Sweet Treats | Week 4 | February 22, 2026
Adapted by Niki P/Venture Church/Jan. 2026



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: Jesus Forgives a Woman • John 8
Jesus loves me no matter what.

MEMORY VERSE: "*Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'"* • Matthew 19:14 NLT

KEY QUESTION: Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus loves me.

OPENING ACTIVITY: Cupcake Shop

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Follow the Arrows

CRAFT: Holding Love

CLOSING ACTIVITY: Move and Remember

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OPENING ACTIVITY | Cupcake Shop

What You Need:

- Muffin tins
- Cupcake liners, paper or silicone
- Ball pit balls
- Plastic bin

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

***Before the Activity*:**

- Place the ball pit balls into the bin and set on the table. Place the muffin tins and cupcake liners on the table.

- "I think we should make a sweet treat. My favorite treats are cupcakes. Let's make some."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to make cupcakes by placing a liner in the tin then placing a ball pit ball inside.

- "We can pretend these ball pit balls are our cupcakes! First, we need to put a liner *(hold up a cupcake liner)* into the tin like this *(pause)* and then add a ball pit ball. *(Pause.)* Your turn! *(Pause.)* These look so yummy! The red cupcake could be strawberry flavored and the purple one grape… What about this yellow one? What flavor is it? *(Pause for responses.)* Wow friends! You're all such great cupcake bakers."

After the Activity:

- "These are some really sweet treats, but do you know what the sweetest treat is? *(Pause for responses.)* It's the love of Jesus! In our Bible Story today, we are going to hear about a time when Jesus forgave a woman. Let's go hear all about it!"

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MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY | Follow the Arrows

What You Need:

- □ "Follow the Arrows" Activity Page
- □ Cardstock
  Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:
***Before the Activity*:**

- Arrange on the floor in different directions and tape to secure. Do the motions as you say the Memory Verse together.

- "Friends, come let's say our Memory Verse together as we do the motions. Are we ready? Here we go! 'Jesus said *(tap finger to middle of each palm)* "Let the children *(point to children)* come to me,"' *(move hands toward self)* Matthew 19:14. *(Open hands like a book.)* Super-duper!

- Look at all these arrows on the floor. We are going to jump and face the way the arrow is pointing. You can jump from one arrow to the other until you get to the end and then we will say our verse together."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to jump facing the direction of the arrows and at the end of the arrows line, say and do the motions to the Memory Verse. Continue with each child. Repeat as desired.

- "[Child's Name] you can start jumping. (Pause.) Great job! You made it to the end. Let's say the verse together. 'Jesus said *(tap finger to middle of each palm)* "Let the children *(point to children)* come to me,"' *(move hands toward self)* Matthew 19:14. Now it's your turn [child's name]! (Continue with each child.) Woo-hoo! We did it! Let's say our verse and do the motions together one more time. 'Jesus said *(tap finger to middle of each palm)* "Let the children *(point to children)* come to me,"' *(move hands toward self)* Matthew 19:14. Great job!"

After the Activity:

- "The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves us no matter what. Just like Jesus loved the woman in our story even though she did something that God didn't want her to do. Jesus wants us to come near Him because He loved them, and He loves us too. **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me!"**

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CRAFT | Holding Love

What You Need:

- □ "Holding Love" Activity Page
- □ Cardstock
- □ 1" foam hearts
- □ Washable paint
- □ Paintbrushes
- □ Paper plates
- □ Baby wipes
- □ Plastic tablecloth or butcher paper
- □ *Option: Washable ink pads in place of washable paint, paintbrushes, and paper plates*

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Cover the tables with a tablecloth or butcher paper. Pour a small amount of paint onto the paper plates, one for every three children. Do the motions as you say the Memory Verse together with the children.

- "Friends, come stand with me, and let's do the motions as we say our Memory Verse! Ready? 'Jesus said *(tap finger to middle of each palm)* "Let the children *(point to children)* come to me,"' *(move hands toward self)* Matthew 19:14. *(Open hands like a book.)* Great job! Now go sit down at the table and we'll make something special to take home."

