





JESUS WELCOMES THE CHILDREN

MARK 10:13-14

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is My Friend

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **Jesus helped a lot of people. He helped everyone who needed him. He was really busy! But do you know what made Jesus really happy?**

Let kids guess, and then say: **Kids! Jesus loved kids! They made him smile. He loved to play with kids.**

Say: **One day, a lot of kids wanted to see Jesus. Point to the kids on the trifold. But Jesus' friends stopped them. They thought he was too busy to play with kids.** Have kids hold up their hands and say, "Stop!"

Say: **That made the kids sad. It made Jesus sad, too. Jesus said, "Don't stop kids from coming to see me! I love kids!"** Have kids make a "come here" motion and say, "Come on!"

Say: **Jesus loved kids, and he liked being their friend. Jesus is your friend, too!**



Play-n-worship

Jesus Is My Friend

Block Play

Let kids line up blocks so they touch and then push one end so the blocks move like a train. Say: **These blocks stick together—just like friends do! Jesus sticks with you and me because he's our friend. Thank you, Jesus, for being our good friend!**

Movement & Music

Play the "I Have a Friend" song from the *Play-n-Worship* CD. Have kids dance around the room as the music plays. When you pause the music, have them run to hug a friend. Play several times, and then say: **Thank you, Jesus, for being such a good friend!**

Game

Have kids line up near one wall and play a version of Red Light, Green Light. Have one child play a disciple who turns his back while the rest of the kids run toward Jesus. Whenever the disciple turns toward kids, they have to stop in their tracks. Play several times so kids can switch roles.

Art

You'll need a large sheet of butcher paper, paper plates, washable paint, and wipes to clean up. Write "Jesus Is My Friend" in the center of the paper, and attach an image of Jesus. Spread the paper on the floor. Help kids press their hands into the paint and then onto the paper, making handprints all the way around the words and image. As each child makes a handprint, say: **Jesus is your friend! Thank you, Jesus, for being [child's name]'s friend!**

Dramatic Play

Have kids take turns playing Who Is It? Choose a "guesser" to stand with his or her back to the other kids. Then silently choose a "knocker" to pretend to knock on a door, saying, "Knock, knock!" When the guesser asks, "Who is it?" the knocker can say, "It's your friend!" Allow the guesser one guess, and then have the knocker say, "It's your friend, [child's name]!" Switch roles so all kids can play.

