

# LIVE BIG.

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**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.

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## 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 children come to me; do not stop them" (Mark 10:14), tells us a great deal about Jesus' character. Jesus is saying that he is 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 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 the 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.

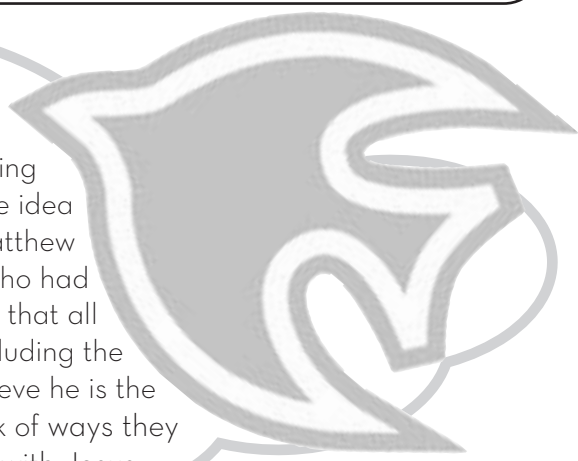
Now go and welcome the children in your class. Bring them to Jesus, and let him touch their lives and bless them.

Activity	Supplies
<b>Invite them in... (15 minutes)</b>	<i>Resources appear in bold</i>
Welcome!	<b>Stickers</b> , Attendance Chart
Jesus Is My Friend	<b>Kids' Book—page 2</b> , crayons, dark colored chalk, cotton balls or tissues, glue, yarn, tape, scissors, paper punch, paper plates
Let's Find Jesus	<b>Leader—page 11</b> , crayons or markers
Follow the Footprints	<b>Kids' Book—page 2, Leader—page 13</b> , crayons or markers, construction paper, scissors, tape
<b>...Into the Bible (30 minutes)</b>	
Hear the Bible Story	<b>Bible, Leader—page 10</b>
Backyard Time	<b>DVD</b> , DVD player, television
Just the Right Size	<b>Leader—page 12</b> , crayons or markers
Praise Time	<b>DVD</b> , DVD player, television
<b>...Into Life (15 minutes)</b>	
Welcome, Little One	<b>Kids' Book—page 1</b> , varieties of ribbon or yarn for lacing, clear tape
Heart Collage	clear adhesive paper, tissue paper scraps, ribbon pieces, yarn pieces, confetti stars, small pieces of fabric scraps, plastic containers
Welcome to Snack Time	sugar cookies, icing in a tube or food markers, napkins, cups, juice
Welcome a Guest	guest

## 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.



# LIVE BIG

## 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.

### Jesus Is My Friend

**Supplies:** Kids' Book—page 2, crayons, chalk, cotton balls or tissues, glue, yarn, tape, scissors, paper punch, paper plates

#### Prepare

- ★ Punch out the heart pattern for each child (**Kids' Book—page 2**).

**Do** ★ Give each child a “Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_’s Friend” heart (**Kids' Book—page 2**).

- ★ Encourage each child to write her or his name in the blank.
- ★ Read the words along with the child’s name.
- ★ Have each child turn the heart so that the back of the heart is facing up.
- ★ Show the children how to rub chalk around the edges of the hearts.
- ★ Give each child a small paper plate.
- ★ Lightly tape the heart onto the paper plate with the chalk-side up.
- ★ Show the children how to use a cotton ball or tissue to brush the chalk from the edges of the hearts onto the paper plate.
- ★ Remove the hearts to see the chalk design left on the plates.
- ★ Turn each plate over. Glue the heart onto this side of the plate so that the child’s name is facing up.
- ★ Use a paper punch to make a hole in the top of each plate. Tie a loop of yarn through the hole to make a hanger.
- ★ Hang the hearts around the room.

**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. Jesus will always be your friend.

Invite them in

## Let's Find Jesus

**Supplies:** Leader—page 11, crayons or markers

### Prepare

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

- Do** ★ Let the children use crayons or markers to solve the maze and color the picture.
- ★ **Say:** Today our Bible story is about a time when some children wanted to go to Jesus. I wonder how the children felt when they saw 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.

