

**OPENING:** We have been learning that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and then Jesus came back to life again. Jesus is alive forevermore. Shout this with me: 1-2-3-4-5 – Jesus, Jesus is alive!

**BIBLE VERSE/SONG: *Sing “The B-I-B-L-E”***

*The B-I-B-L-E
Yes, that’s the book for me!
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E*

“Here is my Bible. I will open it wide, to read about Jesus from the words inside.” (*Open to Matthew 28:20)* We know that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive forever in Heaven. In Matthew chapter 28 verse 20, Jesus tells us that He is always with us, even though we cannot see Him. Repeat Jesus’ words after me: “I am with you always.”

Who is always with us? *(Jesus)* When is Jesus with us? *(always)*

*(Take* ***6 sheets of paper****. On one sheet write “Matthew 28:20.” Write one word from the Bible Verse on each of the other 5 sheets. Lay them out in order: I – am – with – you – always – Matthew 28:20.*

*Play a memory game to learn the verse. Remove one paper each time and have your child repeat the entire verse and tell you which word you removed)*

**BIBLE STORY:** It is time to hear our Bible story. Listen carefully because when the story is finished, I will ask you some questions. Before we begin our story, let’s pray: Our hands we fold, our heads we bow, so we can talk to God right now.

 Dear God, thank You for Your true words in the Bible. Help us to listen carefully so we can learn about You today. Amen.

*Open Bible to Matthew 28:16-20 and keep it open while telling the story so children understand this story comes from the Bible.*

One day Jesus and His disciple friends had gathered together on a mountainside so they could be together. Jesus loved being with His friends, and His friends loved being with Jesus. While they were talking, Jesus told His disciples that He had something very important for them to do. Jesus told them to go out and tell everyone about Him. He wanted His friends to tell everyone Jesus loves them and that Jesus died for their sins. He wanted His friends to teach people to obey the things Jesus taught.

Then the Bible says that Jesus told His friends He was going away. It was time for Him to go to heaven and prepare a wonderful new home for everyone who believes in Him.

“Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told them. “I will always be with you, no matter what. After I go, the Holy Spirit will come to you, and He will give you power to tell people about me. But now the time has come for me to go to heaven. Don’t be afraid. Remember, I will always be with you.

Then, *(look up)* the disciples saw Jesus go up into the sky, through the clouds, until they couldn’t see Him any longer. Jesus went to heaven to be with His Father, God. *(Close your Bible)*

I am sure it was hard for the disciples to watch Jesus go away. They loved Jesus very much and they were going to miss Him. But He told them He would always be with them, and they knew they could trust what Jesus said was true.

*(Open your Bible)* Jesus tells us the same thing! Jesus wants us to tell everyone about Him so they can believe in Him; and Jesus promises to always be with us! We can trust Jesus’ promises!

**QUESTIONS: Who saw Jesus go up into heaven?** *Disciples*

**Why did Jesus have to go back to heaven? What did Jesus say He was going to be doing there?** *Preparing a wonderful new home for everyone who believes in Him!*

**What important work did Jesus give His disciples to do?** *Tell everyone about Jesus, that He loves them and died for their sins.*

**What important work does Jesus have for *us*?** *Tell everyone about Jesus, that He loves them and died for their sins.*

**Jesus said that after He goes to heaven, the Holy Spirit will come to them. What would the Holy Spirit do?** *Give them power to tell everyone about Jesus.*

**Who promises to be with us always?** *Jesus*

**KEY CONCEPT:** *(Have children stand)* **Jesus** *(point up)* **is always with us** *(point thumbs to self). Repeat verse several times with motions, beginning with a whisper and getting a little louder each time, or repeat with different voices.*

**SONG**: *“Jesus Loves Me” verses 1, 2, 3*

Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong!

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

Jesus loves me, He who died; Heaven’s gates to open wide.
He will wash away my sin. Let His little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

Jesus loves me and He’ll stay close beside me all the way;
He’ll prepare a home for me, and one day His face I’ll see!

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

**ACTIVITY:** I love that Jesus is always with us! He is always near to help us do all things, to protect us and to love us. Let’s play a game to discover times when Jesus is with us. I’m going to give you three clues; listen to all three clues before guessing. Ready? *Read clues, then allow child to guess what it is and recite the poem accompanying it.*

 It has four tires. It has a steering wheel. It goes “vroom, vroom.” *(Car)*
“Whether you’re going near or far, Jesus is with you in the car!”

This is soft. You lie down on it when you go to sleep. It has a blanket and pillow. *(Bed)*
“At bedtime you can always sleep tight, ‘cause Jesus is with you all through the night!”

You go see this person when you’re sick. This person looks in your ears, nose, and throat. This person listens to your heart. *(Doctor)*
“When I’m sick, at the doctor is where I’ll be; I know Jesus is there with me.”

*(Hand out* ***Game Sheet*** *and a crayon)*

Now let’s play a game and talk about times Jesus is with us*.* I will read you our special directions and questions for the game. Each one will tell us how many circles we get to color on the game board. Sometimes we will land on a star. When we land on a star, we will answer questions about different times and places Jesus is with us.

#1. Color in six circles. Did you land on a star? *(yes)* We have to answer this question before we can go on in the game. What is a place inside your house where Jesus is with you? *(Allow responses)* Jesus is with us everywhere.

#2. Color in two circles. Did you land on a star? *(no)* Stand up and jump up and down five times. Then sit back down.

#3. Color in four circles. Did you land on a star? *(yes)* We have to answer this question. Pretend we are driving in our car. *(Pretend to drive)* Where would you like to pretend we’re going? *(Allow responses)* Is Jesus with us when we’re driving in our car? *(Yes!)* Jesus is with us everywhere.

#4. Color in six circles. Did you land on a star? *(yes)* We have to answer this question. Tell me about a timewhen youfelt really sador really happy. *(Allow responses)* Is Jesus with you when you’re really sad or really happy? *(Yes!)*

#5. Color in eight circles. Did you land on a star? *(no)* Stand up and twirl around five times. Then sit back down.

#6. Color in three circles. Did you land on a star? *(yes)* Tell me about a time when Jesus was with you. *(Allow responses)* Jesus is always with us.

#7. Color in four circles. Did you make it to the end of the game? *(yes)* Way to go! What are the special words we learned today? **Jesus is always with us.**

**PRAYER:** Let’s kneel and talk to Jesus. God is listening, God is listening to each word I say. He will hear me, He will hear me every time I pray:  **Dear Jesus,/ thank You for promising/ to be with me always./ I am glad You are always near me./ Help me to tell others about You/ so they can believe in You!/ Amen.**

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