

Jesus Loves Me

10 Weeks of Jesus' Ministry

Introduction

This 10-week curriculum explores Jesus' love for children through simple Bible stories, engaging sensory activities, memorable songs, and creative take-home crafts. Each week focuses on a different aspect of Jesus' ministry that demonstrates His special care for children and provides hands-on experiences to help young children understand Jesus' love.

Week 1: Let the Children Come

Bible Story: Mark 10:13-16 - Jesus welcomes the children

Key Message: Jesus loves children and wants to be with them.

Sensory Activity:

- "Welcome Mat" sensory bin with different textured fabrics, wooden figures, and soft items representing children coming to Jesus

Song:

- "Jesus Loves the Little Children" with simple hand motions

Take-Home Craft:

- Handprint art with the phrase "Jesus welcomes me" decorated with fabric scraps and buttons

Parent Connection: Note explaining how parents can remind their child that Jesus always has time for them, just like He made time for children in the Bible

Week 2: The Good Shepherd

Bible Story: Luke 15:3-7 - The parable of the lost sheep

Key Message: Jesus watches over each of us like a shepherd cares for sheep.

Sensory Activity:

- Sheep-themed sensory bin with cotton balls, toy sheep, shepherd figures, and green tissue paper "grass"

- Hide and find a special "lost sheep" in the classroom

Song:

- "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" with sheep puppet props

Take-Home Craft:

- Cotton ball sheep on popsicle stick with the words "Jesus is my Good Shepherd"

Parent Connection: Card explaining how parents can use bedtime as a moment to talk about how Jesus watches over their child while they sleep, just like a good shepherd

Week 3: Feeding the 5,000

Bible Story: John 6:1-14 - Jesus feeds 5,000 people with a boy's lunch

Key Message: Jesus can use even what a child has to do amazing things.

Sensory Activity:

- Bread and fish sensory experience: kneading play dough with fish-shaped cookie cutters and bread-scented play dough (cinnamon)
- Counting and sharing activity with pretend bread and fish

Song:

- "Five Loaves and Two Fish" action song (to the tune of "This Little Light of Mine")

Take-Home Craft:

- Paper basket with tissue paper "bread" and paper "fish" that can be shared with others

Parent Connection: Recipe card for simple bread that families can make together, with discussion starters about sharing

Week 4: Jairus' Daughter

Bible Story: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 - Jesus heals a little girl

Key Message: Jesus cares when we are sick and has power to help us.

Sensory Activity:

- Doctor's kit with bandages, stethoscopes, and caring for baby dolls

- "Get well" sensory bottles with glitter that settles (like resting when we're sick)

Song:

- "Jesus' Healing Hands" (to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

Take-Home Craft:

- Paper doll chain holding hands with a Jesus figure and the words "Jesus holds my hand"

Parent Connection: Prayer card for parents to use when their child isn't feeling well

Week 5: Jesus Calms the Storm

Bible Story: Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus calms the storm on the sea

Key Message: Jesus keeps us safe when we are afraid.

Sensory Activity:

- Water table with toy boats, spray bottles to make "rain," and blue fabric for waves
- Calming bottles with blue water and glitter that children can shake and watch settle

Song:

- "With Jesus in My Boat" with rowing motions and wave sounds

Take-Home Craft:

- Paper plate boat with movable Jesus figure and waves that can be lifted to reveal calm water

Parent Connection: Bedtime routine suggestions for when children are afraid, incorporating simple prayers

Week 6: Jesus and Zacchaeus

Bible Story: Luke 19:1-10 - Jesus visits Zacchaeus' house

Key Message: Jesus loves everyone and wants to be our friend, even when others don't like us.

Sensory Activity:

- Tree climbing station with safe climbing structures and small Zacchaeus figures
- Height measurement activity: "How tall are you? Jesus loves you no matter your size!"

