



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

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THE BIG IDEA

Jesus knows us.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael:
John 1:43-51

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | YouTube Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Friend Request
- ACTIVITY** | Know-It-All Page

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | John 1:43-51
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus knows us.
- VIDEO** | Subscribe Now, Episode 3
- ACTIVITY** | New Friend Bingo
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DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Friendship Fruit Salad
- ACTIVITY** | God Knows Me Mirror
- ACTIVITY** | Tag A Friend
- MEMORY VERSE** | John 14:6 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Truth and Tale
- ACTIVITY** | All About Me Bags



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

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BY TIFFANY THENOR

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Friend Request

For an alternative activity for the younger kids, play a modified version of the game, "Red Rover." Invite the kids to practice remembering each others' names. After they go around introducing themselves to each other, have them play "Red Rover" to practice remembering each others' name.

SCRIPTURE | John 1:43-51

Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.

ACTIVITY | New Friend Bingo

Instead of using a "Bingo" card, play, "Find Someone Who. . ." by calling out a description and have the kids high five someone who fits that description (e.g., You can say, "Find someone who has curly hair" and the kids will high five someone who has curly hair).

ACTIVITY | Tag A Friend

Instead of the kids drawing and labeling the cardstock, give each kid a goodie bag to take to a friend. Go around the group and ask the kids to tell you who they would like to share the goodie bag with. Write the name of that friend on the bag.



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

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THE BIG IDEA

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THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael:
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WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | YouTube Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play fun songs such as, "[One in a Million](#)," by Elevation Church eKidz and invite your group to sing and dance! You can also check out [this version](#) of the song with motions for the kids to follow along.

ACTIVITY | Friend Request

- On the social media platform, Facebook, you can ask someone to be your friend by first searching for their names before requesting they be added to your friends list.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to go around and introduce themselves. Then, split the kids into two groups. Sit the two groups on opposite sides of a bed sheet spread out on the floor. Ask two leaders to hold up the bed sheet so the teams won't be able to see each other. Each team selects one person to stand in front of the bed sheet. Once both teams are ready, drop the bed sheet and the first person to yell out the other person's name "approves the friend request" and joins the winning team. Repeat until every kid has had a chance to play.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** For an alternative activity for the younger kids, play a modified version of the game, "Red Rover." Invite the kids to practice remembering each others' names. After they go around introducing themselves to each other, have them play "Red Rover" to practice remembering each others' name.

ACTIVITY | Know-It-All Page

- Facebook has lots of places you can go to learn more about very famous people, places, and things. These places you can go to learn more are called “pages” and “profiles.”
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, list several different categories (e.g., animals, things that go, colors, people’s names, etc.) on small sheets of paper. Place the paper inside a bowl. Split the group into two teams. Ask a kid to come up to the front and pick a category. Then, an adult leader helps the kid name as many words that fit the category before the timer runs out. The kid’s team receives as many points as words the kid could recall. Then, the next team can go.*
- Today we are going to talk about what it means to really know someone and also, for someone to really know us!

TEACHING TIME**SCRIPTURE | John 1:43-51**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite three kids to come up and help you act out the story. One kid plays Phillip, one kid plays Nathanael, and the final kid plays Jesus. As you are telling the story, ask the kids to act out what you are saying. Use props for fun.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.*
- While Jesus was about to leave town, Phillip, a follower of Jesus, was so excited about Jesus that he told one of his friends, Nathanael, all about Jesus.
- Phillip told Nathanael that Jesus was the Savior they had been waiting for. And even though Nathanael was nervous, he decided to go meet Jesus for himself.
- **Do you think Phillip was a good friend for inviting Nathanael?**
- Before Nathanael even said a word, Jesus started talking and said things about Nathanael that only Nathanael would know. **How do you think Nathanael felt when Jesus did that?**
- **What would you do if someone you didn’t know could tell you things about yourself?**
- Shocked and amazed, Nathanael knew the only way Jesus was able to do this was because Jesus was the Savior they had all been waiting for.

