THEME: **Egocentrism**

**ABOUT THIS CLASS:** The theme for this Frolic Family Faith Class is **Egocentrism**. You will read the Frolic storybook titled *Happy Birthday, Ava!*

# Prep Time

**Egocentrism in the Bible**
Jesus is the model of selflessness. His ministry, teachings, and sacrifice on the cross teach us the importance of caring for each other. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches the Golden Rule, to do to others as we would have them do to us. When a lawyer asks Jesus what the greatest commandment is, Jesus says we should love God with our whole being and love our neighbor as ourselves. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells us to go out of our way to care for others, even if we don't know or like them. The Bible repeatedly calls us to set aside our egocentrism and selfishness and live with empathy, compassion, and love.

**A Parent's View of the Theme**
From birth, children are focused on getting what they need. Parents are faced with the challenge of figuring out and meeting the needs of their crying, demanding infant. This stage of neediness and egocentrism is totally natural for young children but can leave caregivers exhausted and frustrated. Just as this stage of development is necessary for children, parents also need to know that caring for themselves is an important part of parenting. Taking time to rest and relax allows caregivers to respond with empathy and compassion toward their children.

**A Child's View of the Theme**
"Me! Me! Me!" That's a quick summary of the world of young children. Without the ability to meet their own needs, infants and toddlers have an unrelenting list of demands that someone else must always help meet. This self-focus is necessary for survival. When adults respond with empathy and compassion, children find a safe place to explore and grow a healthy sense of self. As they mature and learn to manage more of their own needs and wants, they grow in independence knowing that if they need it, a trusted caregiver is there to help.

## Bible Verse

**"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."**
—Matthew 7:12

## Today's Ritual

Sing the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me." Hold up your paper heart each time you sing "loves." Repeat, but replace the word "me," with "you."

**Yes, Jesus loves me.**
**Yes, Jesus loves me.**
**Yes, Jesus loves me.**
**The Bible tells me so.**

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# Let's Color Together

This center supports **coloring skills**. *For toddlers.*

## Supplies

Egocentrism Coloring Page on page 96, crayons, and blank paper

## For Leaders

Make copies of the Coloring Page and place them on a low table with crayons and blank paper.

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THEME: **Egocentrism**

# Let's Color Together

**Caregivers, while you do this . . .**

Encourage your child to color the images from the book. Delight in their colorful creations!

**Your child is learning this!**

- When I color, I develop my fine motor skills.
- Using crayons helps me learn the names of colors.
- **When I color pictures from this story, I make connections between my actions and being a good friend.**

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It was a special day! It was Ava's birthday!

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# What Do You Want?

This center supports **communication** and **perspective taking**. *For toddlers.*

## Supplies

Several copies of pages 97-99

## For Leaders

Make copies of pages 97–99. Cut pages in half along the solid cut line. Place sets of images on the floor or a child-height table where children and parents can look at them together.

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# What Do You Want?

## Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Look at the image pairs together. Ask your child which one they want. Tell your child which one you want. Talk about whether you want different things or the same thing. Remind your child that in the story, Ava's friends each wanted something for her birthday, but they were all different from what Ava wanted. It's important to ask our friends what they want.

## Your child is learning this!

- When we have a conversation, I am practicing communication.
- **Learning about people's needs that are different than my own teaches me perspective taking.**



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Day or night?

Cupcake or apple?

