

First Look | April 12

**Today's Bible Story:** Breakfast on the Beach • John 21:1-14

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Key Question:** Who wants to be your friend forever?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Memory Verse:** *"I have called you friends."* • John 15:15 NIV

## 1. Breakfast with Jesus Placemat

What You Need:

- o "Breakfast with Jesus Placemat" Activity Page
- o Cardstock paper
- o Printed fish cut-outs (one per child)
- o Glue sticks
- o Crayons or markers
- o Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Breakfast with Jesus Placemat" on paper, one per child. Print and cut out one fish per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Give each child a placemat and a fish cut-out. Encourage them to color the page and the items on it. Show them where to glue the fish (on the plate or near the fire if pictured). Help them glue the fish onto their placemat. Talk about the story of Jesus cooking fish for His friends on the beach as they decorate.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and make a special placemat with me to help us remember today's story!"

During the Activity: "After Jesus came back, He met His friends on the beach. They had been fishing all night! And do you know what Jesus did? He made them breakfast! He cooked fish for them.

Can you color the plate on your paper? (Pause.) What else do you see? (Pause for responses.) A cup? (Pause.) A fork? (Pause.) Let's color everything!

Now let's add the fish Jesus cooked. Put some glue on the back of your fish and press it onto your paper. (Pause.) Great job! This fish reminds us that Jesus loved His friends and took care of them. Jesus loves you so much and wants to be your friend forever!"

After the Activity: "Your placemats are beautiful! You can take them home to use for your breakfast. And every time you see the fish, you can remember that Jesus cooked breakfast for His friends because He loves them. Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

## 2. Jesus Wants to Be Your Friend

### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Ask two leaders (or a leader and a child) to hold hands and form an arch.

*During the Activity:* Play a game of "London Bridge", singing the words below. Have the children walk in a line under the arch while you sing. When the song ends, gently lower the arch to catch a child. Continue until each child has a turn to be "caught."

*After the Activity:* Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Let's play a game! We're going to walk under a bridge while singing a special song." (Hold hands with another leader or child to make an arch.)

*During the Activity:* "Let's sing our song! (Sing to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down.")

Jesus wants to be your friend,  
Be your friend, be your friend.  
Jesus wants to be your friend,  
Be your friend, forever! (Lower arms and catch a child.)  
We caught [child's name]! Jesus wants to be [child's name]'s friend forever!" (Celebrate and start again.)

*After the Activity:* "That was so fun! Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

## 3. Pray

Dear God, thank You for giving us friends 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."