



Week 1

Easter

Matthew 26:31-32, 36, 47-50;
27:1-2, 11-66; 28:1-8

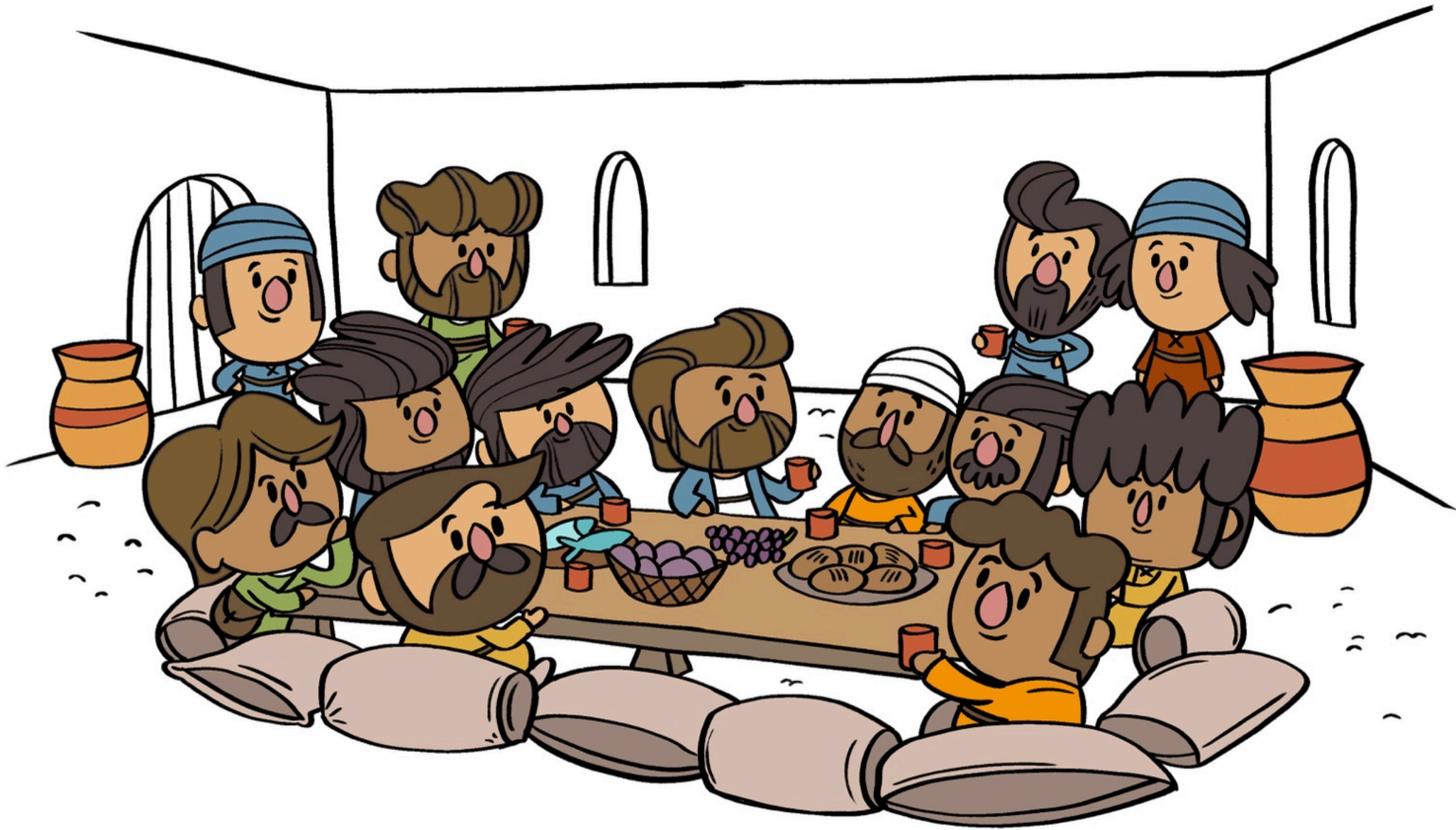
“Hello, friends! My name is [*your name*]. “Tell me: do you ever pretend to rescue something? Maybe you are pretending to be a firefighter, and you (*pretend to turn a steering wheel*) drive your fire truck to save people from a fire. Then you celebrate and say: (*pat legs*) ‘Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!’ Can you say that with me?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) “Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!”

