



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend
when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.


In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

- Weather Moves
- Match the Shape Trees
- Make the Weather 

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"My Friend Forever" and "Best Friend"

- Bible Story
- Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

- Cup Watch
- Happy Faces
- Rays of Sunshine
- Climbing
- Up in the Tree
- Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
- Parent Cue App



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. WEATHER MOVES

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children in an open area of the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to move their bodies and pose like different weather conditions.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, come over here with me! We're going to use our bodies to pretend to be different kinds of weather. Make sure you have plenty of room. Are you ready?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I want you to use your body to pretend to be a big, bright sun. Make your arms like a great big circle, and stand up high on your tip toes. Now spread your arms out like sunshine rays. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now let's be sad, gray rain clouds. Lean your body over and sway your body slowly back and forth. *(Pause.)* Great job! Can you be rain? Let your fingers be the rain drops! Raise your arms and bring them down with your fingers wiggling like rain drops falling. *(Pause.)* Wonderful! Okay, our last movement is a thunderstorm. Thunderstorms are big and loud. Let's stomp like thunder, clap like lightning, and sway like the wind! *(Pause.)* You sure do have great moves. You did a great job pretending to be the weather."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we're going to learn about Someone who is always a good friend, rain or shine, no matter the weather!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by leading children to act like their favorite weather while they walk.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. MATCH THE SHAPE TREES

WHAT YOU NEED: Copy paper, foam shapes, and washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Draw the outline of a tree with a large canopy. Inside the tree canopy, lay out several foam shapes and trace around the edges of each one. Make

copies, one for every two children. Set the prepared pages on the table, and spread out the foam shapes around the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to work together to find foam shapes that match the outlines inside the trees.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come find a spot at the table! What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! It's the outline of a tree with lots of different shapes inside."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's see if we can work together and match these foam shapes to the shapes in the tree. Can you find the right shapes? (Pause.) Super job, friends! You matched all the shapes!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about someone who climbed up in a tree so he could see. Let's go find out what happened!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by creating shapes with your arms and hands and asking children to call out the shapes you make.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning



3. MAKE THE WEATHER*

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, and several colors of Play-Doh®

**Note: Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.*

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh®, and post at the door.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to make the weather with the different colors of Play-Doh®.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Will you come play with this Play-Doh® with me?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Can you make a sunshine? What color would we use? Yes, yellow or orange! We need a ball or a circle! *(Pause.)* You made a wonderful sun. Now what color would we use to make rain? Blue, yes! And to make rain, all we need to do is make small blue drops and big blue puddles. *(Pause.)* Oh, we can't forget the clouds! Let's use white to make big fluffy clouds. *(Pause.)* Wow, you made great weather!"

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I can't wait to learn more about Jesus' love today. In our Bible Story, we're going to learn how Jesus is a good friend, rain or shine, no matter the weather!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to be a sun, the rain, and clouds in the sky.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft



1. CUP WATCH

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cup Watch Label" Activity Page; Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent; 8-ounce paper cups; VELCRO® dots; fun stickers, including heart and smiley faces; and scissors

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Cup Watch Label" on label paper, one label per child. Make four equidistant cuts from the lip to the bottom of each cup. Fold two opposite strips of the cups up and flatten. Cut the other two pieces of the cups off. Say the Memory Verse and motions with the children.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to add the sticker to the bottom of the cup, then decorate the "straps" with stickers. Measure the straps around each child's wrist. Add one side of the VELCRO® dot to the bottom edge on the top of the strap, and then its match to the underside of the other strap. Fasten around each child's wrist.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand with me. Let's say and do the motions for our Memory Verse together. Ready? 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Fantastic! Everyone, come sit at the table with me, and let's make a fun watch to wear."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Put this sticker in the middle of the circle on your cup. (*Pause.*) It looks like a watch face. That's what you call the part of the watch with the numbers on it. Now you may decorate the straps to your watch with any of these stickers, make sure to add some heart and smiley face stickers too. (*Pause.*) These look great! But we need to add one more thing so you can wear this watch without it falling off. (*Measure the straps around each child's wrist. Add one side of the VELCRO® dot to the bottom edge on the top of the strap, and its match to the underside of the other strap.*) Now if we put these two dots together, the watch will stay on your wrist. (*Fasten around each child's wrist.*) Hooray! Watches help us tell what time it is. This watch is special because it has our Memory Verse on it. Let's say our verse together. 'A friend loves you all the time,' Proverbs 17:17."



