



# Early Childhood DEVOTIONS



FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 7

## IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT JESUS

FOCUS: WHO IS JESUS?

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).*

### Jesus Is ... True God

(Jesus Returns to Heaven, Matt. 28:16–20, Acts 1:1–11)

#### Before You Teach

Now you see Him, now you don't ... Jesus' ascension is a mystery, but not a magic show. Jesus physically removes His presence from the earth and commissions and empowers His disciples — in all generations — to continue the work of His kingdom until He returns in glory. We who teach are agents of King Jesus, helping to shape, nurture and equip new workers, especially those within our classrooms. The contemporary Christian songwriter Keith Green says it this way: "Thank you, O my Father / for giving us Your Son / And leaving Your Spirit / 'Til the work on Earth is done" ["There is a Redeemer (Songs for the Shepherd)," 2008].

#### Greeting

Set aside this very important time to welcome each child individually upon entry. **Good morning (afternoon), child of God! I am so happy you are here today!**

#### Gathering

Invite children into your worship area as you play or sing: "Go Tell" (LOSP, P. 104). **Jesus wants us to show and tell others about His great love for all people.**

#### Tell the Story

**Directions:** Make a traffic light. Cut three circles from construction paper — one red, one yellow, one green — and glue each to black construction paper to look like a traffic light. Tell this biblical narrative, pointing to each color where indicated as the Bible story unfolds.



After Jesus rose from the grave, He showed Himself to the disciples many times so they knew for sure that He was alive. Jesus told the disciples all about God, His Father. **Red:** One day, while He was eating with them, Jesus told His disciples to **STOP!** "Do not leave the city of Jerusalem." **Yellow:** Jesus told His disciples to **SLOW DOWN**, saying, "In a few days you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which God My Father promised, and which you have heard Me talk about" Then, when the time came for Jesus to go back to heaven, He told His disciples to travel to a mountain in Galilee. **Green:** While there Jesus said **GO!** Make disciples of people all around the world! Tell others everywhere about all that you have heard and seen. Baptize people in the name

**Note:** You will need the songbook: *Little Ones Sing Praise (LOSP)* , copyright © 1989 Concordia Publishing House (CPH), St. Louis, Mo.

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of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. I will always be with you!” Then, Jesus was taken up into the sky where a cloud hid Him. The disciples kept looking up when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. They said to Jesus’ disciples, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? Jesus will return one day.” Jesus promised to always be with us and to come back one day. Jesus always keeps His promises!

### PRAY TOGETHER:

*Children repeat each line spoken by the leader.*

**Dear Jesus,**

Thank You for Your love and care;

You are with us everywhere.

We never ever need to fear,

For You are always, always near.

**Amen.**

## Remember the Story

### BIBLE WORDS TO REMEMBER

**PRE-K & K:** “And behold, I am with you always”  
(**MATT. 28:20B**).

**GRADES 1 & 2:** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always” (**MATT. 28:19–20B**).

### Activities

**CREATE:** Tell others about Jesus’ love for them. Make “Jesus Loves You” cards for children to give to family, friends and neighbors.



**SING:** “I’m with You” (*LOSP*, P. 32); “Go Tell” (*LOSP*, P. 104).

**DO:** Chant the rhyme, doing actions as the rhyme indicates.

**Around and about, around and about,**

**Over and under, let’s give a loud SHOUT!**

**Hands high in the air; touch toes then stand tall;**

**Arms out to the side; Jesus loves you all** (group hug)!

## Live the Story

Knowing Jesus promises to be with us always does not mean that we are free from fear and anxiety. In his recent book *Fear, Anxiety and Wellness: Journey to a Heart at Peace* (2017), Dr. John D. Eckrich helps us understand how the lack of health — physical, spiritual, financial, emotional — negatively impacts our ability to live out our God-given vocations to the fullest. He offers powerful and practical guidance to help on the journey to a heart at peace. This summer, set aside time to read and reflect on this valuable resource. Visit [GracePlacewellness.org](http://GracePlacewellness.org) to order your copy.

## Sending

Gather children together in a “blessing” circle. Say:

**Jesus promised to be with us always  
wherever we are and in whatever  
we do. Jesus always keeps His  
promises.** As children depart say  
to each:

**Jesus is with you always!**

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