“Well, sometimes we do wrong things, and that keeps us from being close friends with God. So, God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue US! Everybody, say: (*pat legs*) ‘Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!’”

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) “Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!”

“Jesus loves us SO much that He came to rescue us. That’s what Easter is all about. Are you ready for the true story of Easter? (*Listen.*) It’s a true story from the Bible!



“One day, Jesus ate a special meal with His friends, the disciples. Jesus told His friends that soon He would have to die. It was terrible news! Jesus said that after He died, He would come back to life! But the disciples did not understand what that meant.”



“After they ate, Jesus and the disciples went to a garden to pray. But one of Jesus’ friends, named Judas, went and found the people who did not like Jesus, and he brought them to the garden! Soldiers took Jesus away, even though He never did anything wrong!”



(Simple and somber.) "They put Jesus on a cross, which hurt Him and He died. *(Growing awe and excitement.)* But ... Jesus is so powerful that when He died, the earth shook! It was an earthquake. Can you shake your body and say: *(Shake your arms and legs.)* 'Rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble!'"

CHILDREN and LEADER: *(Shake your arms and legs.)* "Rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble, rumble!"

"Great job! You can stop shaking now. "All of Jesus' friends were so sad because Jesus died, but they didn't remember that Jesus said He would come back. "They put Jesus' body in a tomb, which is like a cave. A huge stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and soldiers stood nearby so no one could get in.

"Three days went by. Can you count to three with me?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: *(Hold up your fingers as you count.)* "One ... two ... three."

"Then, on the third day, early in the morning, two women who were friends with Jesus went to the tomb. Before they got there, the earth shook again. It was another earthquake. Shake like an earthquake again!" CHILDREN and LEADER: *(Shake your arms and legs.)* "Rumble, rumble, rumble,

rumble, rumble!"

"Great job! I need you to stop shaking because the next part of the story is SO amazing.



(Lean in and speak a little quieter, with awe and growing excitement.) “The earth shook because an ANGEL came to the tomb, and the angel rolled the huge stone away. The soldiers were so scared of the angel that they fell down! Hold one arm up in front of you, flexed at the elbow. Place the elbow in the palm of the opposite hand, and then let your flexed arm fall on top of the opposite arm. “Boom! And then, the angel SPOKE to the women. The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus ... He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would!” (Matthew 28:5-7). “The angel said that Jesus is alive! *(Pat legs.)* Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray! Jesus is alive! Say that with me.

CHILDREN and LEADER: *(Pat legs.)* “Hip, hip, *(throw arms in the air)* hooray! Jesus is alive!”



“The women were so excited! They RAN to tell all of Jesus’ other friends the good news.

“Let’s run together and pretend to tell everyone the good news that Jesus is alive. Ready?

Come with me! Run with the children to the other side of the room. “Okay, let’s say: (*pat legs*)

‘Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray! Jesus is alive!’ Ready?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) “Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray! Jesus is alive!”

Repeat a few times in different parts of the room as long as time and interest allow.

“Friends, Jesus is alive! He loves all of us so much that He died and came back to life so we

can be friends with (*point up*) God. Jesus rescued us ... all because Jesus wants to be our

friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend forever, and Jesus wants to be my friend

forever. “Tell me: Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

“Yes, Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s

talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: “Yay! (*Clap.*) I’m so happy that Jesus came back just like He said He would. Let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our Bible Story, Jesus came back alive. That makes me want to say, Hip Hip Hooray! When I say your name, tell me something that makes you want to say ‘Hooray’ and I will write it in our journal.” (*Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: (*Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.*)

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: “Let’s pray. Dear God, thank You for all the things that make us say Hooray, like (*read the list*). But thank You most of all for the happiest and best news ever—that Jesus is ALIVE! Jesus is alive and we know Jesus wants to be our friend forever, and that makes us shout, ‘Hip, hip, hooray!’ We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

WHAT'S MAKES YOU
WANT YOU TO SAY
HOORAY?