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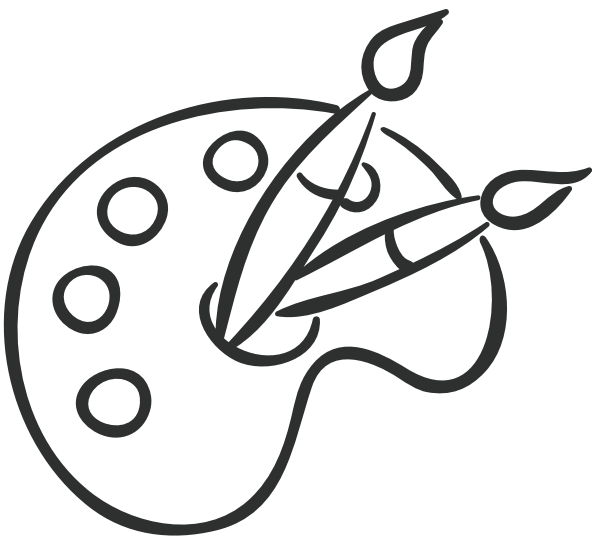
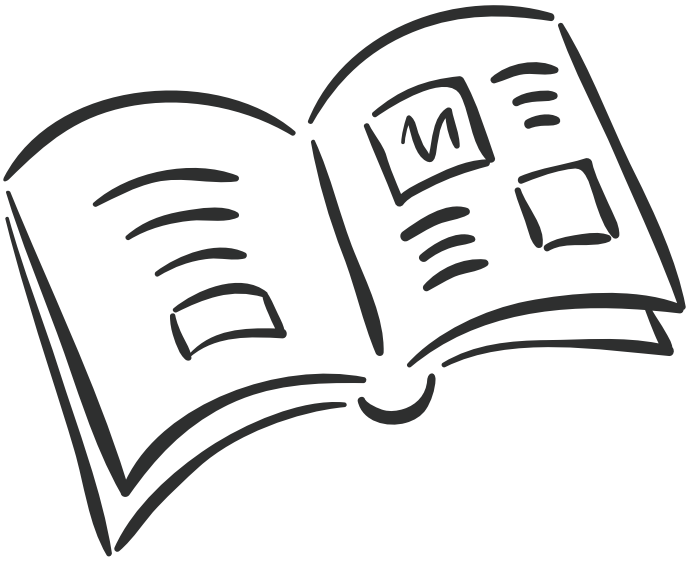
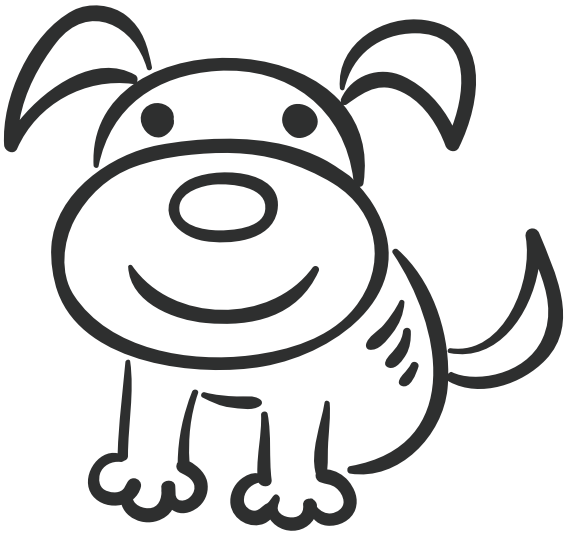
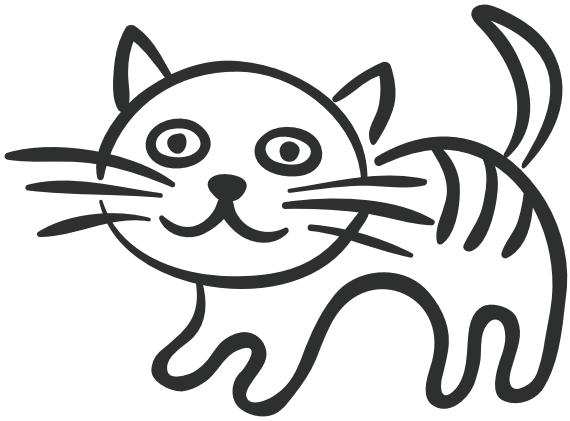




Painting or reading books?





Dog or cat?



