

## **FUN FISH – Every Toddler COUNTS**

### **Session 1: God Loves Us – ONE – I Want that Pearl**

**Memory Line:** "You are precious to me." (Isaiah 43:4 NLT)

**Welcome:**

**Theme Song:** to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.*

*Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.*

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.*

### **Number and Topic:**

You can find the number ONE everywhere, even on yourself. You have ONE nose, ONE chin, ONE mouth. ONE is everywhere in the world. There is ONE earth, ONE highest mountain, ONE moon. Each one of these is very special. And there is only ONE of you. God loves you so much.

### **Bible Story: I Want that Pearl (Matthew 13:45-46)**

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

A boy

Any 3 soft toys can be used to represent three sellers - fox, sheep, rabbit

**Materials needed:** (feel free to swap the materials with what you have)

Ball

Globe

Huge pretend pearl

Bag

Bicycle

Table and chair

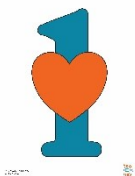
### **Reflective Time (interactive):**

God loves you so much. It is just like you loving your ONE favourite cuddly toy/blanket. How do you treat it? Do you take it with you everywhere? Do you hug it? God loves you just like that...

**Bean Bag Prayer:** "Dear God, thank you for loving me. Amen."

**Sing a song:**

"Every Toddler COUNTS" card for this session:



## Story 1: ONE – I Want that Pearl (parable of the pearl - Matthew 13:45-46)

Jesus once told a story. Here is an everyday child's version...

A boy wanted to buy a pearl. He put a sign up on his shop door. **Wanted, the biggest pearl in the world. Call Me.** Soon everyone read it. Everyone was talking. Who had a pearl that big?

Fox hurried to boy's door. KNOCK! KNOCK! "Hi there. Here is the ONE pearl you are looking for. It is perfect." He handed it to the boy and smiled.

The boy tapped it and poked it. He looked at it with his magnifying glass. "This isn't the biggest pearl," he said. "This is a ball!"

Sheep came next. KNOCK! KNOCK! "Hi there. I hear that you want something big and round." She handed it to the boy and smiled.

The boy tapped it and poked it. He looked at it with his magnifying glass. "This isn't the biggest pearl," he said. "This is a globe."

Rabbit came next. KNOCK! KNOCK! "Hi there. I hear that you want the biggest pearl in the world. Here it is!"

The boy tapped it and poked it. He looked at it with his magnifying glass. He laughed. "This is the ONE! I am so happy. How much will it cost?"

Rabbit held out a big bag. "Fill this up and you can have my pearl."

The boy put in his blocks, his stacking cups, and books. "Is that enough?" he asked.

"Not yet!" said Rabbit. "My ONE big bag is still quite empty."

The boy put in ONE bicycle. ONE table and chair. "Is that enough?"

"Not yet!" said Rabbit. "A tiny little space still left."

The boy put in the key to his shop. "Is this enough?"

"Yes," said Rabbit and gave him that pearl, the biggest and best ONE in the world.

The boy danced and laughed. He was ONE happy boy. And do you know that God loves us that much. He gave up everything for us.