

WEEK 1 - October 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: God is always with me.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego • Daniel 3:1-28

Memory Verse: "God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9, NLT

Key Question: Who's got it? **Bottom Line:** God's got it. **Basic Truth:** God loves me.

Make it Fun

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

-Red and Yellow make Fire

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
- -Story umbrella
- -Patterns
- -Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Red and Yellow Make FIRE!

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

What You Need: Red and yellow washable finger paint, gallon size zip-top bags, and wide masking tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay several zip-top bags flat on the table and carefully place some yellow finger paint inside the bags on one side and red finger paint on the other side. Carefully push all the air out of the bags and secure the top. Tape all four sides of the zip-top bags to the table.

During the Activity: Small group leaders will use their fingers to combine the two colors to make "fire."

After the Activity: Pull up the tape and discard the bags of for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Everyone, gather around the bags of paint. What colors do you see? (Pause.) Yes, red and yellow! These are the colors of fire. Let's use our fingers to mix the two colors together!"

During the Activity: "I love this combinations of color! They look beautiful."

After the Activity: "Way to go, friends! Remember, these are the colors of fire. Let's pay close attention in our Bible story to hear all about a fire."

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by calling out something for the kids to paint in the air. Every so often, say, "STOP!" Then call out something new. Items to paint: a circle, a house, a tree, a cloud, a rainbow, the sun, a fire, a box, etc.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: God is always with me. Week one, we will hear the story of how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted that God's got it as they were on their way to a blazing furnace! It truly is an amazing story of trust in God.

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.

"God (point both hands straight up)
is with you (point out to a friend)
wherever (wave hands in a circle)
you go," (march in place)
Joshua 1:9 (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!

"God (point both hands straight up)
is with you (point out to a friend)
wherever (wave hands in a circle)
you go, (march in place)
Joshua 1:9." (Open your hands like a book.)

During the Activity: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready?

"God (point both hands straight up) is with you (point out to a friend) wherever (wave hands in a circle) you go, (march in place)
Joshua 1:9." (Open hands like a book.)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that God is always with us, NO MATTER WHAT! [Bottom Line] God's got it. Who's got it? [Bottom Line] God's got it!"

2. Story Umbrella

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: Golf umbrella (largest you can find); tape; red and orange crepe paper; and scissors

NOTE: You will use this umbrella each week.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut long strips of red and orange crepe paper. Tape them to the center of the top of the umbrella so that they hang over the edge of the umbrella.

During the Activity: Invite the children to sit by the large umbrella with you while you review the Bible story. Remember to leave space in between the children.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Come on the floor our story umbrella with me! Is everyone under the umbrella? (Check the children.) Great! What do umbrellas protect us from? (Pause.) Yes! Umbrellas protect us from rain. They keep us from getting wet. God was like an umbrella in our Bible story today. He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire, and He protected them from getting hurt.

"Let's pretend this orange and red paper is fire. Are we getting hurt? No, because the umbrella is protecting us. That's how it was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the story. God was with them in the fire, and He kept them safe."

After the Activity: "God is always with you, too. No matter what happens, [Bottom Line] God's got it! Who's got it? [Bottom Line] God's got it!"

3. Patterns

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: whiteboard and different colors of expo markers.

What You Do:

During the Activity: Lead the children to create patterns, you can use whatever shapes or colors you would like.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's make some patterns!

During the Activity: You can do whatever patterns you would like but make sure to do: "Here's one. Red, green, blue, red, green...what come next? BLUE! Good job. These three remind me of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who were sent to the fiery furnace. But they weren't alone. God sent an angel to protect them!"

After the Activity: "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced that fiery furnace, but they weren't afraid. They knew that **[Bottom Line]** God's got it! God sent an angel to be with them in the furnace. It's a good reminder to us that God is always with us. So, tell me, who's got it? **[Bottom Line]** God's got it!"

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 your Bible at Joshua 1:9, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend it's very hot. Wave your hand like this in front of your face because it's so hot. (*Demonstrate*.)

"Okay, follow me to our spot! (Wave your hand in front of your face and walk slowly as you lead the children to your small group spot.) Whew! It's so hot. But we made it! Let's sit down and rest while we 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 was about something else very hot. What was hot in our story today? (Pause) Yes! Fire! King Nebuchadnezzar threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fire, because they would not bow down to his statue. That's bad! They would only bow down to the one true God. That's good!

"Who was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire? (*Pause*). That's right! God was with them! God sent an angel to protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire. King Nebuchadnezzar learned that no matter what happens, [*Bottom Line*] God's got it! Who's got it? [*Bottom Line*] God's got it!

"The new Bible verse we'll learn will help us remember that God is always with us, no matter where we go. The verse says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"God is with you wherever you go, Joshua 1:9. (Close Bible and lay it down.) Let's stand up and say that with the motions.

CHILDREN and SGL: "God (point both hands straight up) is with you (point out to a friend) wherever (wave hands in a circle) you go (march in place), Joshua 1:9." (Open hands like a book.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "Yes! God IS with you wherever you go! And no matter what happens, **[Bottom Line]** God's got it! Who's got it?"

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] "God's got it!"

SGL: "Let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.) Today, we'll make a list of places we go. When I say your name, I want you to tell me one place that you go to or have been before, 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.)

"This is a great list! Let's use it 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, You are SO big and powerful, and You really can be with us wherever we go. You can be with us when we go to *(read the list the children made)*. Only YOU can do that! Help us remember that You are always with us so we can be brave and do the right thing. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."