesus. Concluding the scene, Mr. Z reaffirms the truth that followers of Jesus believe he is the Messiah, and he encourages the children to think of ways they can enrich their friendship with Jesus.



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The B.i.G. Idea

Jesus is the Messiah and our friend forever.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Welcome!

Supplies: Stickers, Attendance Chart

Do ★ Give each child a heart sticker (**Stickers**) to place on the Attendance Chart.

★ **Say:** Our Bible verse says, “*You are the Messiah*” (Matthew 16:16).

We know that Jesus is the Messiah, the one God chose. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be our friend forever.

Live B.i.G. Jesus shows us how much God loves each one of us.

Let's Go to Jesus

Supplies: Leader—page 11, crayons or markers

Prepare

★ Photocopy the maze for each child (**Leader page 11**).

Do ★ Let the children use crayons or markers to follow the path from the children to Jesus.

★ **Say:** Today our Bible story tells about a time when some children wanted to go to Jesus. What do you think happened when the children got to Jesus?

Live B.i.G. Jesus welcomed the children because Jesus wanted them to know God's love. Jesus wants you to know that God loves you.

It's About Love

Supplies: play dough, heart-shaped cookie cutters

Do ★ Let the children enjoy using the cookie cutters to make hearts in the play dough.

★ **Say:** Today our Bible story tells about a time when Jesus showed God's love to children. Jesus wants you to know how much God loves you.

Live B.i.G. Jesus shows us how much God loves each one of us.

Playing with play dough is familiar and will help the children feel comfortable.



Guess Who?

Supplies: Kids' Book—page 2, crayons, drinking straws or craft sticks, tape or glue, ribbons or crepe paper streamers

Prepare

- ★ Punch out the “Jesus is _____’s Friend” heart for each child (**Kids' Book—page 2**).

- Do**
- ★ Give each child a “Jesus is _____’s Friend” heart (**Kids' Book—page 2**). Encourage the child to choose a crayon of his or her favorite color. Let the child decorate the back of the heart with his or her favorite color.
 - ★ Help each child turn the heart over to the side with the writing. Use the child’s favorite color to write his or her name in the blank.
 - ★ Read the words along with each child’s name.
 - ★ Give each child a drinking straw or craft stick.
 - ★ Help each child glue or tape the heart onto a drinking straw or craft stick.
 - ★ Take each child’s heart stick and gently tap the child on the shoulder.
 - ★ **Say:** Guess who is a special friend of Jesus. You are!
 - ★ Give each child his or her heart stick.
 - ★ Help each child tie, tape, or glue ribbons or streamers to the heart stick.
 - ★ Set the heart sticks aside to use with the **DVD** music activity.

Live B.i.G. Jesus is the Messiah, the one God chose. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be (*child’s name*) friend forever. That means Jesus will always be your friend.

Follow the Hearts Transition

Supplies: Kids' Book—page 2, tape, construction paper, scissors

Prepare

- ★ Punch out the hearts from each book (**Kids' Book—page 2**).
- ★ Tape the hearts to the floor to make a path from the activity area to your story area.
- ★ If needed, use one of the heart punch-outs as a pattern to make additional hearts out of construction paper.

- Do**
- ★ Encourage the children to follow the path of hearts to the story area.
 - ★ **Say:** Jesus shows us how much God loves us. Let’s follow the hearts to our story area. Let’s hop as we follow the hearts. (*Encourage the children to hop.*)
 - ★ As the children hop repeat the following rhyme:
Hop on one foot, hop on two.
Jesus is our friend, it’s true!
 - ★ Have the children sit down in your story area.

Live B.i.G. We know that Jesus is the Messiah, the one God chose. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be our friend forever.

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Jesus is the Messiah and our friend forever.

Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Into the Bible

Hear the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible, Leader—page 10

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy Welcome, Welcome, Welcome to send home with each child (**Leader—page 10**).

Do ★ **Say:** (*While holding up the Bible*) I want you to help me tell today's Bible story. Each time I do a motion, repeat that motion after me. Let's practice. "Welcome, welcome, welcome!" (*Show the children how to wave "come here."*) Good job. Now let's listen to our Bible story.