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever and loves us all the time—when we are afraid, or excited, sad, or happy. **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.** Let's say that one more time, friends! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**”



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. HAPPY FACES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Smiley-face disposable plates, jumbo craft sticks, and masking tape; *Optional: "Happy Face" Activity Page, yellow cardstock, and scissors*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make a happy-face plate for yourself by taping a smiley-face disposable plate to a jumbo craft stick. *Option: Instead of smiley-face disposable plates, copy "Happy Face" on yellow cardstock and cut, one per child.*

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a smiley-face plate or a happy-face cutout. Assist the children as they tape their face to a craft stick. Review the Bible Story using the smiley faces.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: *(Hold a smiley-face plate on a stick in front of your face.) "Hey, friends! Come sit with me! We're going to talk about today's Bible Story!"*

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, everyone is going to make a happy face on a stick, because Zacchaeus was happy in our Bible Story! *(Give each child a smiley-face plate or a happy-face cutout, and a craft stick. Assist with taping when needed.)* Okay everyone, hold up your happy face! *(Hold up your happy face.)* Wonderful! You can put your happy face down now, but get ready to hold them up every time you hear me say the word, 'HAPPY!' Are you ready?"

"Our story was about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. People did not like him because he took money that wasn't his. One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town. Zacchaeus was so HAPPY *(hold up your happy face)* that he climbed a tree so he could see Jesus! *(Put your happy face down.)* Jesus went to the tree Zacchaeus was in and told him to come down because He wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house! Wow! Zacchaeus was so HAPPY *(hold up your happy face)* Jesus wanted to go to his house, that he quickly climbed down the tree! *(Put your happy face down.)* Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus at his house. This made Zacchaeus very HAPPY! *(Hold up your happy face, and then put it down.)* Zacchaeus went and gave back all the money he took. This made lots of people very HAPPY!" *(Hold up your happy face, and then put it down.)*

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus when Zacchaeus was happy. Zacchaeus learned how to be a good friend by spending time with Jesus, because **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



3. RAYS OF SUNSHINE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper; yellow, orange, and red washable finger paint; and baby wipes *Optional: Paint smocks or oversized T-shirts*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the butcher paper on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Squirt a blob of yellow, orange, and a small bit of red paint in the center of the butcher paper. Encourage the children to place one finger into the paint and pull toward them to spread the paint out like the rays of the sun.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come join me around the table."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's create a sun together! Here's the center of the sun. (*Squirt paint on the center of the paper.*) Let's create the sun's rays! Everyone, carefully place one finger in the paint, and pull your finger back toward you on the paper. (*Pause.*) Let's do it again. (*Repeat as desired.*) Wow! Look at our beautiful sun. Let's clean our messy fingers." (*Pass out wipes.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job, friends! We've been learning all month long that no matter what weather— rain or shine—**Jesus is always a good friend! Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



4. CLIMBING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Climbing" Activity Page, cardstock, painter's tape, and pop-up tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Climbing" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Tape to the wall at a child's height.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lower the tunnel over each child and ask them if they can see Jesus. Encourage children to pretend to be like Zacchaeus and climb up the tree. As children are pretend climbing, gently push the tunnel down to the floor so the child can see Jesus. Continue with each child.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Okay friends, come over here with me. We're going to take turns pretending to be like Zacchaeus when he climbed the tree to see Jesus."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "[Child's name], I'm going to lower the tunnel over your head. (Pause.) Can you see Jesus? (Pause.) No. So like Zacchaeus, climb the tree. Pretend to climb friend, climb! (Lower the tunnel as children are pretending to climb.) Do you see Jesus? (Pause.) Yay! There He is! There's our good friend, Jesus!" (Continue with each child.)

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "One day, Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived. Everyone was happy—even Zacchaeus! Everyone went to see Jesus, but Zacchaeus was so small he couldn't see, so he climbed up in a tree! Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down so they could go to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will be a good friend to you and me too, because **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft



5. UP IN THE TREE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Up in the Tree" Activity Page, cardstock, large craft tubes, green tissue paper, glue sticks, scissors, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Up in a Tree" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Write each child's name on their craft tube. Create four 1/2" to 1" cuts in the top of each craft tube. Fold each section of the craft tube out. Cut tissue paper sheets into quarters, three per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to rub glue on the folded tabs of their tube, then stick their tissue pieces into the top of their tube. Press the glued tabs up to touch the tissue paper. Ask children to rub glue on the tab of the Jesus cutout and press it onto the bottom of the tube. Help children fold at the tab. Help children wrap the strip with Zacchaeus around the tree and glue the end of the strip to the back of Zacchaeus. Show the children how to move Zacchaeus up and down.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit at the table with me. Let's make a Zacchaeus story craft!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Rub glue on these tabs on your craft tube. (Pause.) Now take three pieces of tissue paper and stick them into the top of your tube. (Pause.) Press the tabs up to touch the tissue paper. Great! See your picture of Jesus? Rub glue on the tab and press it to the side of your craft tube at the bottom. (Help fold at the tab.) Now take the picture of Zacchaeus and wrap the strip around the tube. Let's add some glue at the end of the strip and stick it to the back of Zacchaeus. (Help as needed.) Watch how you can move him up and down. (Demonstrate.) Super job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we heard a story about Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector. That meant his job was to collect money from people. But he took money that wasn't his, and that's not good! One day, Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived, and everyone was happy—even Zacchaeus! Everyone went to see Jesus, but Zacchaeus was so small he couldn't see. So, Zacchaeus climbed up in a tree! Jesus saw Zacchaeus and told him to come down because Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house! Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus wanted to love people the way Jesus loved him. So, he gave all the money back he had taken! Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will be a good friend to you and me too, because **Jesus is always a good friend. Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen, and rewards stickers or handstamp