## Follow the Footprints

**Supplies:** Kids' Book—page 2, Leader—page 13, crayons or markers, construction paper, scissors, tape

### Prepare

- ★ Punch out a footprint (**Kids' Book—page 2**) for each child.
- ★ Use a punch-out for a pattern to cut more footprints from construction paper if needed.
- ★ Photocopy the picture of Jesus (**Leader—page 13**).

- Do** ★ Let the children decorate the footprints with crayons or markers.
- ★ Tape the picture of Jesus (**Leader—page 13**) in your story area.
  - ★ After the students decorate the feet, work together as a class to create a path from the doorway to the picture of Jesus.
  - ★ Position the first pair of feet so that it enters the doorway, then ask, "Which way should we go to get to our picture of Jesus?"
  - ★ Pick a child to add their prints to the floor. Roll a piece of tape to go on the back to keep the footprints from sliding. (You may want to go under the table or around block center!)
  - ★ Once the path is complete, let the children try walking it, skipping it, or walking backwards on it.
  - ★ **Say:** In our Bible story today, we will hear what happened to some children who tried to get to Jesus. What do you think happened to the children?

**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.

# LIVE BIG

## The B.i.G. Idea

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

Photocopy *Welcome the Children* (Leader—page 10) to send home with each child.



- Do** ★ **Say:** (Hold the Bible behind your back.) I have something very special behind my back. It's something we use at church and at home, and it is filled with stories. It helps us learn what God is like and how God wants us to live. Can you guess? It's the Bible. (Show the Bible.) Our story today comes from the New Testament. The name of the book is Mark. Now, let's all stand up to tell our story. Just do what I do and say what I say—it's really easy!
- ★ Do the echo pantomime *Welcome the Children* (Leader—page 10). Encourage the children to say the words and do the motions after you.
  - ★ Have children sit back down on the rug.
  - ★ **Say:** So you see, Jesus loved children very, very much. Jesus always had time for children! I wonder...if you could ask Jesus a question, what would you ask him? 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 in 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, 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 (**Leader—page 12**) for each child.

### 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 him or her. Let the child know that he or she is just the right size to be Jesus' friend.
- ★ **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 one way Jesus is our friend, hold your fist up in the air and shout, "yeah!"
- ★ Read the following statements to the children. Encourage them to raise their fists and shout "yeah!" as indicated.
- ★ **Say:** Jesus shows us how much God loves us. (*Raise fist; shout.*)  
We can talk to Jesus anytime. (*Raise fist; shout.*)  
Jesus is our friend when we feel happy. (*Raise fist; shout.*)  
Jesus is our friend when we feel sad. (*Raise fist; shout.*)
- ★ **Say:** Now let's think about some ways we show that we are friends with Jesus.  
We show our friendship with Jesus by being kind to others. (*Raise fist; shout.*)  
We show our friendship with Jesus by coming to church. (*Raise fist; shout.*)  
We show our friendship with Jesus by listening to Bible stories. (*Raise fist; shout.*)

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

## Praise Time

**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Play the song "Jesus Is Our Friend" on the **DVD** (3 minutes).
- ★ Encourage the children to sing along and do the motions for the refrain.

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

# LIVE BIG

## 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

### Welcome, Little One

**Supplies:** Kids' Book—page 1, varieties of ribbon or yarn for lacing, clear tape

#### Prepare

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

**Do** ★ **Say:** Welcoming new children to our church is one way we can be Jesus' friend. Let's make cards to give to new families with children when they visit our church.

- ★ Show the children how to punch out the holes around the edge of the card.
- ★ Let each child pick a length of ribbon or yarn. Tape one end of the ribbon to the back of the card.
- ★ Show the children how to "sew" around the edge of the cards by going in and out of the holes.
- ★ Let the children sign the back of the cards, write their own messages, or draw welcome pictures.
- ★ Make arrangements to give these cards to a membership or hospitality committee if necessary.