Song:

- "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" with climbing motions

Take-Home Craft:

- Paper tree with a small Zacchaeus figure that can slide up and down, with "Jesus knows my name" message

Parent Connection: Family activity suggestion for a nature walk to look for different trees and talk about how Jesus notices us

Week 7: Jesus Blesses the Loaves and Fish

Bible Story: Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus gives thanks for food and shares

Key Message: Jesus teaches us to be thankful and to share what we have.

Sensory Activity:

- "Sharing picnic" with play food that children take turns sharing with each other
- Texture bin with different grains used to make bread

Song:

- "Thank You, God, for Food" (to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Take-Home Craft:

- Paper plate divided into sections with pictures of foods to be thankful for, with a spinner that lands on different items

Parent Connection: Mealtime prayer ideas and simple ways to involve children in sharing family meals

Week 8: The Lost Coin

Bible Story: Luke 15:8-10 - The parable of the lost coin

Key Message: Each child is precious to Jesus.

Sensory Activity:

- Treasure hunt with coins hidden in a sensory bin of rice or sand
- Coin rubbing station with paper and crayons

Song:

- "I Am Precious to Jesus" (to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

Take-Home Craft:

- Coin purse made from felt with a special "precious" coin inside featuring the child's photo

Parent Connection: Bedtime ritual suggestion where parents can tell their child specific reasons why they are precious, reflecting God's love

Week 9: Jesus Walks on Water

Bible Story: Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walks on water and helps Peter

Key Message: Jesus helps us when we need Him.

Sensory Activity:

- Water table with blue water and figures that float (Jesus) and ones that need help floating (Peter)
- "Walking on pillows" activity where children practice walking on unstable surfaces while holding a teacher's hand

Song:

- "Reach Out Your Hand" action song about Jesus helping Peter

Take-Home Craft:

- Paper Jesus and Peter figures with popsicle stick legs that can be manipulated over blue paper "water"

Parent Connection: Simple family devotion about times when we need to ask for help, connecting to prayer

Week 10: Jesus and the Children

Bible Story: Matthew 18:1-5 - Jesus says we should be like children

Key Message: Jesus wants everyone to have faith like a child.

Sensory Activity:

- "Kingdom celebration" sensory experience with crowns, soft fabrics, and musical instruments
- Child-sized mirror activity: "Jesus loves what He sees!"

Song:

- "Jesus Loves Me" with full motions and instruments

Take-Home Craft:

- Crown decorated with jewels and the words "I am important to Jesus"
- Photo frame decorated with "Jesus loves me" theme for family picture

Parent Connection: Family celebration ideas to conclude the curriculum, with a certificate of completion

Additional Resources for Each Week:

- Simple memory verse with motions (one verse used for 2-3 weeks)
- Coloring page related to the weekly theme
- Visual schedule with picture cards showing each activity
- Prayer circle suggestions with simple repeated phrases
- Adaptations for children with different needs

Materials Needed:

- Sensory bin containers (plastic tubs)
- Basic sensory materials (rice, water, sand, play dough)
- Fabric scraps in various textures
- Toy figures (people, animals)
- Basic craft supplies (paper plates, construction paper, crayons, child-safe scissors, glue sticks)
- Musical instruments (simple shakers, drums)

Implementation Tips:

1. Keep story time short (3-5 minutes) with simple language and props
2. Repeat the key phrase for each lesson multiple times during activities
3. Allow plenty of time for sensory exploration with gentle guidance
4. Send home a simple summary of the story and song lyrics each week
5. Create a consistent opening and closing ritual each session
6. Take photos of children engaged in activities to share with parents
7. Display children's artwork in the classroom to create a sense of belonging

Classroom Setup Suggestions:

1. Soft reading corner with Jesus storybooks and related toys
2. Low tables for craft activities with child-sized chairs
3. Open floor space with a special "story time" rug
4. Sensory station that can be adapted for each week's theme
5. Music area with simple instruments and visual song cards
6. Parent communication board near pickup area