Journal Free Space



"I



have called you



friends."



John 15:15 NLT





Week 2

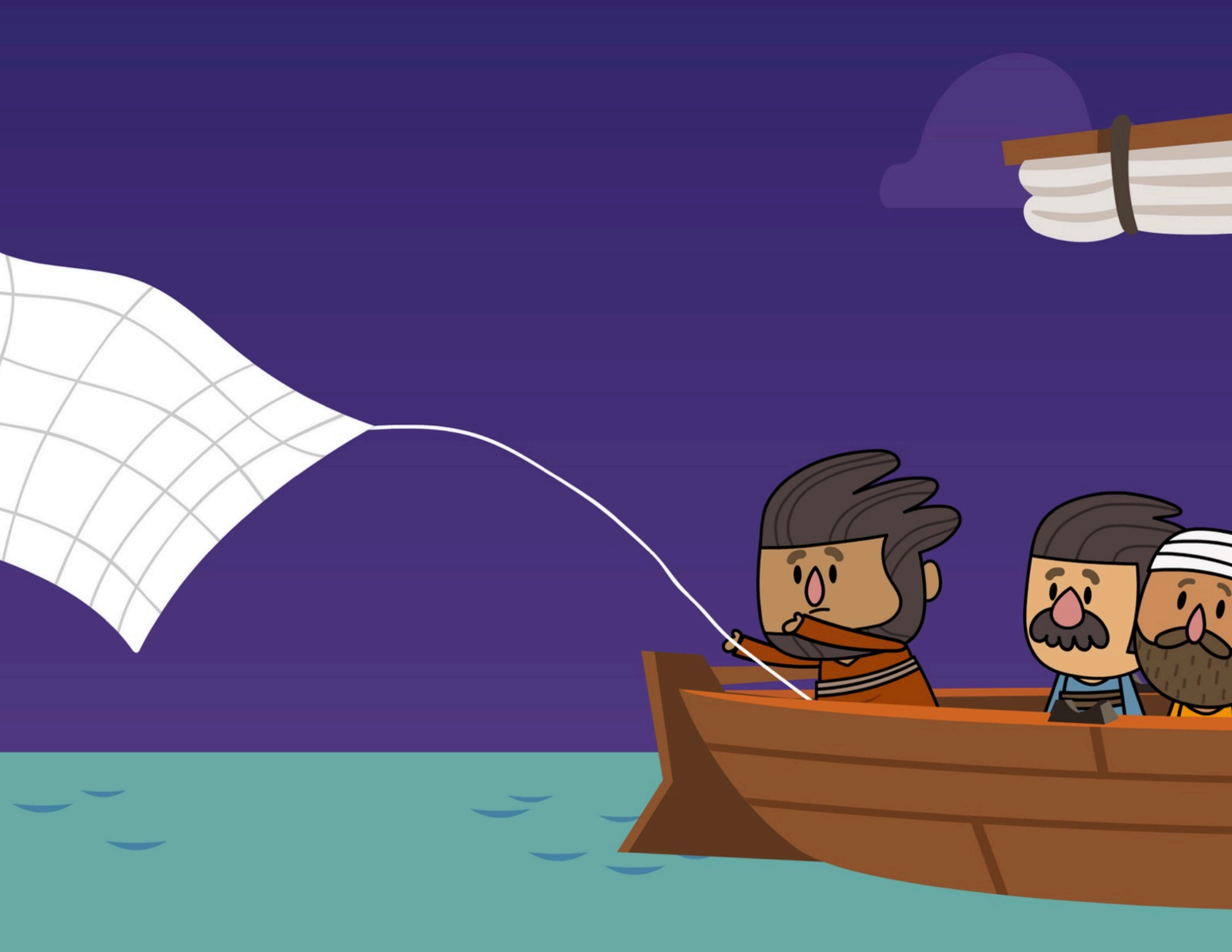
Breakfast on the Beach

John 21:1-14

“Hello, friends! I’m [your name], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible found in the book of John. Today’s Bible story begins with Jesus’ friends, the disciples. The disciples had been sad because Jesus died, but Jesus came back just like He said He would.”