- ★ Tell the children the story Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. Encourage the children to repeat the motions after you as they appear in the story.
- ★ **Say:** Jesus thinks each of you is special. He is never too busy to help you. He will always be your friend. Sometimes we call Jesus the *Messiah*, a special name for Jesus. Say *Messiah* with me. (*Let the children repeat the name Messiah.*) It means the one God chose. God chose Jesus to be our friend forever. Our Bible verse today is, "You are the Messiah" (Matthew 16:16).
- ★ Have the children repeat the Bible verse.
- ★ **Say:** Now we are ready to visit Mr. Z for Backyard Time. Do you think Mr. Z and Bongo will say our Bible verse again? Watch and listen. If they say our verse again, I want you to say it with them.

Live B.i.G. We know that Jesus is the Messiah, the one God chose. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be our friend forever.

Backyard Time

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

Do ★ Show the **DVD** (5 minutes).

Live B.i.G. We know that Jesus is the Messiah, the one God chose. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be our friend forever.

Just the Right Size

Supplies: Leader—page 12, heart sticks made earlier, crayons or markers

If you have a large group of children, let parents measure their children at home.



Prepare

- ★ Photocopy Backyard Time With Mr. Z for each child (**Leader—page 12**).

- Do**
- ★ Use the ruler printed on the side of the page to measure each child.
 - ★ Write each child's name and height in the spaces provided.
 - ★ Have the children sit down in a circle. Tape each child's page on the floor in front of each child. Let the child know that she or he is just the right size to be Jesus' friend.
 - ★ Give each child her or his heart stick.
 - ★ **Say:** Jesus is always our friend. Let's think about some ways we know Jesus is our friend. I'm going to say a sentence. If you think what I said is a way that Jesus is our friend, then wave your hearts in the air and shout, "yeah!"
 - ★ Read the following statements to the children. Encourage the children to wave their heart sticks and shout, "yeah!" as indicated.
 - ★ **Say:** Jesus shows us how much God loves us. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)
We can talk to Jesus anytime. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)
Jesus is our friend when we feel happy. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)
Jesus is our friend when we feel sad. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)
Jesus is our friend forever. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)
 - ★ **Say:** Now let's think about some ways we show that we are friends with Jesus.
One way we show that we are friends with Jesus is by being kind to others. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)
One way we show that we are friends with Jesus is by coming to church. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)
One way we show that we are friends with Jesus is by listening to Bible stories. (*Wave heart sticks and shout.*)

Live B.i.G. Jesus is always our friend.

Praise Time

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television, heart sticks made earlier

- Do**
- ★ Play the song "Jesus Is Our Friend" on the **DVD** (3 minutes).
 - ★ Encourage the children to wave their heart sticks each time the song says, "Jesus is our friend."

Live B.i.G. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be our friend forever. We thank God for Jesus.

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The B.i.G. Idea

Jesus is the Messiah and our friend forever.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Into Life

You Are Welcome!

Supplies: Kids' Book—page 1, crayons, markers, stickers, or supplies for marbleizing (Leader—page 13)

Prepare

- ★ Punch out the welcome card (Kids' Book—page 1) for each child.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Jesus welcomed all people—men, women, and children. Let's make cards for the visitors who come to our church to show that we welcome them and that we care about them.
- ★ Give each child a card. Read the card to the children. Help each child write his or her name inside the card.
 - ★ Let the children decorate their cards. They can decorate in a number of ways—with crayons, markers, stickers, or by marbleizing.
 - ★ As the children work, talk with them about how they feel when their family and friends welcome and show that they care for them. Talk about things people do to make the children feel welcome—a hug, a smile, a special treat, a snack, and so forth.
 - ★ Let the children know the cards they are making will help the visitors coming to their church feel welcomed too.
 - ★ When the cards are finished, collect them and fold them.
 - ★ Set aside a time when you will deliver the cards to the pastor or person responsible for recognizing visitors at your church. You can simply deliver the cards yourself or you can let the class deliver the cards. You could also ask the pastor or someone from the hospitality area to come to your class and let the class make a special presentation to that person.

Live B.i.G. Jesus welcomed the children and showed them God's love. We show God's love to others when we welcome visitors to our church.

Welcome to Snack Time

Supplies: gingerbread people, napkins, cups, juice

- Do** ★ Direct the children to a sink so they can wash their hands before eating the snack.

- ★ **Pray:** Thank you, God, for our friend, Jesus. Thank you for cookies and juice. Amen.
- ★ Let the children enjoy gingerbread cookies and juice.
- ★ **Say:** These cookies are shaped like children. In our Bible story today Jesus welcomed the children and showed them God's love.

Live B.i.G. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be our friend forever.

A Game of Hearts

Supplies: Kids' Book—page 1, tape

Prepare

- ★ Use the hearts (**Kids' Book—page 1**) you punched out earlier in the lesson.