**Live B.i.G.** One of the most important messages Jesus taught was to be welcoming of all people. Receiving a card from a child will make a family feel very special!

### Heart Collage

**Supplies:** clear adhesive paper, tissue paper scraps, ribbon pieces, yarn pieces, confetti stars, small pieces of fabric scraps, plastic containers

#### Prepare

- ★ Cut rectangular, six-by-nine pieces of clear adhesive paper.

**Do** ★ Put small containers with pieces of ribbon, tissue paper scraps, confetti, fabric scraps, or other items on the table.

- ★ Peel the backing halfway off the rectangle, and trim it off. Leave the backing on the other half of the rectangle.

- ★ Place this sticky-side up. Give one to each child.
- ★ Invite children to decorate it any way they like by simply pressing the items onto the sticky side of the contact paper. They can create patterns, or just add things randomly.
- ★ When they are finished, peel the rest of the backing off and smooth it down over the items, sealing the two sides together with the sticky sides folded in.
- ★ Cut the square into a heart shape. If desired, punch a small hole at the top and thread a piece of ribbon through. These can be hung in the window for a pretty decoration. Tell the children that these decorations can remind them how much God loves them.

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

## Welcome to Snack Time

**Supplies:** sugar cookies, icing in a tube or food markers, napkins, cups, juice

- Do** ★ Let the children use icing “writers” (icing in a tube) or food markers (available in many grocery stores in the cake decorating section) to draw happy faces on the cookies.
- ★ Have a blessing. You can sing this one to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:  
We thank God for our food,  
We thank God for our food,  
God is very good to us,  
We thank God for our food.
  - ★ **Ask:** How do you think the children’s faces looked when Jesus welcomed them and told them about God’s love?

**Live B.i.G.** We are glad to know that Jesus is our friend forever. We thank God for Jesus.

## Welcome a Guest

**Supplies:** guest

### Prepare

- ★ Invite a pastor to come to the class and visit with the children.

- Do** ★ If possible, have the children do the echo pantomime for the minister; or have the pastor read or tell the story to the class.
- ★ Help the children think of some questions they might like to ask the pastor before he or she comes to the class.
  - ★ Invite your guest to stay for a snack.

**Live B.i.G.** Jesus welcomed the children. We welcome others.

# Welcome the Children

by Cathy Hoop

Have you heard? *(Turn to neighbor, hand to ear.)*  
Have you heard? *(Turn to a different neighbor, hand to ear.)*  
Have you heard the good word? *(Hold hands out to side.)*

Have you heard about Jesus? *(Sign Jesus' name: right middle finger touches left palm, left middle finger touches right palm.)*  
He's coming here today! *(Tap left palm with right pointer finger to indicate "here.")*  
Let's all go and see him and ask him to play! *(Motion to "come with you.")*

There he is! There he is! *(Point.)*  
He's there with his friends. *(Shake hands with neighbor.)*  
I just can't believe it; it's really him! *(Nod head.)*

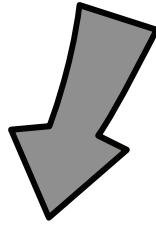
"STOP!" said a disciple, "What did you say?" *(Hold hand up in front, palm out.)*  
"Did you think you could ask Jesus to play?" *(Shake finger.)*  
"He's too busy for children, can't you see?" *(Shake head.)*  
"Did you think he would let you sit on his knee?" *(Pat knee.)*

Then someone else spoke with a voice strong and true. *(Hold arms out.)*  
"Did someone say 'children?' You must let them through!" *(Motion to "come with you.")*  
Jesus hugged them and held them, he tickled and played. *(Hug yourself.)*  
Then blessed them and sent them along on their way. *(Wave goodbye.)*

