



WEEK 1 - September 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: God has a plan for me.

Joseph Gets a Coat and Goes to Egypt • *Genesis 37; Jeremiah 1:5*

Memory Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD." Jeremiah 29:11, NLT

Key Question: Who has a plan for you?

Bottom Line: God has a plan for me.

Basic Truth: God loves me.

Make it Fun

Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.

-All wrapped up

Make it True

Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world

-Large group time

Make it Stick

Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.

-Memory Verse with motion

-All the feels

-Parachute

		-Journal and prayer
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First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. All Wrapped Up

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

What You Need: Rolls of streamers in various colors

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in your activity area. Select a child or leader for your classroom to “wrap.” You know your children. If it would be better to wrap a leader, choose a leader. If you have a good-natured child who wouldn't mind being wrapped up, select him or her to stand in the center of the group.

Explain that you have a plan to create a new coat for your volunteer. Hold up a streamer roll and have the children identify the color. Select two or three children to stand around the volunteer and wind that streamer color around the volunteer four times. Then say, “Stop!”

Repeat with remaining colors, selecting two to three new children to do the wrapping each round.

After the Activity: Let the children help you as you tear the streamers and remove them from the volunteer. Encourage the children to help you throw the streamers away for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a very special coat! I thought we could make our own coat. I have a plan for how we can do that together, but I need a volunteer.”

During the Activity: (Hold up one roll of streamers.) “What color do you see? *(Pause.)* Yes! Our plan is to start with the [first color] streamers, first. I will select the following friends to stand around our volunteer and work together to wrap the streamer around [volunteer's name] four times. *(Select two to three children.)* We will all count together. How many times? *(Pause.)* Yes! And don't worry, everyone will have a turn to help wrap [volunteer's name]. When you've wrapped the streamer around four times, I will say 'Stop,' then we'll select new friends to help. Does everyone understand the plan? If so, let's see two thumbs-up!”

After the Activity: “You followed the plan! Great job. Just look at our beautiful coat. There's only one problem. It's hard to walk in this coat! Let's take it off. Help me by tearing the paper. Let's make sure we pick up every piece and put it in the trash for clean-up.

“You know, in our Bible story today, there is a very special coat, AND the boy who wore this special coat followed God's very special plan for him. Let's go find out all about this plan.”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by calling out a “plan” for travel. You can give specific ways to move as the children follow your plan. Examples include: march, high knees, tip toes, side-step, skip, hop, jog, walk.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: God has a plan for me. We will begin week one by introducing Joseph, his brothers, and the unplanned trip he makes to Egypt. We see Joseph trusting that God has a plan for me in the way he chooses to work hard and do the right thing, even though he is far from his home and family.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Memory Verse with Motions

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

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

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children.

“For I know (*point to head*)
the plans I have for you,’ (*march*)
says (*hands to mouth like yelling*)
the LORD, (*point up*)
Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT).” (*Open your hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I’m going to say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me!” (*Say the verse with the motions.*)

During the Activity: “Now, let’s do it all together! Are you ready?” (*Repeat the verse and motions with the children as many times as desired.*)

After the Activity: “Our memory verse tells us that God has plans for each and every one of us! How cool is that? Super cool! **Who has a plan for you? [Bottom Line] God has a plan for me!**”

2. All the Feelings

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

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

What You Need: “Emoji Faces” Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, jumbo craft sticks, and a glue stick

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make a copy of “Emoji Faces” onto cardstock. Cut the faces out and glue each face (happy, sad, afraid) to a jumbo craft stick.

During the Activity: Use the emoji faces to review the Bible story. Encourage the children to make the same face (happy, sad, afraid) as you hold them up throughout the review of the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey, everyone! Let’s sit in a circle. We’re going to talk about Joseph from our Bible story today.”

During the Activity: *(Hold up the happy face.)* “What kind of face is this? Is it happy or sad? *(Pause.)* Yes! This is a happy face. Show me your happy face. *(Pause.)* Wow! Those are some great happy faces! *(Hold up the sad face.)* What kind of face is this? Right again! This is a sad face. Show me your sad face. *(Pause.)* Yep! Those look like sad faces to me! What kind of face is this? *(Pause.)* You’re right. This is an afraid face. We make this face when we’re scared of something. Show me your afraid face. *(Pause.)* Wow! You are good at this! Now, remember those faces—*(hold them up one at a time as you name them)* happy, sad, and afraid. I want you to make the face that matches the one I hold up while I tell Joseph’s story. Here we go!

