Sweet Treats | Week 1 | February 01, 2026
Adapted by Niki P/Venture Church/Jan. 2026



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: Jesus and The Children • Mark 10:13-16
Jesus loves children.

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: Jesus Loves You

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Memory Verse with Motions

CRAFT: Run to Jesus

CLOSING ACTIVITY: Who Do You See?

OPENING ACTIVITY | Jesus Loves You

What You Need: pop-up tunnel

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

- Set the tunnel in an open area.

- "Oh wow friends, look! We get to play with the tunnel today! Come stand on this side of the tunnel, and I'll stand on the other side."

During the Activity:

- Call children by name to come through the tunnel. Continue with each child. Repeat as desired.

- *(Lean down and peak through the tunnel and wave at the children.)* "Well hello over there! I'm going to call you one by one and when you hear your name, crawl to me through the tunnel. Ready to listen for your name? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Let's play! [Child's name], Jesus loves you! Crawl through the tunnel. *(Pause.)* Great job you came to me! High five! *(Give child a high five.)* [Child's name], Jesus loves you! Crawl through the tunnel. *(Pause.)* Woo-hoo! High-five for you! *(Continue with each child.)* That was so much fun!"

After the Activity:

- "When you heard your name, you came to me. In today's Bible Story, we'll hear about when Jesus wanted the little children to come to Him. Jesus loves all children that means you, and you, and you, and you too! Let's go hear all about it!"

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY | Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need: No supplies needed

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

- Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

- "Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 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.)*

During the Activity:

- "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Jesus said.' *(Tap finger to middle of each palm.)* Put one hand out straight in front of you with your palm up, like this, *(extend one arm in front of you, palm up)* and touch the center of your palm with the middle finger of the opposite hand. Then, switch hands, put the other hand straight in front of you, and tap the center of that palm with the middle finger of the opposite hand like this, *(tap middle finger in the center of the outstretched palm, then repeat with the other hand)* and say: 'Jesus said.' *(Tap finger to middle of each palm.) (Repeat with children.)* Great job!

- "The next part of our verse says: 'Let the children.' *(Point to children.)* Get your pointer fingers ready and point to all our friends like this *(point to children)* and say, 'Let the children.' *(Repeat with children.)* Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'Jesus said *(tap finger to middle of each palm)* 'Let the children.' *(point to children)* Great job!

- "The next part of our verse says: 'Come to me.' *(Move hands toward self.)* Put both hands out and wave them towards yourself like this *(wave hands toward self like motioning to come close)* and say, 'Come to me.' *(Repeat with children.)* Nice job! Now let's put that together. 'Jesus said *(tap finger to middle of each palm)* 'Let the children *(point to children)* come to me' *(move hands toward self).*

- "Now the last part is: 'Matthew 19:14.' (*Open hands like a book.)* Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book) and* say: Matthew 19:14 *(Repeat with children.)* Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? '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.)* Nice job. Let's do it again!" *(Repeat several times.)*

After the Activity:

- "The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves all children, and Jesus wants to be our friend forever! That's such an awesome thing, Jesus loves you *(point to children)* and ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus loves me. Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me. That's right! This time when I ask, I want you to say it loud and proud. Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me!"**

CRAFT | Run to Jesus

What You Need:

- □ "Run to Jesus" Activity Page
- □ Cardstock
- □ Painter's tape
- □ Heart-shaped sticky notes

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Tape the Activity Page to the wall on other side of the room. Write each child's name on a heart sticky-note.

- "Friends, come line up over here with me. *(Pause.)* Look over there, do you see the picture of Jesus? His arms are wide open, and he wants you to come to Him."

During the Activity:

- Call out children one at a time and give them their name heart to hold. Ask child to run to the picture of Jesus and stick their heart on Jesus. As they run back, give the next child in line their name heart and have them run. Continue with each child.

- "I have a super special sicky note for you. It's shaped like a heart. Hearts make us think of love and we know that Jesus loves us! [Child's name], here is your heart, it has your sweet name written on it. When I say go, I want you to run to Jesus and stick your heart near Him. Ready, steady, GO! *(Pause.)* Hooray! Run back. [Child's name], it's your turn! Here's your heart. *(Continue with each child.)* Wow friends! Let's go look at all the love around Jesus. *(Walk to the picture of Jesus.)* Jesus loves…*(point to each heart and read the name.)* Jesus loves everyone!"