“One night, the disciples got into a boat and went fishing on the lake. Can you pretend to throw out your fishing net? *(Hold up your fingers as you count.)* “One ... two ... three ... throw! *(Pretend to throw a fishing net into the water.)* “Again! One ... two ... three ... throw! *(Pretend to throw a fishing net into the water.)* All through the dark night, the disciples threw their nets into the water. But they did not catch a single fish!”

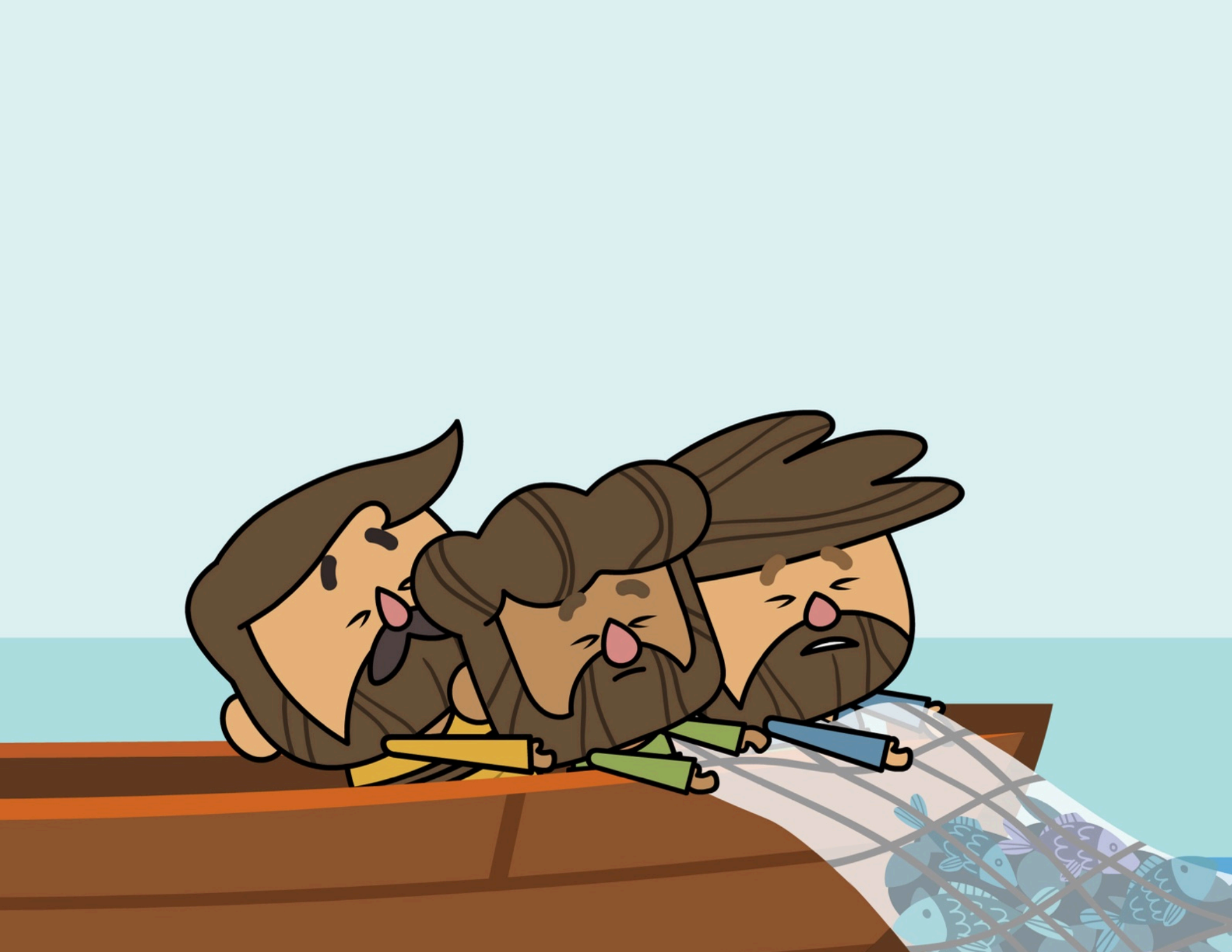


“Early in the morning, they saw a Man standing on the shore.