- Do**
- ★ Let the children help you make a path with the hearts. Secure the hearts with tape.
 - ★ Write the letter "J" on the last heart. Tell the children that "J" is the first letter in the name Jesus.
 - ★ Let the children take turns moving along the hearts from start to finish to reach Jesus. Think of different ways to let the children move from start to finish.
 - ★ Example: (*Child's name*), gallop on the hearts until you reach Jesus.
 - ★ When the child reaches the finish say, "Jesus is (*Child's name*)'s friend."

Live B.i.G. Because God loves us, God chose Jesus to be our friend forever.

Welcome to Our Room

Supplies: Kids' Book—page 1, mural paper, tape, markers, tissue paper, crepe paper streamers, glue

Prepare

- ★ Use the hearts (**Kids' Book—page 1**) you punched out earlier in the lesson. You will not be able to use the hearts for any other activity after using them for this one.
- ★ Cut a piece of mural paper to fit on the door to your classroom.
- ★ Write, "Welcome!" across the paper.

- Do**
- ★ Place the mural paper on a table or the floor.
 - ★ Read the word, "Welcome!" to the children.
 - ★ **Say:** The Bible tells about how Jesus welcomed the children and showed them God's love. Let's put a sign on our door that says, "Welcome!" to our family and friends.
 - ★ Let the children glue pieces of colored tissue paper, crepe paper streamers, and the heart punch-outs to the mural paper.
 - ★ Mount the welcome sign on your door or wall.

Live B.i.G. Jesus welcomed the children and showed them God's love. We show God's love to others when we welcome our family and friends to our room.

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

by Karen Williams

Jesus helped people everywhere.
Jesus welcomed everyone. (Say *Yeaaaaa!*)
Welcome, welcome, welcome! (Wave, "Come here" and repeat words.)
Welcome, welcome, welcome!

Many parents saw Jesus praying for other people.
The parents wanted Jesus to bless their children too.
So the parents said,
"Bless! Bless! Bless!" (Fold hands together and repeat words.)
Bless! Bless! Bless!

Who did the parents want Jesus to touch and bless?
Children! Children! Children! (Hug yourself and repeat words.)
Children! Children! Children!

So the parents were happy when they saw Jesus!
The parents knew that Jesus would welcome the children.
Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! (Wave, "Come here" and repeat words.)
Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

But wait! The parents could not get close to Jesus.
The parents could not bring their children to Jesus. Do you know why? (Acknowledge any responses from the children, but do not pause for a response if the children are quiet.)

The disciples, Jesus' helpers, would not let them come to Jesus.
The disciples said to the parents, "No, no, no!" (Shake head, "no" and repeat words.)
No, no, no!

The disciples did not want the parents to bother Jesus. They thought Jesus was too busy.

But Jesus did not like what the disciples said.
Jesus did not want to hear the disciples say,

"No, no, no!" (Shake head, "no" and repeat words.)
No, no, no!

Jesus wanted to touch and bless the children because Jesus welcomed everyone.
(Say *Yeaaaaa!*)
So listen carefully to what Jesus said.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me! Do not stop them!"

Jesus said something else too. Jesus said,
"Children are very special to God. God welcomes all children. I welcome all children."
Welcome, welcome, welcome! (Wave, "Come here" and repeat words.)
Welcome, welcome, welcome!

And the parents were very happy and they said,
"Bless! Bless! Bless!" (Fold hands together and repeat words.)
Bless! Bless! Bless!

And whom did the parents want Jesus to touch and bless?
Children! Children! Children! (Hug yourself and repeat words.)
Children! Children! Children!

