

## BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE  
MY FRIEND FOREVER.

## BOTTOM LINE

I CAN BELIEVE IN JESUS.

## BIBLE WORDS

"These are written so that you  
may believe that Jesus is the  
Christ, the Son of God."  
John 20:31, NLV

There are four playtimes to teach the monthly bottom line through play. Repeat each activity as long as there is interest. Remember, toddlers LOVE repetition.

### MONTHLY PLAYTIMES:

- You Can
- Tunnel Time
- Believe In Jesus
- Find Jesus

### 1. YOU CAN

**WHAT YOU DO:** Sit with toddler and do motions with him.

**WHAT YOU SAY:** "You can clap. Clap with me. You can jump. Jump with me. You can smile. Smile with me. You can give high fives. High five with me. You can do all those things and you can believe in Jesus. Yay!"

### 2. TUNNEL TIME

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Pop-up tunnel, couch cushions, or a table with sheets hanging down on the sides.

**WHAT YOU DO:** Gather your children and go through the tunnel one at a time. As your child emerges, say "[Child's Name] can believe in Jesus." Continue as long as there is interest.

**WHAT YOU SAY:** "Can you crawl through the tunnel? Yes, you can crawl through the tunnel! Crawl through to me. Yay! [Child's name.] can believe in Jesus. (Repeat with each child as they crawl through.) We all can believe in Jesus! Yes, you, and I can believe in Jesus!"

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## 3. BELIEVE IN JESUS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Toddler-safe shakers (you can make a shaker by putting rice, beans, or noodles in an empty water bottle and taping the lid closed tightly)

**WHAT YOU DO:** Give your toddler one or two shakers and say the Bottom Line. Shake your shakers by your side during "You can believe in" and then hands up for "Jesus!" Say the chant while standing and dancing. Older children will want to march around the room while saying the chant. Continue as long as there is interest.

**WHAT YOU SAY:** "Did you know that you can believe in Jesus? You can! Great, let's shake!"

(Chanting.)

"You can believe in

"Jesus!

"You can believe in

"Jesus!

"You can believe in

"Jesus!

"Yeah!"

## 4. FIND JESUS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Toddler Bible

**WHAT YOU DO:** Sit with your child and look through a Toddler Bible. Specifically, look for pictures of Jesus. Continue as long as there is interest.

**WHAT YOU SAY:** "Come and sit with me. This is a Bible. It tells us all about Jesus who wants to be our friend forever. Let's see if we can find a picture of Jesus in this Bible. There's Jesus! You can believe in Jesus! Let's find another picture. There's Jesus! You can believe in Jesus!"

## Older Toddler Lesson Play Activities

### 1. Pretend Writing Activity:

**Prepare:** Spray shaving cream on a table.

**Say:** “Let’s practice writing letters in a super fun way! Use your finger to write in the shaving cream. You’re doing a great job of writing! Writing reminds me of our memory verse this month. The Bible was written so that we can believe in Jesus! Let’s say our memory verse while we write.” (Show your child the memory verse poster. Say the memory verse while doing the motions.)

#### **AFTER THE ACTIVITY:**

**Say:** “The Bible was written so that we can know and believe in Jesus! Who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus!”

### 2. Blindfolded Activity:

**Prepare:** Gather bandanas to use as blindfolds

**Say:** “In our Bible story, today, we heard how Saul’s friends had to help him get home after he was blinded on the road. Let’s pretend you are Saul by putting this blindfold on. I am going to lead you to different places in the house very carefully.

#### **AFTER THE ACTIVITY:**

**Say:** “After the light, Saul heard a loud voice. Who was it? (Pause.) Jesus! Saul was blinded by the bright light, and his friends had to help him to the house where he stayed. But a few days later, Saul could see again, and he started believing in Jesus! And you can, too. Who can believe in Jesus? I can believe in Jesus.”

**JUNE 2020**  
Memory Verse Motions



"These are written



so that you



may believe



that Jesus is the Christ,



the Son of God.



John 20:31

**I SPY**



**WEEK THREE**

**ACTS 9:1-20**

Paul has a life-changing encounter with Jesus that makes him believe that Jesus is alive.



**REMEMBER THIS:**

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

**JOHN 20:31, NLV**



**SAY THIS:**

Who can believe in Jesus?  
**I CAN BELIEVE IN JESUS.**



**DO THIS:**



Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You for all of the people who wrote down what they saw Jesus do so we can read it in the Bible and believe in Jesus, too. Please help [child's name], me, and [other family members] believe that Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

**BASIC TRUTH:**

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

**PRACTICING FAITH SKILLS WITH YOUR CHILD**

By Holly Crawshaw

If you're a parent reading this, chances are it's important to you to instill solid, character-building, faith-growing practices in the daily habits of your children. But thinking about being responsible for the development of someone else's faith feels like immense pressure—like rhino-on-my-chest level pressure.

Let me give you (us) some hope—just thinking about teaching our kids spiritual disciplines is a huge step in the right direction. Our thoughts steer our actions, and our actions are required when it comes to parenting with intentionality.

We have identified four skills that every kid can learn and practice to help them grow in their faith:

**HEAR:** Listen to God's Word. When we read the Bible and listen to what God has to tell us through His word, we learn we can trust God no matter what.

**PRAY:** Dialogue with God. Through prayer we connect with God. We show gratitude, say we're sorry, and express our feelings to God.

**TALK:** Articulate your faith. When we talk about our faith, we learn more about God and can tell others about Jesus.

**LIVE:** Worship with your life. Worshipping God is more than just singing songs. Worship is about living life in a way that honors God.

These four faith skills have the potential to create an incredible spiritual foundation in the lives and futures of your kids. So . . . how do we go about making these four practices daily habits for our kids? Here are a few tips:

**1. It's never too late, or too early, to start.**

8-months old, 8-years-old. 18-years-old. It doesn't matter. God has a way of meeting you where you are and gracefully filling in the gaps.

**2. You don't have to have all the answers.**

It's okay—healthy, even—to say, "I don't know," when it comes to questions about faith. Other great responses are, "Let's ask someone who knows more," "Let's look it up together," or, "That's a great question to save for down the road."

**3. It starts with you.**

The best way to teach kids faith skills is to practice them in our own lives. You don't have to make a production out of every quiet time, but modeling a daily pursuit of your relationship with God accomplishes way more than our words ever could.



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