It was Jesus! But the disciples did not recognize Him at first.

Cup hands around mouth as if calling from a distance. He called out to them, ‘Friends, don’t you have any fish?’ ‘No,’ they answered. (John 21:5) “Then Jesus told them: ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish’

(John 21:6).”



“And when they did, they caught so many fish that the net was too full to pull into the boat! Do you want to hear something amazing? One of the disciples was named Peter, and when Peter first met Jesus, the same thing happened! This wasn’t the first time! When it happened the first time, Peter had been fishing all night and didn’t catch any fish, but when he put out his nets like Jesus said, he caught SO MANY fish! And when Peter followed Jesus’s instructions again, he caught a bunch of fish this time too! Everybody, make a fish with your hands and swim your fish toward me. *(Make a fish with your hands and swim your fish forward.)*

“Oh, that’s a lot of fish! “Another disciple named John remembered this and knew the Man on the beach must be Jesus! Peter was so excited that he jumped right out of the boat and swam to shore! “Let’s pretend to swim to Jesus like Peter. *(Pretend to swim.)* “You are such good pretend swimmers! “Peter swam to the shore, and the disciples followed in the boat, pulling the heavy net full of fish.



“When they reached the shore, they saw that Jesus had made a fire and cooked some bread and fish. Jesus is God’s Son, and He made breakfast for His friends! He wanted to spend time with them, so they ate breakfast together on the beach. “Jesus (*cross arms over chest*) loves us so much that He wants to spend time with us, too, because Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend forever, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

“Let’s say, (*pat legs*) ‘Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!’ for our friend Jesus. Ready?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) “Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!”

“Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: "Yay! (*Clap.*) I'm so happy that Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. In our Bible Story, Jesus went to the beach and made a special breakfast for His friends, the disciples. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me the name of one friend, and I will write it in our journal."

(Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: *(Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.)*

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: "You have some wonderful friends! (*Hold up journal.*) Do you know what? Jesus wants to be friends with all of your friends and with YOU! Let's pray for our friends and talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for giving us friends like (*read each friend's name on list*) and thank You for the best friend, JESUS! We are so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

NAME A FRIEND!

Journal Free Space



"I



have called you



friends."