During the Activity:

- Paint each child's hand then place a foam heart in the center of their palm. Help each child press their hand on their paper and remove. Remove the heart and discard. Clean hands as needed. Say the verse with the motions one more time.

- "Today we are going to make a special piece of art using your handprint! Let's cover the whole part of your hand with paint. *(Either paint each child's hand or let them gently press it into the paint.)* Before we make your handprint, we need to add a little love. *(Place a foam heart in the center of each child's palm.)* Now press your hand on your paper then lift straight up. *(Pause.)* Look! Your handprint has a heart inside. They're beautiful! *(Clean hands.)* Now let's say our verse as we do the motions. 'Jesus said *(tap finger to middle of each palm)* "Let the children *(point to children)* come to me,"' *(move hands toward self)* Matthew 19:14. *(Open hands like a book.)* Fantastic!"

After the Activity:

- "Today we learned that Jesus loves us no matter what! Just like the woman in today's story. She had done something God didn't want her to do, and people wanted Jesus to punish her but Jesus showed the people that He really wanted to both keep God's rules and show God's love. God didn't send Jesus to punish us. God gave us Jesus to show us how much He loves us. Jesus loved the woman, and Jesus loves you too! **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me."**

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BIBLE STORY

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

LEADER: "Today's true story begins with a woman who felt very sad. She had made a wrong choice, and some people were being unkind to her. Can you make a sad face?"

(Invite children to show a gentle "sad face," then a relaxed face.)

LEADER: "Those people brought the woman to Jesus while He was teaching. They said, 'She did something wrong!' They wanted to punish her."

LEADER: "Do you think that was kind?"

CHILDREN: "No."

LEADER: "Right. Jesus is kind."

LEADER: "Jesus didn't shout. He bent down and quietly wrote on the ground with His finger. Can you pretend to write on the ground with your finger?"

"Invite children to trace one slow line on the rug with a finger, then place hands in laps."

LEADER: "The people kept asking and asking what they should do. The woman was scared. But Jesus loved her."

LEADER: "Then Jesus stood up and said something important: 'If you have never done anything wrong … if you have always done everything that God wants you to do … then you can punish her.'"

LEADER: "Have you ever done something wrong?" *(Children nod or say "Yes.")*

LEADER: "Me too. Everyone has. And so did the people in the Bible Story."

LEADER: "So, one by one, the unkind people walked away."

LEADER: "Now, who was with the woman?"

CHILDREN: "Jesus!"

LEADER: "That's right! Jesus looked at the woman and was kind to her. He forgave her. He told her to go and choose what is right."

LEADER: "Jesus loved her even when she made a mistake. And Jesus loves us even when we make bad choices too."

LEADER: "Let's say this together one time: 'Jesus loves me no matter what.'"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Jesus loves me no matter what."

LEADER: "Let's say our Bible words together one time."

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'"

(Open hands like a book for "Bible," then move hands toward yourself for "come to me.")

LEADER: "Who loves you?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Jesus loves me."

LEADER: "Yes! Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves me. Jesus loves children."

LEADER: "Yes, **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**

"Our story time is over *(pick up and close Bible)*, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER - Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus. Thank You that Jesus loves us no matter what, even when we make bad choices. Help us to show that same love to others. We love You! In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Move and Remember

What You Need: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:
Before the Activity:

- Ask children to join you in an open area of the room and spread out for large movements.
- "Friends come over here and spread out. Make sure you can put your hands out without touching or bumping into the friends next to you."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to move and review the Bottom Line.
- "Okay! I'm going to call out an action and I want you to do it. Let's get ready to move! Everybody jump! *(Pause.)* Jesus loves you! Everybody climb! *(Pause.)* Jesus loves you! Everybody clap! *(Pause.)* Jesus loves you! *(Continue with movements like wiggle, crawl, run, wave your hands, touch your head, etc.)* Everybody freeze! *(Pause.)* Now tell me, **who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.** That's right! Okay, last movement! Everybody give yourself a hug! *(Pause.)* Hooray! Jesus loves you and ***[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me."**

After the Activity:

- "Great job moving and remembering that Jesus loves you! Let me ask you one more time. Friends, **who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.** Yes, He does!"