

UNIT 3 OVERVIEW

Jesus Loves Me

3

MEETING TIME FRAMES

The meeting plan is designed for 1½ to 2 hours. If your club meeting is shorter, focus on Bible Story, Bible Words, Activity Papers, and at least one other activity time.

UNIT AIMS

Since children this age are literal thinkers, they can't grasp abstract concepts about salvation, but they can learn about and love Jesus. In this unit, they will learn basic facts about him: that he lived on earth and grew just as they do, that he is God's Son, that he is always with them, and especially, that he loves them.

In this unit, children will:

- learn more about who Jesus is and about his love for them.
- sense Jesus' love and presence and want to love him in return.
- practice rhyming and counting, work on the concepts of big and little, up and down, and develop large and small motor skills.

UNIT AWARD



At the end of this unit, each child will receive the Jesus Loves Me Award, whether or not he or she attended every meeting.

Order a set of unit celebration iron-on awards (catalog #4010) for each child. You may also order Skipper shirts, specially designed to display the awards.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY STICKERS



Each meeting in this unit has a corresponding Activity Sticker. Stickers are put on children's Activity Papers. Order a set of Activity Stickers (catalog #4051) for each child.

UNIT SUPPLIES

Before beginning the unit, check each meeting to determine what supplies you will need.

Have on hand:

- Skipper Bible Story Visuals (catalog #3614) for Bible Story time
- set of Memory Verse stickers (catalog #6650) for each child

UNIT SONGS

Choose songs that fit the unit theme. (See Pioneer Clubs catalog for song resources.) Remember that Skippers enjoy:

- songs with actions
- lots of repetition

UNIT AWARD CELEBRATION

Awards for Skippers may be displayed on special Skipper shirts. Distribute awards during a Unit Award Celebration time during the final meeting of the unit.

Give a Jesus Loves Me iron-on award to every child, whether or not the child has attended every meeting. When you hand out the awards, make it fun for Skippers by clapping and cheering (for example, "Chris learned about Jesus. Yea, Chris!").

UNIT EXTRAS (optional)

At the end of this unit, consider having a special meeting before starting the next unit. Ideas for Skipper Specials are given on page 10. See Pioneer Clubs' *Skipper and Scooter Celebrations* for more ideas (see catalog).

PLANNING AHEAD FOR

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting 9 | None. |
| Meeting 10 | Ask a father to bring pictures of his children and lead Bible Story Introduction. |
| Meeting 11 | None. |
| Meeting 12 | Have on hand iron-on awards. Plan the Unit Award Celebration. |



MEETING
12

Jesus Is My Friend

MEETING AIMS:

The children will:

- learn that Jesus was and is happy to be with children.
- feel happy that Jesus loves them.
- work on large motor skills by going through an obstacle course and work on the concepts of up and down.

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16; John 15:14-15

Bible Words: “Jesus loves me” (John 15:9)

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

OPENING—name buttons, shares bank, attendance chart, supplies needed for free play options of your choice, Skippy puppet

OPENING ACTIVITY—supplies needed for activity of your choice

BIBLE STORY—Skippy; optional: puppets from Opening Activity

BIBLE WORDS—none

SNACK (optional)—round crackers, squirt cheese

PLAY TIME (optional)—any supplies needed for obstacle course

CREATIVE ACTIVITY—tempera paint, water, shallow containers, paintbrushes; for each child: Activity Paper, Activity Sticker

SONGS (optional)—your choice

CLOSING—for each child: Take Home Paper, unit iron-on award

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE NEXT UNIT:

Use the Planning Chart (p. 96) to plan the unit you will use next. Before beginning the next unit, consider having a special meeting (see the *Skipper and Scooter Celebrations* book for ideas).

OPENING

10-15 minutes

Do Ahead:

Decide which free play options to do, and gather supplies.

As Skippers arrive, pin on name buttons. Take attendance, and collect shares.