John 15:15 NLT





Week 3

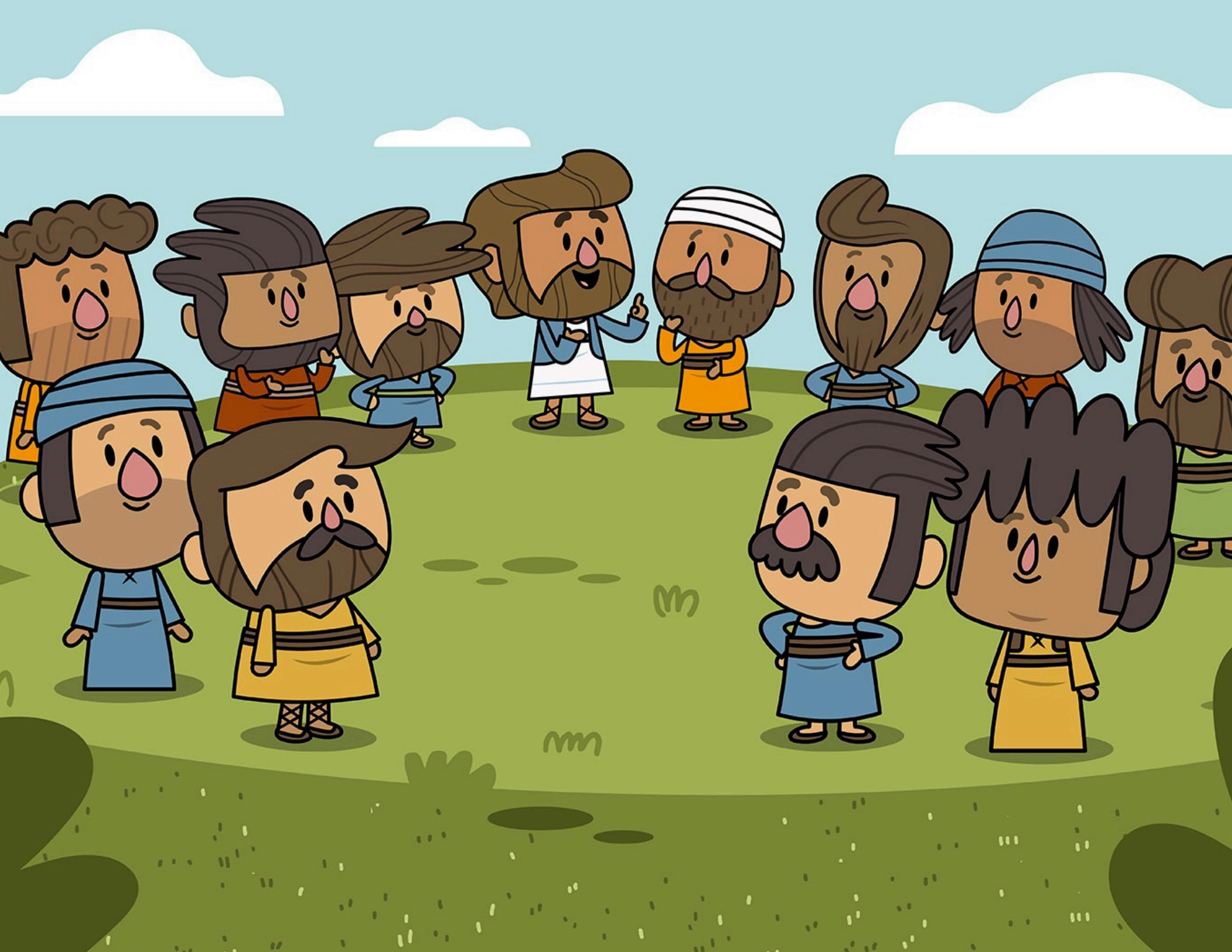
Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

“Hello, friends! I’m [*your name*], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.”



“When Jesus came back to life, His friends were so excited.
(*Pat legs.*) Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray! Jesus is
alive! “But Jesus knew that in a little while, He would go back
to heaven to be with God. So, Jesus asked His friends, the
disciples, to meet Him on a mountain so He could give
them some special instructions. “Stand up and let’s pretend
to climb a mountain. (*Pretend to climb a mountain.*) “The
disciples climbed up, up, all the way to the top of the
mountain. Good job, friends! Let’s sit down.”



“The disciples were so happy and amazed to see Jesus again. They worshiped Him because they knew that Jesus is God’s Son! “Jesus told His friends: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18). Authority is a big word that means someone is in charge. It’s like when you play Simon Says. If I say, ‘Simon says waves your hands in the air,’ what would you do? Wave your hands in the air. “Yes! We’d wave our hands in the air because Simon said to and Simon is in charge of the game. “Well, Jesus is in charge of EVERYTHING, and Jesus gave the disciples a super-big job to do.”



“Jesus wanted His friends to go and tell other people about Him and help them to follow Him too. And not just the people next door or in the next town. Jesus wanted His friends to go all over the whole world to tell people about God’s love and help them follow Jesus!

