



WEEK 3 - February 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: Jesus loves me and wants to help me.

The Centurion • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NIrV

Key Question: Who loves you?

Bottom Line: Jesus loves me.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Make it Fun

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

-Walk this way

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.

-Feelings
-Heart search
-Finger puppet
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Walk This Way

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: Tape a ten-foot line on the floor of your activity area.

During the Activity: Lead the children to move along the line in one of the ways listed below. Then lead the children back to the start of the line and call out a different way to travel. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Ways to Travel:

Hop

March

Walk

Tip toe

Walk sideways (slide step)

After the Activity: Pull up the floor tape for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, do you see this line of tape? I'll call out a way to walk along the line."

During the Activity: "First, let's hop! Follow me and hop, hop, hop!"

"Whew that was a LONG way. Let's go back, and this time we'll MARCH on the line!" (*Repeat with different movements as long as desired.*)

After the Activity: "Great job, friends! That WAS a long way. Today's story is about a man who traveled a long way to get Jesus to help him. Let's go find out what happened."

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to call out ways to travel. Ideas: Hop, skip, march, tip toe, high knees, elephant (big) steps, mouse (baby) steps, etc.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Story Focus: Jesus wants to help me. Week three, we will see another way that Jesus showed His love for us in the way He helped a Centurion. This man was not one of Jesus' typical followers, but he had heard about the amazing things Jesus could do. So, he asked Jesus for help. And, Jesus helped the man, because He loved him. We want our preschoolers to hear this story and know, Jesus will help me, because Jesus loves me. Why? Because every child was made for His love.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Feelings

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: "Emoji" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, and floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Emoji" Activity Page and cut out, one set per four children. Tape the different emojis on the floor around the room. If you are using multiple pages, tape all of the happy emojis in the same area, all of the sad emojis in the same area, etc.

During the Activity: Call out one of the following feelings: happy, sad, angry, or scared. Have the children run to that emoji and stand on or by it. Say the memory verse with the children. Call out another feeling and repeat. Continue the activity by calling out all four feelings. Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We have faces on the floor. (*Point.*) I see a happy face (*point*), a sad face (*point*), an angry face (*point*), and a scared face." (*Point.*)

During the Activity: "When I say a feeling like HAPPY, you run to the happy face. Are you ready? (*Pause and do activity.*) Great job! Let's say our memory verse together. (*Continue activity.*) You are so good at this! Let's do another feeling!" (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us, all the time—even if we are happy, sad, angry, or scared! He is always there! **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!**"

2. Heart Search

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: a few heart Cut outs

What You Do:

Before the Activity: One small group leader can hide all the hearts around the room

During the Activity: Encourage the children to go on a heart search to find the hidden hearts. When you find a heart that says, "Jesus Loves Me" lead the children to say the Bottom Line. Search until all hearts are found.

After the Activity: Collect all ten hearts and set aside for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, there are some hearts hidden around the room. Some of these hearts have a very special message on them! Let's search to find the hearts."

During the Activity: "Oh, here's one and I can say, **[Bottom Line] 'Jesus loves me.' Who loves you? (Pause.)** Yes! **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves me!** Okay, let's find another heart. One, two, three, go!"

After the Activity: "You did an awesome job of searching, friends! These hearts remind us that Jesus LOVES us and wants to help us! **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

3. Finger Puppets

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: "Jesus Puppet," "Centurion Puppet," and "Parent Note" Activity Pages; cardstock; crayons; clear tape; scissors; zip-top bags; and a permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Jesus Puppet" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Centurion Puppet" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Parent Note" on cardstock and cut apart, one per child. Write child's name on their bag.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their puppets then fold and tape the sides together for each puppet. Put them on and re-enact the story. Put "Parent Note" and puppets in their bag.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I love when you help me retell our Bible story. Today, we'll make finger puppets and use them to act-out the story."

During the Activity: "Everyone has a Jesus puppet and a Centurion puppet to color. *(Pause.)* Now that you've colored them, we can fold them and tape the sides together. *(Help children as*

needed.) Okay, Slide one puppet on a finger on one hand and the other puppet on a finger on the other hand. *(Pause.)* Great.

“Our story starts when the Centurion—hold up the Centurion—walked up to Jesus. Hold up Jesus. *(Pause.)* The Centurion asked Jesus for His help. The Centurion said, ‘Jesus, my servant at home is very sick. Can you help make him better?’ Jesus was busy, but He said He could go. The Centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it and the servant would be better. And that’s what Jesus did! Jesus told the Centurion to go home and the servant would be all better; and he was! Put your puppets and this card in your bag then zip it shut.”

After the Activity: “Jesus heard that someone needed His help, and He helped them. Jesus loved the Centurion and his servant just like He loves you. That’s why He wants to be your friend forever, because He loves you very much. **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**”

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll pretend we are soldiers like the Centurion and march to our small group spot. March like this and follow me! *(March as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*

“Halt! *(Stop suddenly.)* Halt means stop. We’re here! 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 how Jesus wants to help people. The Centurion heard that Jesus has the power to help people and that He wants to help people. That’s why he went to ask Jesus for help when his servant was so sick. What did Jesus do when the Centurion asked Him to help his servant? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus made the Centurion’s servant all better!

“Jesus helps people because Jesus loves us. And we know that a friend loves at all times. That’s what the Bible verse we have been learning says. *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“‘A friend loves at all times.’ Proverbs 17:17. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

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

CHILDREN and SGL: “‘A friend *(hook your pointer fingers together)* loves *(hug yourself)* at all times,’ *(stretch your arms out and turn in a circle)* Proverbs 17:17.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: “Jesus is a good friend, and He loves you all the time! **Who loves you?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: *[Bottom Line]* “**Jesus loves me!**”

SGL: *(cheering)* “He sure does! Now, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*”

“Since Jesus wants to help you and me, I think we should make a list of things we need help with. Then when we pray, we can use the list to ask Jesus to help us, just like the Centurion asked Jesus for help. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need help with, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

(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! It’s important to talk to Jesus when we need help. Let’s use this list when we pray. 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 sending Jesus to help us. Thank You that Jesus is always with us, listening, and ready to help. Please help [child’s name] with [what they listed]. Please help [child’s name] with [what they listed]. Please help . . . *(continue with each child)*. We believe Jesus can help us. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