“One day, Joseph’s dad gave him a very special coat. *(Hold up the happy face.)* This made Joseph happy. Show me your happy faces. Good job! *(Hold up the sad face.)* But, it made Joseph’s brothers very sad—even mad! Show me your sad faces. *(Put the sad face down.)* Joseph’s brothers got so mad that they threw Joseph in a hole! *(Hold up the sad face.)* This made Joseph very, very sad. But Joseph trusted that God loved him and that God had a plan for him. *(Hold up the happy face.)* This made Joseph happy. *(Look for the children’s happy faces.)*

“Joseph’s brothers finally got him out of the hole, but they sent him far away to Egypt! *(Hold up the afraid face.)* This made Joseph scared and afraid. He didn’t want to leave his family. Show me your afraid faces. I would be afraid, too! But Joseph kept trusting that God loved him and that God had a plan for him. *(Hold up the happy face.)* Thinking about God’s love made Joseph happy.”

After the Activity: “God loves you, too—A LOT! God loves you when you’re happy, sad, mad, afraid, scared . . . all the feelings! And because God loves you SO much, God has a plan for you! **Who has a plan for you? [Bottom Line] God has a plan for me.**”

3. Parachute

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: Pom poms and parachute or sheet

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the parachute flat on the floor. Place the pom poms on top of the parachute. These will represent ice cream scoops.

During the Activity: Ask the children to stand around the parachute with you and invite them to each pick up a section of the parachute then shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast. Encourage the children to bounce the “ice cream” high. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I have a plan! Let’s pretend we’re bouncing ice cream as high as we can.”

During the Activity: “Let’s play with the parachute! We’ll put ice cream on the parachute to bounce high.” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Awesome job! God has a plan for all of us. **Who has a plan for you? [Bottom Line] God has a plan for me!**”

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Bible paperclipped with “Memory Verse Card,” journal, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s small group time! Today, we’ll pretend we’re riding a big camel to our small group spot. I wonder if Joseph rode a camel when his brothers sent him far away to Egypt. Maybe!

“Okay, climb on your pretend camels and hold on tight! We’re very high, so we’ll wobble from side-to-side. (*Pretend you are holding reins to a camel with your hands as you slowly walk, tilting side-to-side as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

“Stop, camel! Thanks for the ride! Now, let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

“Our Bible story, today, was about a guy named Joseph. It didn’t matter if he was getting a special coat, being thrown in a big hole, or being sent far away by his brothers, Joseph kept trusting that God had a plan for him.

“The new Bible verse we’re going to learn will help us remember that God has a plan for us, too! God has a plan for you, and **[Bottom Line] God has a plan for me!** The verse says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“*For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, Jeremiah 29:11. (Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “*For I know (point to head) the plans I have for you, (march) says (hands to mouth like yelling) the Lord (point up), Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT).*” *(Open your hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with the motions a few times.)

SGL: “Great job! God loves you, and He has a plan for you. **Who has a plan for you?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “God has a plan for me!”**

SGL: “He sure does! And that means that no matter what happens, we can trust that God loves us and has a plan for us.

“Okay, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“Have you ever thought about what you want to be when you grow up? When I was your age, I wanted to be a zookeeper and take care of the animals at the zoo. It’s good to make plans, but we need to remember that God has a plan for us, too.

“Today, we’re going to make a list of what you want to be when you grow up. When I say your name, I want you to tell me what you want to be when you grow up, and I’ll write it in our prayer journal. *(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“Great! Now, let’s use the list we made when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?” *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, thank You for *(name each child)*. Thank You for the way You made them with special thoughts and abilities. *[Child’s name]* wants to be a *[what they listed]* when they grow up. *[Child’s name]* wants to be a *[what they listed]* when they grow up. *(Continue with each child)*. I pray as they grow up, they will dream big, work hard, and always trust that You love them and have a plan for them, no matter what happens. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”