

BASIC TRUTH

**JESUS WANTS TO BE
MY FRIEND FOREVER.**

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.

BIBLE WORDS

**"Love each other as
I have loved you."
John 15:12, NIV**

Toddler classrooms are one of the most unique places in the church. Between the diaper changes, snacking, and rocking, there are small windows of playtime that are an amazing opportunity to teach children about their loving Heavenly Father. This curriculum is designed to bridge the gap as your young toddlers move from the baby room towards the twos.

We have provided four playtimes to teach the monthly bottom line through one-on-one as well as small group play. Repeat each activity as long as there is interest. Remember, toddlers LOVE repetition.

These toddler playtimes have also been produced as posters available at www.orangestore.org for you to hang on the wall for easy reference.

MONTHLY PLAYTIMES:

- Tub of Emotions
- Tunnel Time
- Shake, Shake
- In the Heart

SUPPLIES:

- Plastic tub
- Ball pit balls
- Permanent marker
- Play tunnel or cardboard box open at both ends
- Toddler-safe shakers
- Masking tape

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1. TUB OF EMOTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic tub; ball pit balls; permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO: Draw different types of faces (happy, sad, etc.) on the balls and place them in a tub. Gather several toddler friends to sit with you. Encourage each friend to pull a ball out of the tub and identify the face. Continue as long as there is interest.

WHAT YOU SAY: "Friends, come and sit with me. Can you reach in the tub and get one of the balls? What kind of face is that? It's a happy face. Can you show me your happy face? Great job. Jesus loves you when you're happy. What kind of face is that? It's a sad face. Can you show me your sad face? Awe. You look so sad. Jesus loves you when you're sad. Jesus loves you all the time. Jesus loves everyone."

2. TUNNEL TIME

WHAT YOU NEED: Play tunnel or cardboard box open at both ends

WHAT YOU DO: Gather toddler friends to play with the tunnel. As they enter the tunnel, say "Jesus loves . . .," and then say their name when they emerge. Be sure everyone goes through the tunnel. Continue as long as there is interest.

WHAT YOU SAY: "Come and play with this tunnel with me. [Child's name], you go first. Jesus loves [child's name]. Let's make sure everyone gets a chance to go through the tunnel. Jesus loves everyone."

3. SHAKE, SHAKE

WHAT YOU NEED: Toddler-safe shakers

WHAT YOU DO: Give each toddler one or two shakers. Shake the shakers by your side for "Jesus loves" and in an up-in-the-air punch for "everyone." Say the chant to the typical "cha-cha" rhythm while standing and dancing. Older children will want to march around the room while saying the chant.

WHAT YOU SAY: "Hey, everybody. Did you know that Jesus loves everyone. He loves you and you and you? That's right. He does! Does everyone have a shaker? Let's do the cha-cha."

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(Chanting)

"Jesus loves everyone.

"Jesus loves everyone.

"Jesus loves everyone.

"Yeah!" "Jesus can do anything, anything, anything.

"Jesus can do anything, oh, yes He can!"

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.

"Yay Jesus! Jesus can do anything!"

4. IN THE HEART

WHAT YOU NEED: Masking tape

BIBLE WORDS

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WHAT YOU DO: Make a heart with the tape on the floor. Have your toddler friends run into the heart when their name is called. Fill the heart with friends and then do it again. Continue as long as there is interest.

WHAT YOU SAY: "Let's play a fun game! See this heart? When you hear your name, I want you to go inside the heart. Are you ready? Jesus loves [child's name], and Jesus loves [child's name], and Jesus loves [child's name]. Jesus loves everyone. Yay! Everybody cheer. Now, run back out of the heart. Let's do it again."