“Wow! That’s a huge job! Jesus wanted His disciples to tell everyone everywhere about Him no matter where they lived. He told them to teach them everything He had taught them. It was a big job! But Jesus gave them a promise too. *(Cup hands behind ears.)* “Let’s listen very closely because this is a big promise. *(Lean in and speak a little slower to add emphasis.)*



“Jesus said: “And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end” (Matthew 28:20). “Jesus’ friends would not have to go tell people about Jesus all on their own. Jesus would be with them and help them all the time, everywhere they went! “Jesus will help us, too, because Jesus wants us to tell people about Him too! We can tell people about Jesus at home, at school, at church, and in the neighborhood—everywhere we go! “Let’s practice right now. Let’s say: ‘Jesus wants to be your friend forever!’ Ready?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus wants to be your friend forever!”

“Great job! We can tell others about Jesus, and we never have to do it alone. Jesus is always with us because Jesus wants to be your friend forever and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

“Let’s say, (*pat legs*) ‘Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!’ for our friend Jesus. Ready?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) “Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!”

“Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: "Yay! (*Clap.*) I'm so happy that Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our Bible Story, Jesus told His friends to go everywhere and tell everyone about Him. Let's make a list of all the places we go. Then we can use the list when we pray and to help us remember to tell people about Jesus wherever we go. When I say your name, tell me the name of one place you like to go, and I will write it in our journal." (*Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: (*Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.*)

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: "We go to a lot of different places! (*Hold up journal.*) Do you know what? Jesus wants you to tell everyone about Him in ALL of those places! What an important job!! Let's pray and talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for all of the places we get to go, like (*read each place on the list*), please help us remember to tell people about You everywhere we go! We are so glad that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**A PLACE YOU LIKE TO
GO...**

Journal Free Space



"I



have called you



friends."



John 15:15 NLT





Week 4
Heaven

John 14:3;
Revelation 21; 22:1-5

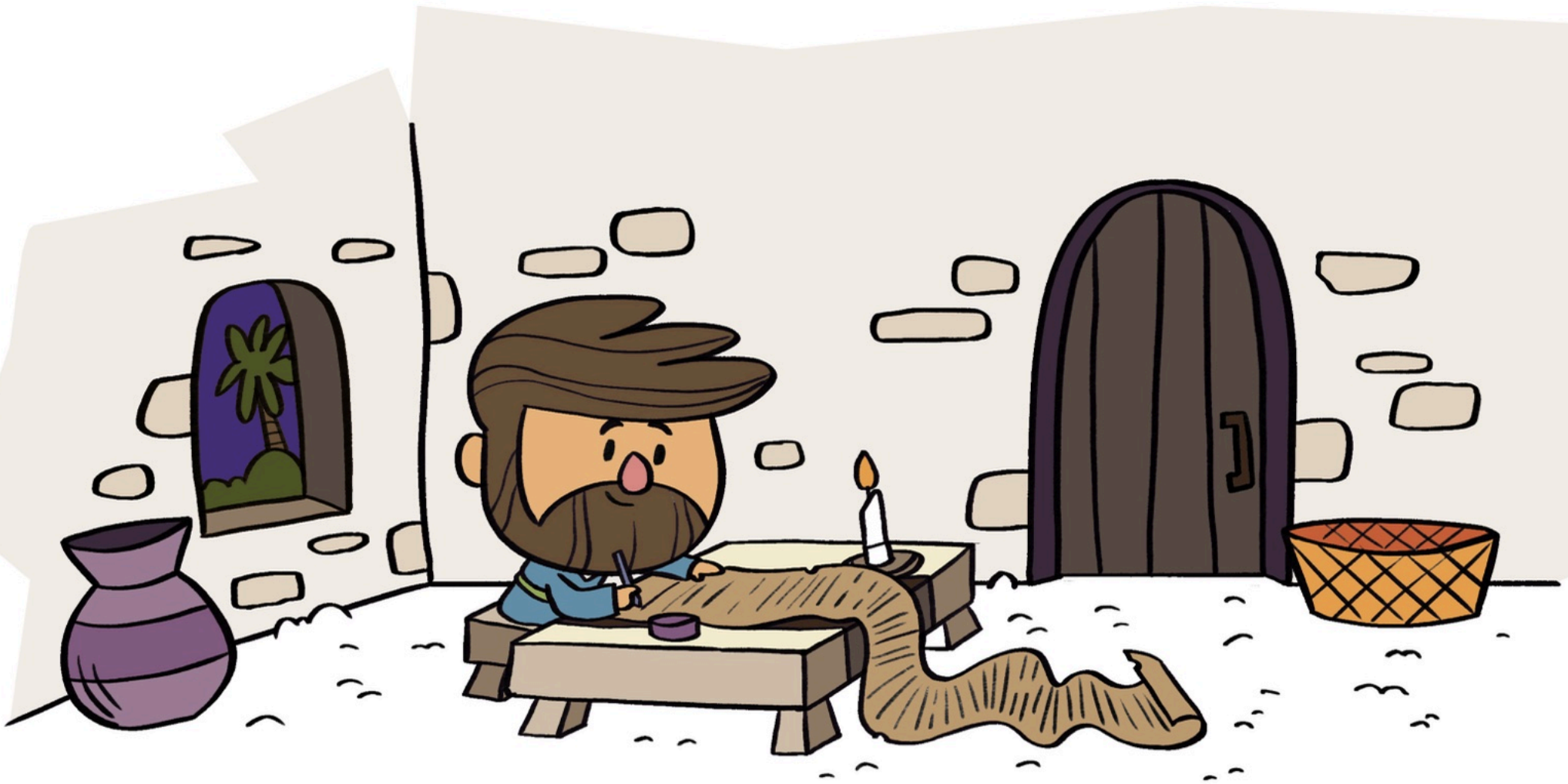
“Hello, friends! I’m [*your name*], and I can’t wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Today’s Bible story begins in the book of John, and it begins with a whole lot of love.

