jesus & me

choose kind

"Treat others how you want to be treated" --Matthew 7:12

Day	Bible Story	Main Point
Monday	Zacchaeus is Chosen Luke 19:1-10	**You are Special!**
Tuesday	Matthew Follows Jesus Matthew 9:9-13	**I will follow Jesus**
Wednesday	Jesus Heals the 10 Lepers Luke 17:11-19	**I will care for others**
Thursday	Jesus is a friend to the Women at the Well John 4:1-44	**I will be a good friend**
Friday	Jesus Blesses the Children Mark 10:13-16	**I will include others**

Exploration Centers Ideas

These activities can be set up at different locations in the room before the children arrive. After the children have completed their welcome activity for the day they can explore the different centers in their classroom

Bible Center — Put out a few different kinds of picture Bibles. Have the children explore the Bible by playing "I Spy" in the Bible. Ask them to find different things in the Bible: Can you spy *an animal? a rainbow? Water? Someone showing kindness?* You can also let them pick out a Bible story and read it to them or have them tell you the story by looking at the pictures.

Prayer Center — Create a prayer sensory experience. Fill a plastic tote with cotton balls or packing peanuts. Mix different items or pictures of things that the children can pray for in with the cotton balls or packing peanuts. Have the child draw something out of the tote and say, "Thank you God for <u>name of item</u>".

Building Center — Work together to build a church using the blocks in your classroom. Be sure to add some people, cars, food, etc.

Creation Center — Make an "I Love Jesus" banner to hang in your classroom for the week. Set out heart die cuts or paper of some kind for the children to draw a picture for Jesus. They can draw whatever they want. It could be something they are thankful for, something they are sad about, something that scares them, or someone they love. Then have them attach their special picture for Jesus on the banner.

Journals — After they finish their welcome activity for the day they can color in their activity booklets.

Friendship Game Ideas

These activities can be used at the end of friendship circle
if you have additional time

I Love Jesus Chant — Teach the children the following chant having them repeat after you…

I love Jesus	I Love Jesus
Yes I do	Yes I do
I love Jesus	I love Jesus
How 'bout you?	How 'bout you?

Clap your hands and say the chant above together this time. At the end, point to someone. The next time that child will get to point to someone.
Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Friendship Roll — Roll the ball to a child in your circle and have them tell you their name and answer a question i.e. "What is your favorite color?"; "Name one person you love." "Act like your favorite animal.", etc. After they share have them roll the ball to another friend. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Friendship Dance—Turn on some music and find a friend to dance with. When the music stops have the kids switch to another friend.

Friendship Toss— *Toss a ball or beanbag to a friend in the circle and have them name one of their friends. Then have them toss it to another friend and have them say a name of a friend. Continue until everyone has had a turn and then ask another question from the list below:*

- *Name of a friend*
- *Favorite game to play with your friends*
- *Favorite place to go with your friends*
- *Favorite food to eat with your friends*

Closing Activity Ideas

These activities can be used at the end of the day if you have additional time.

- **Finish Line Bin** — Use the "Finish Line" bin activities and supplies located in your room.
- **Freeze Dance** — Turn on some music and ask the children to dance. Stop the music and the children have to freeze. Ask the children to yell out "I love Jesus!" Then turn on the music and dance again.
- **Friendship Bingo** — Give each child a Bible bingo card and a stamper (or crayons). Have one of the children pick a calling card. Read and discuss the card as they look for that picture on their bingo board. Continue to play until all the squares are covered. Then celebrate by giving everyone a stamp on their hand.
- **Bubbles** — Blow some bubbles and let the children take turns popping the bubbles. When they pop a bubble they can say "Jesus loves me" or say the faith word of the day, or you can say a statement such as, "if you gave someone a hug today stand up and pop a bubble"
- **Making Waves** — Have all of the children hold onto the parachute and stand up. Place a ball in the middle of the fabric. Have the children create waves by moving the parachute up and down gently. Tell the children that you are going to work together to keep the ball on the fabric while you make waves. If the ball jumps off, put it back on and try again.
- **Who Do I See?** — Have the children sit in a circle. Secretly choose one child, and say: "I see someone who's wearing…" Complete the sentence by naming something that child is wearing, such as glasses, a bow, or a blue shirt. Then have the children guess who you see. Continue giving clues until someone guesses who you are talking about. Then pick a different child and do the same thing.
- **Hot Potato** — Have the children sit in a circle and give one of the children a ball. Turn on some music and have them pass the ball around the circle. When the music stops the child who is holding the ball says someone they can show kindness to. Start the music and pass the ball again. You can also have them say the name of one of their friends, their favorite thing about VBC, something they are thankful for
- **Dress Up** — Bring in some costumes, hats, etc for the children to play dress up. Have them act out the Bible story of the day.