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus knows us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, select a kid to come and push a giant button that says, “Subscribe now” on the stage or wall. Announce the Big Idea after the kid pushes the button. When sharing the Big Idea, use these hand motions: **Jesus** (Using both arms, form a cross) **knows** (Point to head) **us** (Outstretch hands in a sweeping motion).*
- Thanks for subscribing to this week’s Big Idea!
- **Jesus knows us.**

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week’s preschool [teaching video](#).*

ACTIVITY | New Friend Bingo

- Let's get up, move around, and talk to each other by playing, "Bingo!"
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a set of stickers and a Bingo printable. Tell the kids to go around the room and see if any of their friends fit what is in the boxes. They can put stickers on each other's Bingo cards on the boxes that describe them. Whoever gets five stickers next to each other yells "Bingo" and wins!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using a "Bingo" card, play "Find Someone Who. . ." by calling out a description and have the kids high five someone who fits that description (e.g., You can say "Find someone who has curly hair" and the kids will high five someone who has curly hair).
- **Did you find out anything new about your friends?**
- Getting to know someone can take a long time. But **Jesus knows us** the best and has known us the longest!

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You for knowing me. Thank you for having a plan for me and for being the best kind of friend I could ever have. Please show me how I can be a good friend to others. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Friendship Fruit Salad**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using different kinds of fruits, invite the kids to help wash, peel, and slice (using plastic cutlery) fruit for the Friendship Fruit Salad. If possible, invite each kid to bring in a fruit they would like to share with their friends and add it to the Friendship Fruit Salad. Mix the fruit salad and share it with the kids.
- It is so wonderful to share with our friends. We are all so different, but Jesus knows us and loves us just the way we are! When we work together and share, we make Jesus happy and we are being a good friend, just like Jesus!
- **What are your top three favorite fruits?**
- **If you could be a fruit, what fruit would you be?**

ACTIVITY | God Knows Me Mirror

- God knew us before we were even born! God knew that the world would be better with us in it!
- Let's create a mirror that reminds us that God made us and knows us the best! We are a child of God!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Decorate handheld mirrors with fun stickers and pompoms. Then, with letter stickers or markers, write, "Jesus knows me!" on top of the mirror.
- Use this mirror as a reminder that God loves us and that **Jesus knows us**.
- **When you look into the mirror, what do you see?**
- **Do you know what you look like even without the mirror?**
- **What do you think God thinks of you?**

ACTIVITY | Tag A Friend

- When you post a photo on certain social media platforms, you can click on a person's face and "tag" them. When you tag them, you are inviting them to see the photo with you. You're telling them, "I like having you in the picture!"
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids a half-sheet of cardstock paper. Prepare small two by two-inch hollow frames by cutting squares out of construction paper and cutting out the middle. You can also prepare some goodie bags the kids can take to give to their friend.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of the kids drawing and labeling the cardstock, give each kid a goodie bag to take to a friend. Go around the group and ask the kids to tell you who they would like to share the goodie bag with. Write the name of that friend on the bag.
- On one side, draw a picture of yourself with a friend.
- Glue a square box around your friend's face to "tag" them, and write the friend's name next to the box. If you need help writing your friend's name, ask a leader to help you.
- When you are done, one of the leaders will write underneath the photo, "Tag! You're Invited!"
- **Name friends you know really well. What do you know about them that makes you close friends?**
- **What are special things about yourself your friends would know?**
- **Who else knows you well?**

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, write the memory verse on one side of each [blank slap bracelet](#). Prepare one for each kid. Encourage the kids to decorate the other side. Have them practice saying the memory verse while playing with their bracelets.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Truth and Tale

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sit in a circle. Go around the circle and say some statements about each kid, some of which can be true or false depending on what you know about the kids (e.g., "Sam loves chocolate"). After each statement, ask everyone else to tell you whether they think it's the truth or a tale. Ask the kid to verify. Continue until you have done this for all the kids.
- Let's see how well you know each other.
- Isn't it great that **Jesus knows us?** Jesus would get all of these questions right!

ACTIVITY | All About Me Bags

- **Jesus knows us!** Let's create "All About Me" bags to help us know you better!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide magazines, small toys, figurines, Play-doh, scraps of paper, stickers, and other decorating materials. Invite the kids to create "All About Me" bags that can be filled with things that represent what makes them special. Then, invite the kids to share what they included in their bags, if they would like.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.