



WEEK 2 - September 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: I can trust God's plan, even when it's hard.

Joseph in Jail • *Genesis 39–40*

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.

-In Charge

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.

-What happened next?

-Ice Cream toss

-Moving parts

-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. In Charge

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: Have the children line up in a single file line behind you.

During the Activity: Tell the children that you are "in charge," and they must follow you as the leader and mimic what you do. Lead the children around the room while marching. Choose a child to be the new leader and "in charge." Continue with the activity by allowing all of the children a turn to be "in charge."

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's march around the room! I am your leader, and I am IN CHARGE! Let's Go!"

During the Activity: "Follow me. I am in charge! (Do activity.) Great job! Keep marching! (Continue the activity.) Let's have a new leader who is IN CHARGE! (Choose a child.) [Child's name] will be our leader now! (Child's name) is IN CHARGE." (Finish activity.)

After the Activity: "You are all awesome at being in charge! Today, we'll hear a Bible story about someone who was IN CHARGE! Our Bible story sounds so exciting! I cannot wait!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by telling the children that you are in charge and lead them to the story area.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: I can trust God's plan even when it's hard. Week two, we will hear about how, even though Joseph works hard and does the right thing, he is thrown in jail for something he didn't do. Was that hard for Joseph? It had to be! And yet we see Joseph trusting that God has a plan for me as he chooses to help those around him instead of feeling sorry for himself.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. What Happened Next?

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: “Big Story Pictures,” cardstock, scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Big Story Pictures” onto cardstock, one set for the Leader.

During the Activity: The leader will use the “Big Story Pictures” to put the story pictures in a row.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey! I want everyone to come sit in front of me. I have something fun for us to do!”

During the Activity: “We’re going to put our story cards in the order they happened in the story.

(Show all the pictures) Which is the picture of Potiphar. He’s smiling at Joseph because Joseph always worked hard and did what Potiphar told him to do. What happened next?

(Lay the picture down facing the children so they can see it left to right.) Where is another picture of Potiphar again, only this time he has an angry face. Someone told him that Joseph had done something wrong, even though he didn’t do anything wrong. Potiphar got mad and sent Joseph to jail! What happened next?

“Now, look for the picture of Joseph in jail. It was a very hard time for Joseph, but he still trusted that God loved him and had a plan for him. So, instead of being mad or sad, Joseph helped everyone he could while he was in jail.

(Lay the picture down beside the second picture, facing the children, so they can see it left to right. Hold up the ‘God has a plan for me’ card.) “Okay, we have this card left. Do you see a picture? No. But it does have some very important words. This card says, **[Bottom Line] ‘God has a plan for me.’**

After the Activity: “Look at your story pictures! You put them in the order that they happened in the story! Way to go! Joseph’s story shows us that we can trust God’s plan, even when it’s hard. God loves you, and He has a plan for you! **Who has a plan for you? [Bottom Line] God has a plan for me.**”

2. Ice Cream Toss

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: Fake ice cream cones or small plastic cups, ping pong balls

What You Do:

During the Activity: Have the children line up one at a time at the opposite end of the room. Hand the first child in line the ping pong balls to toss (underhanded) and try to land them inside a cone. After taking three tries, the first child will retrieve the ping pong balls and hand them to the next friend in line. Repeat until everyone has a turn. Be sure to sanitize ping pong balls between each use or have multiple sets so they can be washed later.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, do you see the ice cream cones here? What’s missing? *(Pause.)* Yes, the ice cream! Let’s toss the ice cream (hold up the ping pong balls) into the cones. You will each have a turn to toss a scoop into the cone. It might seem hard. Give it your best try.

After the Activity: “That was so fun! But it was a lot harder than it looked. The plan was to toss the ice cream, and you followed the plan, even when it was hard. God has a plan for us, and we can trust Him, even when it’s hard. **Who has a plan for you? [Bottom Line] God has a plan for me.**”

3. Moving Plans

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: “Movement Cards” Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, and timer/phone

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Movement Cards” onto cardstock and cut apart, one set per small group. Shuffle the “Movement Cards.”

During the Activity: Gather the children around your activity area. Draw a movement card from the stack and lead the group in that movement for ten seconds. Call for everyone to freeze when the ten seconds are up then select another friend to draw a card. Continue until you’ve drawn all of the cards and completed the movements.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come over here with me. Everyone spread out a little so you have plenty of room. I have some cards here with different movements. This is our plan to follow: I will pick a card and show us the movement, then we’ll all perform that movement for ten seconds. At the end of then seconds, I’ll say, ‘FREEZE!’ What does ‘FREEZE’ mean? *(Pause.)* That’s right, you stop and stand completely still. Then, I’ll draw another card, and we’ll keep going. Are you ready? Here we go.”

After the Activity: “Whew, that was fun—and tiring! You did a great job of following the plan on each of these cards. God has a plan for each of us, and we can always trust that His plan is the best. **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: Paperclipped “Memory Verse Card” in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, let’s pretend we’re holding a broom and sweep back and forth like this (*demonstrate*) while we walk to our small group spot. I wonder if Joseph ever used a broom when he worked for Potiphar? Maybe! Get your pretend brooms ready and follow me! (*Pretend you are sweeping as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

“That was some good sweeping. Okay, 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.*)

“Things didn’t go so well for Joseph in our Bible story today. He worked hard and did the right thing, but Potiphar still put him in jail. Did Joseph give up, or did he keep trusting that God had a plan for him? (*Pause.*) Yes! Joseph trusted that God had a plan for him, even when he was in jail.

“The Bible verse we’re learning will help us remember that God has a plan for you, and **[Bottom Line] God has a plan for me**, too! It 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 motions a few times.)

SGL: “You sound awesome! (high fives) I want you to always remember that 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: “That’s right! And no matter what happens, you can trust that God loves you, and He has a plan for you.

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

“Sometimes things are just hard, right? Maybe we have to clean our room or learn something new. Maybe we get really sick or we don’t get to do something we want to do.

“Today, we’re going to make a list of hard things—things that make you sad or mad, or things that you don’t like to do but you have to do. So think about it, and when I say your name, I want you to tell me one thing that is hard. I will write down what you say 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.)

SGL: “Thank you for doing this. 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)*. I know You have a plan for each of them, because you love them. I pray they will always trust that You have a plan for them. And when hard things happen like *(read the list the children made)*, help them to wait on You, do the right thing, and trust in Your plan for them. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”