



WEEK 4 - September 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: God's plan is always best.

Joseph Forgives • *Genesis 42–45*

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.

-Food Gathering

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.

-Into the Heart

-Story rings

-Freeze Dance

-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Food Gathering

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

What You Need: Floor tape, two buckets, and paper in two different colors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Create a "road" on the floor of your activity area with the tape. Crumple up the sheets of paper and put in one of the buckets. Place the bucket of "food" (crumpled paper) at one end of the tape "road" you created. Place the empty bucket at the other end of the tape road.

During the Activity: Gather the children to stand in a line near the empty bucket. One at a time, have each child walk down the road to collect two pieces of food, calling out one of the colors of the paper. The child will bring the food back and put it in the empty bucket. Repeat so that every child has a turn.

After the Activity: Gather the two buckets and set aside for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends! I'm so glad to see you. Come stand here with me in a line. Do you see this empty bucket? I have a plan to fill it! I want you to take turns and walk down the road to find the food at the end."

During the Activity: (To the first child) "Can you go get two pieces of [color] 'food' and bring it back to this bucket? (Repeat, giving each child a "plan" to collect a certain number of pieces of food in a certain color.)

After the Activity: "You followed the plan! Thanks for gathering all this food. In our Bible story today, lots of people have to follow a road to get food because they are hungry. I can't wait for you to find out what happened."

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to travel to find food. Children may act as though they're hungry as they travel.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: God's plan is always best. And, week four, we see Joseph's brothers make their way to Egypt to look for food. They have no idea that they are going to find so much more than food when they get there. They find a brother and forgiveness waiting on them. And, we have the privilege of seeing the end of the story—that God's way is always best.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Into the Heart

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: Floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make a large heart on the floor of the activity area, large enough for all of the children to fit inside.

During the Activity: Have the children stand outside the heart. Challenge the children to run into the heart and say the memory verse. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Look, a heart! A heart reminds me of love!"

During the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that God loves us and has a plan for us! Let's run into the heart and say our memory verse together." (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! God loves us and has a plan for us! **Who has a plan for you? [Bottom Line] God has a plan for me!**"

2. Story Rings

Talk about God | Bible Story 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: "Story Ring Pictures", cardstock, scissors, hole punch, and binder rings

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Story Ring Pictures” onto cardstock, cut apart, and hole punch one set per leader.

During the Activity: Each leader has a set of “Story Ring Pictures” and a binder ring. Put the pictures on a book ring in order as you review the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I need everyone to sit at the table with me. We’re going to make a story ring!”

During the Activity: “First, we need to make sure our rings are open. Now, look for the picture of Joseph in the special coat his daddy gave him. Let’s put that on our ring. Remember how mad Joseph’s brothers got? They sent him far away, but Joseph trusted that **[Bottom Line] God has a plan for me.**

“Now, look for the picture of Joseph in jail with the two other guys. Joseph was put in jail, even though he did nothing wrong. But instead of getting mad or sad, Joseph trusted that **[Bottom Line] God has a plan for me,** and he helped other people.

“Now, we need the picture of Joseph helping Pharaoh save the grain. Joseph trusted that **[Bottom Line] God has a plan for me,** and he helped save food for A LOT of people!

“The last picture we have is Joseph and his brothers. Look how happy they are! Joseph trusted that **[Bottom Line] God has a plan for me,** and he forgave his brothers. He even gave them food and a hug.

“Now, let’s do something fun. Stand up while we sing a new song together. Ready? (*Sing the words below to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell.”*)

“God has a plan.

God has a plan.

God has a plan for me!

Yes, God has a plan.”

After the Activity: “**Who has a plan for you? [Bottom Line] God has a plan for me!**”

3. Freeze Dance

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: Music player and the monthly song, “Really Awesome Plan”

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in front of you.

During the Activity: Turn the music on and ask the children to dance. After about 30 seconds, turn off the music and ask the children to stand very still or FREEZE. Restart the music and ask the children to dance again. Repeat the activity several times in 30 second increments.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We’re going to dance, but we have to really use our ears to know what to do!”

During the Activity: “I will turn on our song. When you HEAR the music, dance. When the music stops, everyone FREEZE! (*Demonstrate.*) Are you ready?” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “You did a good job of listening! God has a plan for all of us, and all we have to do is listen to Him. **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: “Memory Verse Card” paperclipped in your Bible at Jeremiah 29:11, journal, fun-shaped pen, stickers

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, let’s pretend we’re Joseph’s brothers, and we are soooo hungry. Rub your tummy like this because you are soooo hungry. (*Demonstrate.*) We’re on our way to Egypt to find food. Follow me! (*Rub your tummy and moan that you are ‘so hungry’ as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

“That was fun! You make great hungry brothers. 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.*)

“My favorite part of today’s story is when Joseph’s brothers go to Egypt to find food, and they found something even better—their brother, Joseph! God used Joseph to save A LOT of people from being hungry, including his own family. God’s plan really is ALWAYS best!

“The Bible verse we have learned will help us remember that God has a plan for us, and it’s always best. 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 it together with the motions one more time, then anyone who wants to try to say it can give it a try!”

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.)*

SGL: “Awesome! Let’s sit down. When it’s your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and try it. I have my stickers ready!”

(Say each child’s name. Make sure to give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his own. Have your stickers ready to reward when they say it.)

SGL: “Way to go, [child’s name]! Here is your sticker! *(Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)*

“I want everyone to show me their sticker. I see them! Now tell me, **who has a plan for you?**”

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

SGL: “He sure does! And I hope you never forget it! Okay, it’s time to write in our journal and pray. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“It had to be hard for Joseph to forgive his brothers after all the mean things they did to him. But Joseph did it! Joseph forgave his brothers, gave them a big hug, and gave them plenty of food. Joseph trusted that God’s plan is always best.

“Today, we’ll make a list of things we know God wants us to do. Sometimes, they will be hard to do, but we do them anyway because we know God’s plan is always best. When I say your name, tell me one thing God wants us to do, and I’ll 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: “This is awesome! We can use this list 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)*. We know it won’t always be easy to *(read the list the children made)*, but we want to *(read the list again)*. Please help us, because we know Your plan is always best. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”