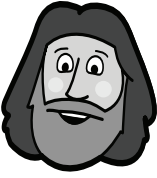
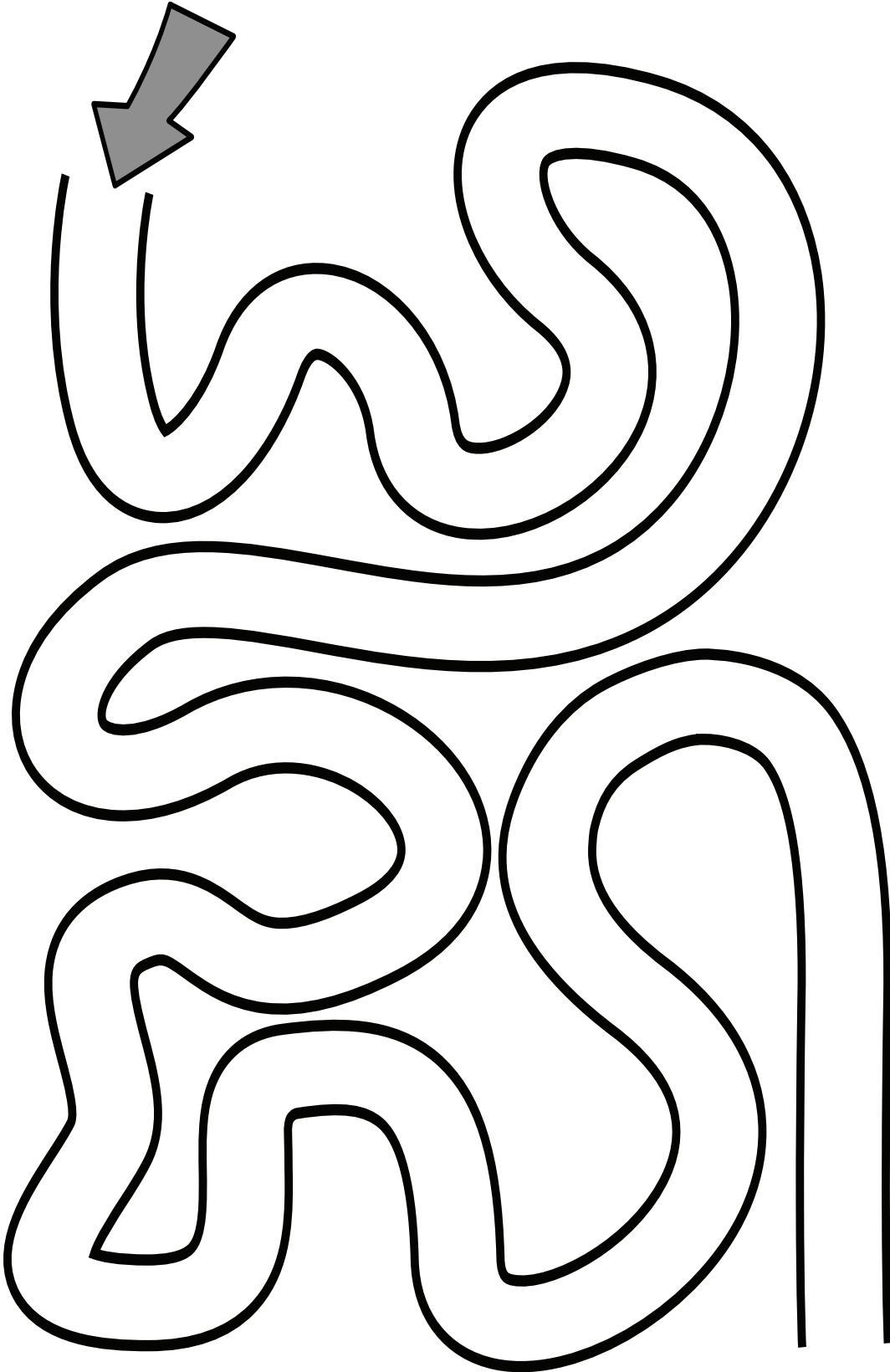
And that's what Jesus did! He welcomed all the children.
Welcome, welcome, welcome! Wave, "Come here" and repeat words.)
Welcome, welcome, welcome!

Now let's all say "Welcome, welcome, welcome!"
Wave, "Come here" and repeat words.)
Welcome, welcome, welcome!

Jesus welcomed everyone. (Say *Yeaaaaa!* With excitement. Encourage the children to say it with you.)

