



WEEK 1 - May 2021 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: God's way is perfect.

In the Garden • *Genesis 1:31, 2:8–3:24*

Memory Verse: "God's way is perfect." 2 Samuel 22:31, NIV

Key Question: Whose way is perfect?

Bottom Line: God's way is perfect.

Basic Truth: God made me.

Make it Fun

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

-Jump up fruit

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.

-Happy Garden
-Simon Says
-Popsicle Stick Garden
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Jump Up Fruit

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

What You Need: brown butcher paper, markers, wall tape, and sticky tack or masking tape; sticky notes to represent different fruit

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Draw the outline of a tree trunk and canopy on the brown butcher paper. Tape or stick the tree to the wall in your activity area. Make sure the tree is placed so that children will have to jump up to reach the canopy.

During the Activity: Gather the children to stand in front of your butcher paper tree. Give each child a piece of 'fruit'. Discuss what fruit they are holding by the color of their post-it. Children will take turns standing in front of the tree to jump and stick their piece of fruit to the tree.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "What are you holding? (*Pause.*) Fruit! These fruits grow in a garden. Let's see how we can jump, jump to put these pieces of fruit on our tree."

During the Activity: "Let's go one at a time so each friend has a turn. [Child's name], you can go first. Let's jump, jump and put your fruit on the tree."

After the Activity: "Look at all these yummy fruits! You can find so many yummy things in a garden. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a very special garden. Let's go!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by jumping up to pick fruit off an imaginary tree as you travel. To make this as safe as possible, every few yards say, "STOP!" After the children stop walking say, "JUMP!" Then they jump up to grab their imaginary fruit.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: God's way is perfect. We will begin in the Garden of Eden. This is when God introduces us to Himself and His perfect plan. We will explore how perfect everything was from the flowers and the food that grew to the amazing animals that Adam was tasked to name. God has a way of doing things, and it works out best for us when we choose to trust that God's way is perfect.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Happy Garden

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: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

During the Activity: Tell each child to pretend to be one part of the garden: blooming flowers, tall swaying trees, and lots of different animals. As the children pretend to be their part, review the Bible story.

After the Activity: Talk about how God made a perfect garden, but Adam and Eve chose to do things their own way instead of going God's way.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hi, friends! We heard a story about how God made the world. Let's tell the story together!"

During the Activity: "In our Bible story, God made the world and a very special garden.

"God made flowers. You (*point to a child or children*) can pretend to be the flowers. Ball up then stretch high to the ceiling like you are blooming. (*Demonstrate.*)

"God made trees. You (*point to a child or children*) can pretend to be tall trees. Stand with your arms spread out and move side-to-side like your branches are blowing in the wind. (*Demonstrate.*)

"God made lots of animals. You (*point to a child or children*) can pretend to be animals. You can act like any animal you want because God made all of the animals.

"God saved the best for last—people! And the first people were named Adam and Eve. Now the garden was perfect. Show me your happy face because **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect.** (*Look around.*) I see the flowers are smiling; and the trees are smiling; and the animals are smiling. It was a very happy garden.

"God told Adam and Eve that they could eat all of the food that grew in the garden except the food on one special tree. Adam and Eve had a choice. Do they go their way or JUMP, JUMP, and go God's way? What did Adam and Eve do? (*Pause.*) You're right. They went their way instead of God's way. Show me your sad face because Adam and Eve did not go God's way. (*Look around.*) I see the flowers are sad; and the trees are sad; and the animals are sad. Now it's a very sad garden."

After the Activity: "Adam and Eve did not go God's way, even though **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect.** It was very sad. But we can still JUMP, JUMP, and go God's way! So, when I ask

you, **'Whose way is perfect?'**, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] 'God's way is perfect.'**
Ready? **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!"**

2. Simon Says: Jump, Jump!

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: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather the children to spread out in your activity area.

During the Activity: Lead the children in a game of "Simon Says." Remind them that you will call out different movements for them to complete. Make sure they listen for the words "Simon Says" first, before they copy you. If they don't hear "Simon Says," don't have them sit out, just remind them to listen carefully and keep playing.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come gather here with me! Everyone put your arms out to your sides like this so you can spread out. (*Demonstrate.*) Make sure you can't touch another friend when your arms are spread out wide. (*Pause.*) Great job! You can put your arms down."