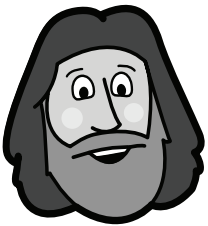
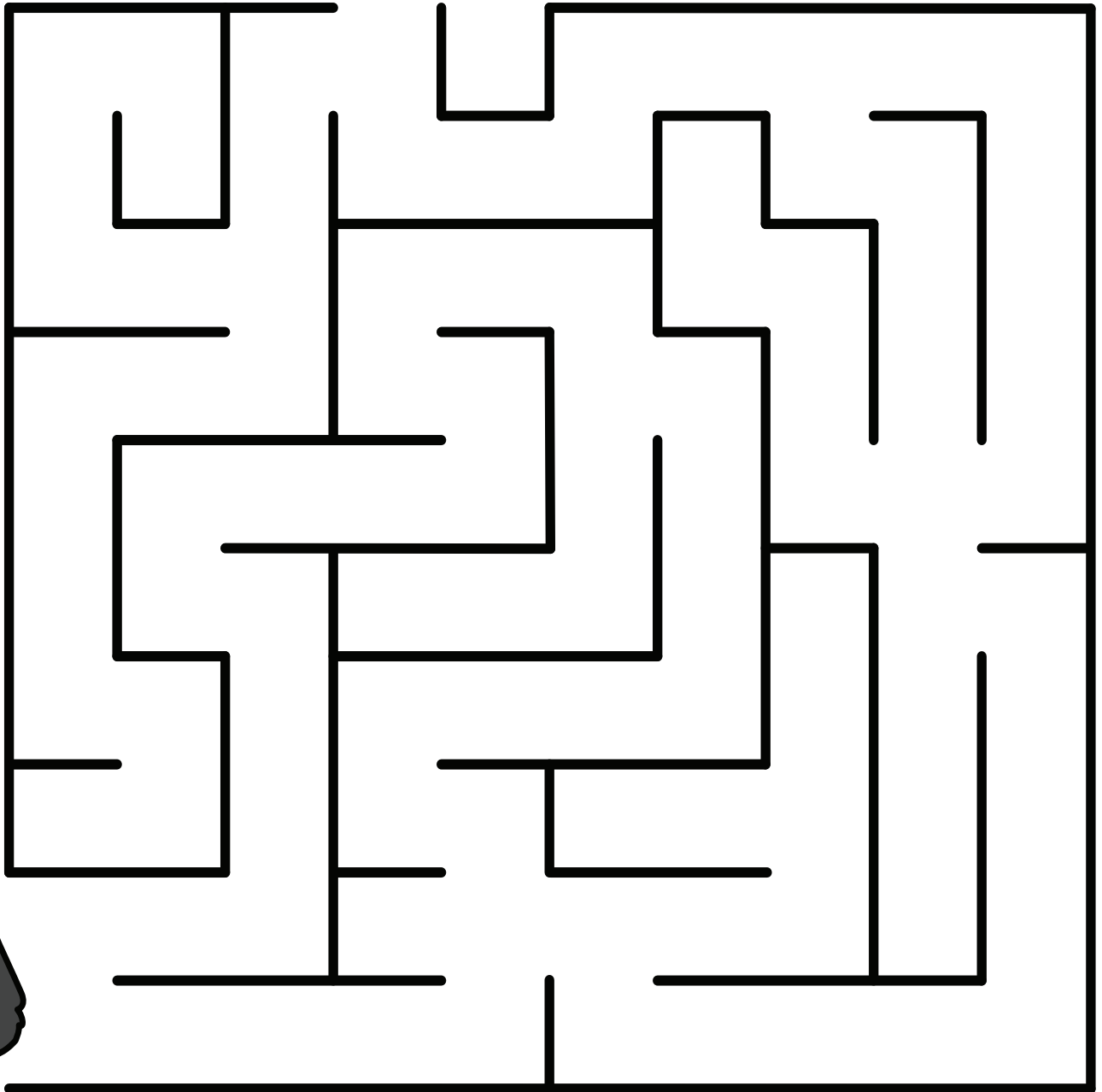
Then he turned to his helpers; he had something to say. *(Place hand to chin, thoughtful.)*  
"Always welcome the children; never turn them away." *(Motion to "come with you.")*  
And here's something more: to follow God's way, *(Walk in place.)*  
Become like a child; let a child lead the way. *(Raise arms in praise.)*