After the Activity:

- "In our Bible Story today, we learned that when the children came to be near Jesus and hear Him teach, the disciples tried to send the children away. But Jesus loves children and told the children to come to Him! Jesus loves everyone, Jesus loves you and ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus loves me. 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: "Our true story from the Bible begins with Jesus. Jesus and His friends, the disciples, traveled to a lot of places because Jesus loved people … all people! Jesus wanted everyone to know that God loves them and wants them to love others. Can you march in place like you are traveling?" *(Stomp in place)*

LEADER: "One day, a big crowd came to hear Jesus teach. And it wasn't just grown-ups. The grown-ups brought children to Jesus because they wanted Jesus to pray for the children.

The children wanted to be with Jesus. Can you say, 'Be with Jesus'?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Be with Jesus."

LEADER: "Great job! But Jesus' friends, the disciples, told the families to stop. They thought Jesus was too busy to spend time with children. Was that kind or unkind?" *(Children answer: "Unkind.")*

LEADER: "Right. When Jesus saw this, He wasn't happy. Jesus said to His disciples: *"Let the children come to me. Don't keep them way. God's kingdom belongs to people like them" (Mark 10:14 NIrV)*.

(Do motions once: tap chest for "children," move hands toward yourself for "come to me." Say the line together one time.)

LEADER: "Let's take two quiet steps closer like we're coming to Jesus." *(Lead two small steps in place, then stop.)*

LEADER: "Jesus opened His arms wide and welcomed the children. He took them close and put His hands on them and blessed them."

(Stretch arms wide; children copy. Invite children to gently touch the top of their own head as a self-blessing while you hover a hand above the group without touching.)

LEADER: "Jesus wanted those children to know He loved them. And Jesus wants you to know He loves you too."

LEADER: "Let's do a quick yes-or-no. Does Jesus love you if you live in a big city?"

CHILDREN: "Yes!"

LEADER: "Does Jesus love you if you live on a farm?"

CHILDREN: "Yes!"

LEADER: "Does Jesus love you if you live near the mountains?"

CHILDREN: "Yes!"

LEADER: "Everywhere you live, Jesus loves you."

LEADER: "Who loves you?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Jesus loves me."

LEADER: "Yes! Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves me. Jesus loves children. Let's go ahead and pray together!"

PRAYER - Dear God, thank You for Jesus! He told the disciples to let the children come to Him because He loved them. And we know that Jesus loves us! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. It's in His name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Who Do You See?

What You Need:

- □ Disposable cupcake or cake box
- □ Small preschool-safe mirror
- □ Masking tape

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Secure the mirror, face-up, to the inside bottom of the box. Close lid.

- "Hello, hello friends! I have a sweet treat box that will help us remember today's true story from the Bible. Come over and sit in a circle with me and then we can look at what's inside."

During the Activity:

- Pass the box around the circle to each child, allowing them time to look in the window of the box to discover who Jesus loves. Review the story.

- "This is a treat box; bakers put their sweet treats like cakes and cookies and cupcakes inside. But this treat box has something sweeter than any cookie, or cake, or cupcake inside it. *(Look into the window of the box and give a little giggle.)*

- "Oh! That is a sweet treat! Let's pass the box around the circle and each person can look into the window and see the sweet treat. *(Pass to the child next to you.)* [Child's name] look inside to see the sweet treat. *(Pause.)* Great! Now pass the box to the friend next to you. *(Help direct children in passing the box around the circle until it comes back to you.)* Wow! That was really fun. What was the sweet treat inside the box? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! It was YOU!

- "You all are sweet and precious to Jesus and that is what we learned in our Bible Story. One day, Jesus was teaching when some grown-ups brought their children to hear Him. But the disciples didn't think the children should be near Jesus! They told the grown-ups to take the children away. But Jesus said, *'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children' (Mark 10:14 NLT)*. Jesus wanted the children to come to Him, not be sent away!"

After the Activity:

- "Jesus made sure the children knew He loved them. Jesus loves you too! **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me!"**