

Today's Bible Story: Great Commission • Matthew 28:16-20

I can tell others about Jesus.

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. Celebrate the Good News

What You Need:

- o "Celebrate the Good News Sticker" Activity Page
- o Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- o Paper party hats, one per child (tip cut off beforehand)
- o Scissors (for adult use to cut fringe)
- o Stickers (e.g., smiley faces, stars)
- o Tape (optional, to secure shape if needed)
- o Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Celebrate the Good News Sticker" on label paper, one label per child. Cut the tip off each paper party hat so there is a small opening for children to blow through. Write each child's name on their party hat. Prepare to cut fringe around the wide edge of the hat during the activity (adult use only).

During the Activity: Give each child a paper party hat and ask them to decorate it with stickers and their label. As they finish decorating, help each child by cutting a fringe around the wide edge of the hat to make it look festive. Show them how to hold the narrow end (where the tip was cut off) to their mouth to make festive noises.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Jesus gave us the best news ever! That's a reason to celebrate! Today we're going to decorate something special to celebrate the good news."

During the Activity: "You can decorate your party hat with all these fun stickers. (Allow time for children to add stickers.) Look how bright and fun they are! Now let's add one more very important sticker. (Help children add the Bottom Line sticker.) This sticker reminds us of the good news we are celebrating. It says, [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Now I'm going to cut little fringe at the end to make it extra festive! (Cut fringe.) When you talk through the small opening, watch what happens! (Pause.) Wow! Let's all gently cheer and celebrate together!"

After the Activity: "You can take your celebration blower home and tell everyone the good news we are celebrating. What is it? That [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Hip, hip, hooray! Who wants to be your friend forever? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever! Hip, hip, hooray!"

2. Pray

Dear God, thank You for all of the places we get to go. 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."