During the Activity: "Today, we'll play a game called 'Simon Says.' Raise your hand if you've ever played it. (*Pause.*) Great. You can put your hands down. I will lead us in a series of movements. I want you to do what I do but ONLY if I say, 'Simon Says' first. Ready? Okay, Simon says Jog in place. Great. Simon says Stop! Now, march. (*Pause.*) Uh-oh! Simon didn't say to march. Let's try that again. Simon says March!"

MOVEMENT IDEAS:

Jog in place

March

Circle your arms

Stomp your feet

Touch your toes

Pat your shoulders, head, tummy etc.

Clap your hands

Spin in a circle two times

Say, "Hello" as you wave to a friend

Play air guitar (you will need to demonstrate this)

After the Activity: "That was so fun! You did an awesome job of listening! In our Bible story today, we learned that **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!** That's why it's super important that we listen to God and go God's way. Tell me, **whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!"**

3. Popsicle Stick Garden

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: “Popsicle Stick Garden Label” Activity Page; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; paper plates; popsicle sticks; crayons and/or washable markers; mini cupcake liners; glue sticks; and a permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Popsicle Stick Garden Label” on label paper, one per child. Write child’s name on their plate.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their paper plate to look like the earth and sky. Color the popsicle sticks green if desired and glue to their plate. Glue cupcake liners on for flowers. Add the label to their plate.

After the Activity: Review the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We heard a story today about a special garden—the first garden God ever made. There were plants, flowers, and trees. It was perfect. Let’s make a garden of our own.”

During the Activity: “Color your plate to look like the sky and the ground. *(Pause.)* Let’s use these popsicle sticks for the stems of the flowers. You can color them green or leave them plain then glue them to your plate garden. *(Pause.)* These cupcake liners look like flowers. Glue them to your popsicle sticks. *(Pause.)* Add your label. It tells you where to find today’s story in the Bible. *(Pause.)* What a pretty garden you’ve planted!”

After the Activity: “God filled the garden with plants, flowers, and trees. Some of them grew food that you could eat. There were so many animals. It was perfect! God made it all. But, He wasn’t done. God made people, Adam and Eve, to watch over the animals and the garden. God gave them one rule. He told them to never, ever eat the fruit from one tree . . . but they did. They didn’t do things God’s way, so God sent them out of the garden and everything became harder because they didn’t obey God. Everything would have been better if they had only followed God’s way, because God’s way is perfect.

Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.”

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 2 Samuel 22:31, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today you get to pretend to be any animal you want while we walk to our small group spot. When I say your name, tell me which animal you’re going to be. *(Say each child’s name so they can say their animal choice.)* Okay, animals! Follow me! *(Pretend to be animals as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*”

“Good job! 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 how God made the world and everything in it. He even made a special garden where Adam and Eve lived. It was perfect, because **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** In fact, that is what the new Bible verse we will learn says. Listen to this. (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

“‘God’s way is perfect.’ 2 Samuel 22:31. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

“Did you hear that? **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect! Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** Let’s stand up and say that Bible verse together with these motions I’ll teach you. Just say what I say and do what I do.”

CHILDREN and SGL:

“‘God’s way (*point up*) is perfect,’ (*two thumbs up*) 2 Samuel 22:31.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

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

SGL: “And you sound pretty perfect saying that verse! (*Give two thumbs up.*) We can always trust what God tells us to do because **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** That’s why, when I ask, ‘**Whose way is perfect?**’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘God’s way is perfect.’** Here we go! **Whose way is perfect?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect!”**

SGL: “**Whose way is perfect?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect!”**

SGL: “Now, 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 our favorite foods that God made. Then we can use our list to thank God for making food that tastes perfectly yummy. So, when I say your name, tell me your favorite food that God made, 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.*)”

“Ooo, this is a list of yummy foods! Let’s 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 making this amazing world and everything in it. We especially want to thank You for all of the yummy foods You made. [Child’s name] wants to thank You for making [food they named]. (*Continue with each child’s name and the food listed.*) Please help us trust that Your way is perfect and to go Your way. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