Help each child choose a free play area.

Free Play Options

Blocks. As Skippers play with blocks, talk about being a friend (sharing toys, being kind, etc.). Ask them to name some friends. Say that Jesus is our special friend.

Books. Read stories about friends. Ask Skippers to name some of their friends. Talk about Jesus’ being our special friend.

Home. Ask Skippers if friends come to their homes to play. Take turning knocking, opening a pretend door, and saying, “Come play with me!” Hand out paper and crayons, and let children “draw” pictures of their friends. When they finish, ask them the name of the friend they drew, and write the name on the paper. Ask who is a special friend that we can’t see.

Pictures. Show pictures of children doing things together. Ask questions such as “In this picture, which people are friends?” and “What are the friends in this picture doing?” Ask who is a special friend that we can’t see.

Sounds. Tape-record yourself introducing each child in turn: “Here’s my friend (child’s name).” Then let the child say, “I’m (name).” Then say, “Let’s clap for our friend (name).” Play back the tape when everyone has had a turn. Mention that we have another special friend, Jesus.

At the end of free play, have Skippy lead the Skipper theme song (inside front cover). Sing it several times.

OPENING ACTIVITY

8-12 minutes

Do Ahead:

Select an activity, and gather supplies.

Real Faces. Ask Skippers to smile and make happy faces. Let them look at their happy faces in a mirror. Then repeat with sad faces. Let children try other faces, too.

Ask, “How do you feel when you have a friend?” and let Skippers make happy or sad faces. Say that we can be happy that Jesus is our friend.

Pretend Faces. Cut circles out of yellow and blue construction paper. Make one circle of each color for each child. On the yellow circles, draw happy faces. On the blue circles, draw sad faces. Help Skippers make puppets by gluing (or taping) the faces to craft sticks. Talk about which face is happy and which face is sad. Ask, “How do you feel when you have a friend?” and let Skippers show happy or sad faces. Say that Jesus is happy to have *them* as friends. Save puppets for Bible Story time.



BIBLE STORY

8-12 minutes

Do Ahead:

Read Mark 10:13-16; John 15:14-15. Gather supplies. Practice Introduction with Skippy.

Introduction

Lead Skippers to the story area. Skippy: Scrunches face, hangs head, and shakes head slowly.

Leader: **Skippy, you look sad.**

Skippy: **I feel sad. I lost my new toy.** Asks children:

- **Can you show me a sad face, too?** Encourages children to make sad faces (or hold up sad puppets if you made them in Opening Activity).

Skippy: **Yes, that’s how I feel because I lost my new toy.** Asks children:

- **When do you feel sad?** *Option:* Have Skippy ask specific questions (“Do you feel sad when you lose a toy?” “Do you feel sad when you fall down?” etc.).

Skippy: Continues looking sad. **Hmmm...** Perks up and bounces happily. **But now I’m here with my friends.**

Leader: **Skippy, you look happy.**

Skippy: **I feel happy. I’m happy to be with all my friends.** Asks children:

- **Can you show me a happy face, too?** Skippy: **Yes, that’s how I feel because I’m with all of you.** Asks children:
- **When do you feel happy?** *Option:* Have Skippy ask questions (“Do you feel happy when you eat your favorite food?” “Do you feel happy when Mommy or Daddy reads you a book?” etc.).

Skippy: Nods. Asks children:

- **Do you feel sad or happy when you have a friend? Show me.**

Put Skippy away.

Scripture Story

Open Bible. **I will tell you a story from the Bible. When I say the word happy, show me a happy face. When I say sad, show me a sad face. Let's practice. Happy!** Prompt children to make happy faces (or hold up happy puppets). **Sad!** Prompt children to show sad faces.

Our story from the Bible started out sad (prompt children), **but ended up happy** (prompt).