Can you give yourself a big hug? (*Give yourself a big hug.*)



“Jesus loves us so much that He died and then came back to life to rescue everyone! And He told His friends, the disciples, that He was making a home for them in heaven! Jesus told them: “I will come back. And I will take you to be with me.” (John 14:3) “That’s amazing! But the disciples didn’t know what heaven was like.”



“Later, Jesus showed His friend John a little bit of what heaven will be like, and John wrote it down so we can read about it in the Bible. Heaven is where God is. We will get to live with God and see God with our own eyes!”



“When John wrote about heaven, he said: “[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.’

And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain” (Revelation 21:4). “Can you rub your tummy?

(Rub your tummy.) “Can you tap your ear? *(Tap your ear.)*

“There won’t be any tummy aches or ‘ouchy’ ears in heaven.

No one will get sick or hurt. Can you show me a sad face?

(Make a sad face, then shake your head ‘no.’)



“In heaven, there will be no crying because no one will ever be sad! We will be happy with God and our friend Jesus in heaven. And that makes me feel like celebrating!

Everyone, say: (*pat legs*) ‘Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!’”

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) “Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!”

“When we love and follow Jesus, we get to be His friends and live forever in heaven! Jesus wants to be your friend forever and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Tell me:

Who wants to be your friend forever?”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”

“And let’s say, (*pat legs*) ‘Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!’ for our friend Jesus.”

CHILDREN and LEADER: (*Pat legs.*) “Hip, hip, (*throw arms in the air*) hooray!”

“Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

Prayer Time

Journal Prompt: "Yay! (*Clap.*) I'm so happy that Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our Bible Story, we heard that Jesus is preparing the most special place for us, called heaven. Let's make a list of special things. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one special thing, and I will write it in our journal." (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

Quiet Time Leader Prayer: (*Play instrumental worship music here if wanted. Try to work up to 2 minutes by starting with 30 seconds the first few weeks.*)

Holy Spirit what are you saying to us, we are listening. Speak to us.

Leader Prayer: "Those are some pretty special things! (*Hold up journal.*) Do you know what? Heaven is even more special than ALL those things on our list! And Jesus is preparing a place in Heaven for all of His friends! Let's pray and talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for giving us special things like (*read the things on the list*) and thank You for the most special place, heaven! Thank you, God, that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and ever! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

ONE SPECIAL THING...

Journal Free Space



"I



have called you



friends."



John 15:15 NLT