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is a good friend when I am **happy**.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

folder and on Pinterest.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17.

Encourage the children to cheer for Jesus as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things that make them feel happy.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

KEY QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to cheer for Jesus while we walk to our Small Group spot, because **Jesus is always a good friend!** Let me see your happy faces! (*Look around.*) Fantastic! Follow me, and let's cheer for Jesus! (*Clap and cheer for Jesus as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay for our good friend, Jesus! Now that we're at our spot, we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Zacchaeus was happy because Jesus was a good friend to him. Then Zacchaeus was a good friend and made lots of people happy! Jesus was always a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will always be a good friend to you too. That's why every time I ask: **Who is always a good friend?** We say: **Jesus is always a good friend!** Let me hear you say it! **Who is always a good friend? Jesus is always a good friend!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

"And the Bible verse we've been learning will help us remember that Jesus loves us all the time, because it says: 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Everyone, stand up, and let's say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'A friend (*hook index fingers twice*) loves you (*cross arms over chest*) all the time,' (*tap wrist*) Proverbs 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"You sound SO good! (*Clap.*) I think you're ready to try and say that verse by yourself! I want everyone to sit down, and we'll take turns saying that Bible verse. Who wants to go first? I have my stickers/hand-stamp ready! Yay, [child's name]! (*Give two thumbs-up.*) Here is a (*sticker/stamp*) for you! (*Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*)

"I'm very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/stamp. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Yay! (*Clap.*)

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our story, Zacchaeus was happy because Jesus wanted to spend time with him. Think about some things that make you happy. When I say your name, I want you to tell me one thing that makes you happy, and I'll write it in our journal. We can use our list when we pray." (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Look at all of these happy things! (*Hold up journal.*) Just reading this list makes me smile! See? (*Smile really big.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You that **Jesus is always a good friend**. Knowing that Jesus wants to be our friend forever makes us the happiest! Thank You for other things that make us happy too, like (*read the list the children made*). We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

1. WEATHER MOVES

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

2. MATCH THE SHAPE TREES

Made to Play: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Copy paper
- Foam shapes
- Washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Draw the outline of a tree with a large canopy.
- Inside the tree canopy, lay out several foam shapes and trace around the edges of each one.
- Make copies, one for every two children.
- Set the prepared pages on the table, and spread out the foam shapes around the table.

3. MAKE THE WEATHER*

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Several colors of Play-Doh®

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh®, and post at the door.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. CUP WATCH

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Cup Watch Label" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- 8-ounce paper cups
- VELCRO® dots
- Fun stickers, including heart and smiley faces
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Cup Watch Label" on label paper, one label per child.
- Make four equidistant cuts from the lip to the bottom of each cup.
- Fold two opposite strips of the cups up and flatten.
- Cut the other two pieces of the cups off.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

2. HAPPY FACES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Smiley-face disposable plates
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Masking tape
- *Optional: "Happy Face" Activity Page, yellow cardstock, and scissors*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make a smiley-face plate for yourself by taping a smiley-face disposable plate to a jumbo craft stick.
- *Option: Instead of smiley-face disposable plates, copy "Happy Face" on yellow cardstock and cut, one per child.*

3. RAYS OF SUNSHINE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- Yellow, orange, and a small amount of red washable finger paint
- Baby wipes
- *Optional: Paint smocks or oversized T-shirts*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the butcher paper on the table.

4. CLIMBING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Climbing" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape
- Pop-up tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Climbing" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Tape the picture to the wall at a child's height.

5. UP IN THE TREE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Up in the Tree" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Large craft tubes
- Green tissue paper
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Up in a Tree" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
- Write each child's name on their craft tube.
- Create four ½" to 1" cuts in the top of each craft tube.
- Fold each section of the craft tube out.
- Cut tissue paper sheets into quarters, three per child.



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)
- Rewards stickers or handstamp

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place it in the Bible at Proverbs 17:17.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_RainOrShine