When Jesus lived on earth, he taught people about God. He made people who were sick feel better. The people were very happy (prompt) **about that. Many people wanted to see Jesus and talk to him.**

One day some grown-ups and their children came to see Jesus. They must have felt happy (prompt) **to be coming to Jesus. But Jesus' helpers did something very sad** (prompt). **The helpers said to the grown-ups, "Go away! Don't bother Jesus with the children."**

The grown-ups and children must have been sad (prompt). **They wanted to see Jesus and be with him.**

Jesus heard the unkind things his helpers said. He felt sad (prompt). **Jesus didn't want the children to go away.**

So Jesus did something wonderful. He said to his helpers, "Don't stop the children. Let them come and see me." The children must have been very happy (prompt). **Maybe they ran to Jesus. Jesus put his arms around them and held them. Jesus loved the children. Jesus was very happy** (prompt) **to see the children and talk to them. Jesus was the children's friend.**

Jesus is our friend, too. In the Bible Jesus says, "If you obey me, you are my friend."

Application

Jesus loves you, and he is very happy to be with you. He is your friend.

- **Do you feel sad or happy about that? Show me.**

Teach Skippers this action rhyme, and do it together:

I'm happy, I'm happy (clap hands),
'Cause Jesus (point up) **loves** (hug self)
me (point to self).

I'm smiling, I'm smiling (smile),
'Cause Jesus (point up) **loves** (hug self)
me (point to self).

PARENT HELPER



The parent helper could:

- help prompt children to show faces
- set up an obstacle course for Play Time



BIBLE WORDS

5-7 minutes

Do Ahead:

Review the Bible words from John 15:9.

Have Skippers stand to review the Bible words from John 15:9, using motions. Repeat several times.

"Jesus" (point up)

"loves" (hug self)

"me" (point to self)



SNACK

optional

Do Ahead:

Gather supplies. *Option:* Make happy and sad faces on the crackers yourself.

Pray together: **Thank you, God, for food we eat. Thank you, God, for this good treat. Amen.**

Let children squirt cheese on the crackers to make happy and sad faces. Ask which kind of face they're making.



PLAY TIME

optional

Do Ahead:

Gather supplies. Set up a simple obstacle course. For example, Skippers could crawl under a table, walk around several chairs, jump over a rope on the floor, turn around and walk backward, duck under a rope, and hop on one foot.

Let's go through an obstacle course. Follow me, and do what I do. Lead children through the obstacle course. Lead children in saying, "Up!" and "Down!" as you crouch down, stand up, or jump up.



CREATIVE ACTIVITY

10-15 minutes

Do Ahead:

Gather supplies. Make the paint thin, and put it in shallow containers.

TODAY'S CHILDREN...

at this age are just beginning to learn to interact with others when they play instead of only playing alone.

- Look for opportunities to identify the Skippers as "Skipper friends" and to say, "It's fun to have friends!" together.
- Look for opportunities to informally teach about friendship: "You passed the crayon to Cary. Friends can help each other!"

Hand out Activity Papers (p. 35, *Hearing Bible Stories Activity and Take Home Papers*).

Help children dip their paintbrushes in paint and get started. As they paint, ask,

- **Which picture shows friends having a good time?**
- **Do you feel happy or sad about having a friend?**
- **Point to the happy face. Point to the sad face.**
- **Where is the picture of two children who are not being kind friends? How could they be kind?**

When children finish, write their names on the papers, and stick on Activity Stickers.



SONGS

optional

Do Ahead:

Choose songs about friends and having Jesus as our friend. (See Pioneer Clubs catalog for song resources.)

Sing the songs you chose.



CLOSING

5-7 minutes

Do Ahead:

Be prepared to sing the Skipper prayer song (inside front cover). Gather supplies.

Give each Skipper a Jesus Loves Me iron-on award, whether or not the child has attended each meeting.

Sing the Skipper prayer song together, and pray a short prayer, thanking Jesus for being our special friend. Review the Bible words and motions.

Collect name buttons. Hand out Take Home Papers.