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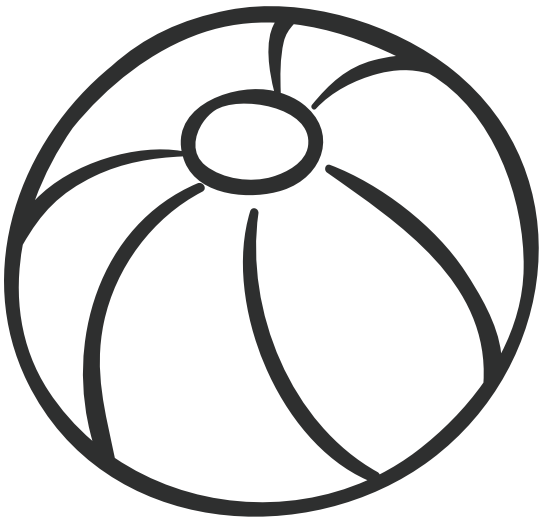
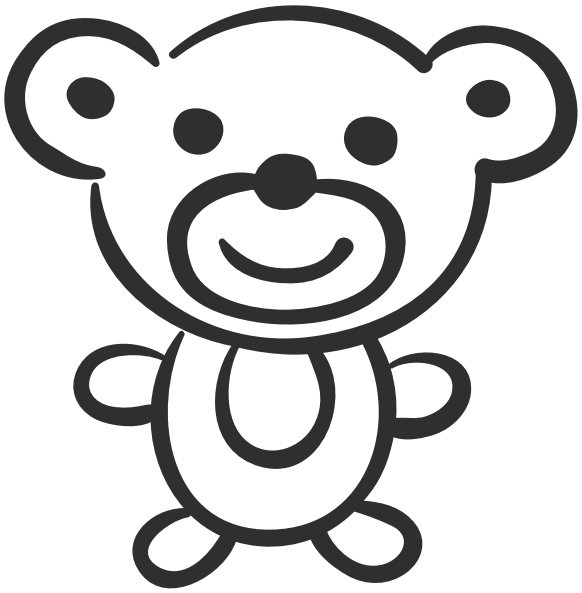
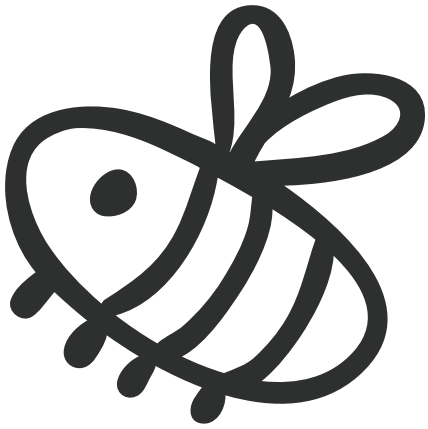




Ball or teddy bear?



Butterfly or bee?

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# Pat-a-Cake

This center supports **large motor skills** and **socio-emotional development**. *For infants and toddlers.*

## Supplies

No supplies needed

## For Leaders

Create a space where parents and children can comfortably sit together.

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# Pat-a-Cake

### Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Make a pretend birthday cake by reciting "Pat-a-Cake" with your child. Repeat and replace *baby* with other people you love, like *mommy*, *daddy*, *grandma*, etc.

**Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man,** *(Clap hands.)*
**Bake me a cake as fast as you can,** *(Clap hands.)*
**Roll it, pat it, mark it with a *B*,** *(Roll hands, pat stomach, draw* B.*)*
**Put it in the oven for Baby and me!** *(Throw hands in air.)*

### Your child is learning this!

- When I learn action rhymes, I am learning how to move my hands.
- Reciting a rhyme teaches me about chanting and rhyming sounds.
- **We can talk about loved ones while we play.**



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# Walk the Dog

This center supports **large motor skills** and **empathy**. *For toddlers.*

## Supplies

Stuffed dogs and other animals, and collars and leashes or 3-ft. lengths of ribbon

## For Leaders

Set supplies on the floor in an open space.

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# Walk the Dog

### Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Talk about how animals need us to care for them, and pretend to take the dog for a walk. Help your child attach a collar and leash or a ribbon to a stuffed animal. Walk the stuffed animal. Help it find water and food. Give it a hug. Thank your child for helping to care for the stuffed animal.

### Your child is learning this!

- When we walk a dog together, I use my large motor skills.
- When you thank me for helping, I learn that helping is good.
- **Caring for a stuffed animal is one way I learn to care for all God's creatures.**

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Baby Care

This center supports **empathy** and **fine motor skills**. *For toddlers.*

**Supplies**

Baby dolls and red circle stickers

**For Leaders**

Place several circle stickers on the bare arms, legs, and face of each baby doll. Set the dolls on the floor or a child-height table.

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# Baby Care

**Caregivers, while you do this . . .**

Tell your child that the baby doll is not feeling well. Help the babies feel better by peeling the stickers away. Throw the yucky dots away. Say thank you for helping the babies feel better. Ask your child what makes them feel better when they're sick. Say thanks to God for people who help us feel better.

**Your child is learning this!**

- When I see that the baby doll is sick, I learn to identify others' needs.
- Taking stickers off the baby doll helps me strengthen my pincer grasp.
- **When we say thanks to God for people who help us feel better, I learn that God helps me feel better.**

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