based on Mark 10:13-16

Let's Go to Jesus



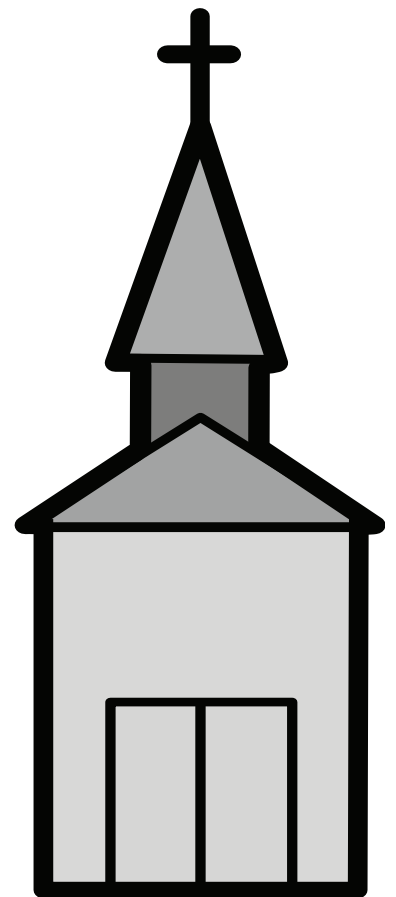
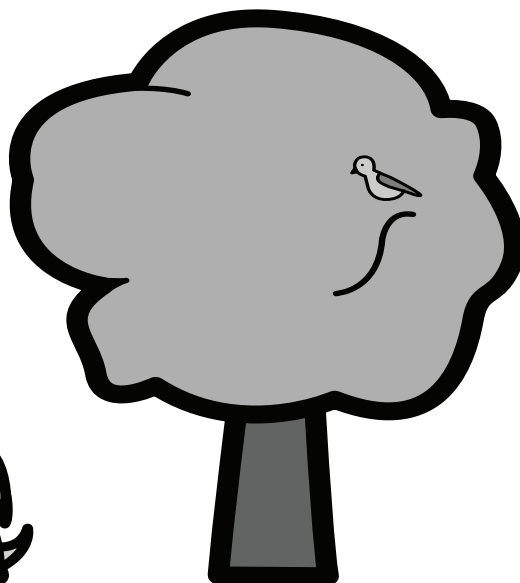
Backyard Time With Mr. Z

How tall are you?

Use the ruler at the side to measure your height.

_____ is _____ inches tall,
(child's name)

and that's just the right size to be Jesus' friend!



How to Marbleize Paper

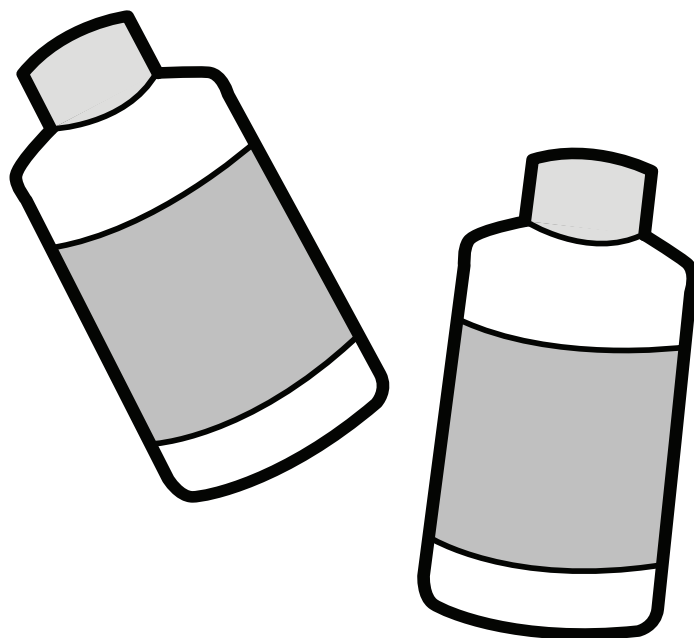
Supplies: Kids' Book—page 1, shaving cream, tempera paint, wax paper, table covering, smocks, trash can, plastic bag

Prepare

- ★ Punch out the welcome card for each child (**Kids' Book—page 1**).
- ★ Cover the table with paper or plastic.
- ★ Tear the wax paper into a place mat-sized sheet for each child.
- ★ Line a trash can with a plastic bag.

Do

- ★ Have each child wear a smock to protect their clothing.
- ★ Give each child a wax paper place mat.
- ★ Squirt shaving cream onto the place mat.
- ★ Pour tempera paint on the shaving cream.
- ★ Let the children mix the paint into the shaving cream with their hands.
- ★ Press the card into the shaving cream. You may want to marbleize both sides of the card.
- ★ Use a paper towel to wipe the excess shaving cream directly into the trash can.
- ★ Set the cards aside to dry.



Jesus is My Friend

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Jesus is my friend.

Jesus helps me to be all I can be.

Jesus is my friend.

Jesus,

Jesus,

Jesus is my friend.

Jesus,

Jesus,

Jesus is my friend.

Any time day or night, He's always there.

Jesus is my friend.

Even when times are tough, He'll always care.

Jesus is my friend.

Jesus,

Jesus,

Jesus is my friend.

Jesus,

Jesus,

Jesus is my friend.

Words and Music by Mark Burrows
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