*Based on Mark 10:13-16*

# Let's Find Jesus



Start Here



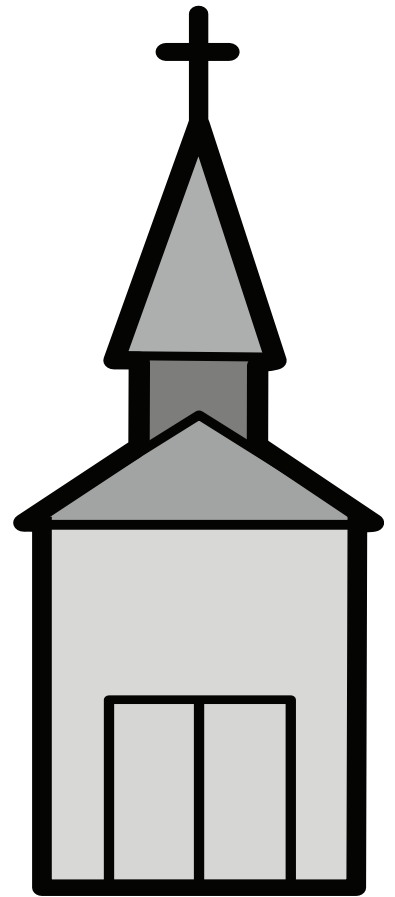
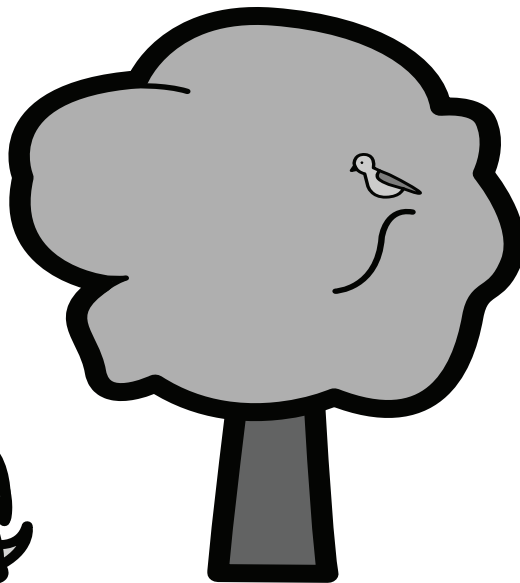
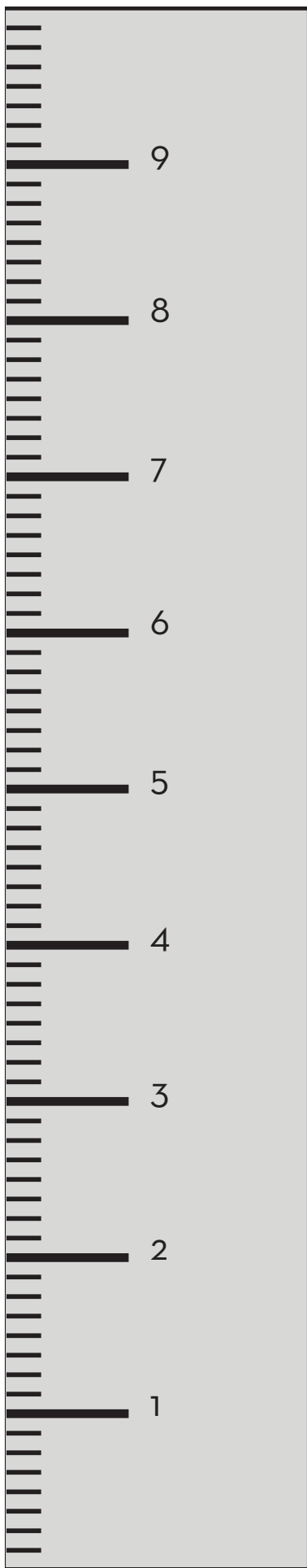
## Backyard Time with Mr. Z

### 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!



Coloring Page



## 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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