



WEEK 1 - June 2021 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: God gave us Jesus.

Greatest Verse Ever • *John 3:16*

Memory Verse: "I trust in God. I am not afraid." Psalm 56:11, NIV

Key Question: Who can trust God?

Bottom Line: I can trust God.

Basic Truth: God loves me.

Make it Fun

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

-Bucket Toss

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
-Jesus no matter what
-God loves me so much
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Bucket Toss

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

What You Need: laundry basket, heart-shaped bean bag or plush toy

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Line up the laundry baskets in a row in the center of your activity area. Tape a line on the floor about a foot from the first basket.

During the Activity: Guide the children to line up in a single file. Encourage them to toss the bean bag or plush heart to land in the basket. If they make it into the basket you can move it further back to make it hard. Award points for each basket. As a child makes it in, celebrate and call out the number of points they earned. Once a child has had at least three chances to toss the heart, encourage them to pass it on to allow the next friend a turn. There is no need to tally or keep track of points. Simply celebrate in the moment by calling out the number they earned!

After the Activity: Stack the laundry basket and set aside.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me! Let's line up behind this tape line."

During the Activity: "Do you see this basket? Let's take turns trying to toss this heart into the basket! That's worth one point. Each time you toss the heart, run to get it and try again. Every friend will have a turn! Ready? Toss!"

After the Activity: "Great tossing, friends! (*Hold up the heart.*) Tell me what you see. (*Pause.*) That's right, a heart! Hearts remind me of love. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who loves us so much that He gave a VERY special gift. Let's go find out what it is!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to practice "tossing" an imaginary heart.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: God's gave us Jesus. Week one, we will begin with how much God loves us. God loves us so much He gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. That is a lot of

love. We want our preschoolers to know that because God gave them Jesus, they can Press Play and trust God's love for them.

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.

"I (*point thumbs to chest*) trust in God (*point up*). I am not afraid (*cross hands back and forth and shake head*)," Psalm 56:11. (*Open 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 will say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me!"

"I (*point thumbs to chest*) trust in God (*point up*). I am not afraid (*cross hands back and forth and shake head*)," Psalm 56:11." (*Open hands like a book.*)

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

"I (*point thumbs to chest*) trust in God (*point up*). I am not afraid (*cross hands back and forth and shake head*)," Psalm 56:11." (*Open hands like a book.*)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that we can trust God! God loves us so much, and we can always trust Him! **Who can trust God? [Bottom Line] I can trust God!**"

2. Jesus No Matter What

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, "Jesus No Matter What"
(<https://thrivingteams.org/>)

What You Do:

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

During the Activity: Turn on the music and have the children sing and do the hand motions to the new monthly song.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We have a FUN new song this month called ‘Jesus No Matter What.’ Let’s dance and sing together!”

After the Activity: “What awesome dancers you are! God gave us Jesus, the best friend ever, because He LOVES us! We can always trust God. Tell me, **who can you trust? [Bottom Line] I can trust God!**”

3. God Loves Me So Much

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: “God Loves Me So Much” Activity Page; cardstock; large construction paper; pencil; scissors; glue sticks; and a permanent marker; *Optional* “God Loves Me So Much Label” Activity Page; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; and heart-shaped dessert plates

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “God Loves Me So Much” on cardstock and cut, one per child. Cut construction paper lengthwise into four strips, two strips per child. Trace child’s hands on cardstock and cut out. *Optional:* Copy “God Loves Me So Much Label” Activity Page on the label paper, one per child.

During the Activity: Show children how to accordion fold the two strips of construction paper. Encourage children to glue the arms to the back of the heart. Then have the children glue their hands to the end of each accordion arm. Write child’s name on their heart or hand. *Optional for older children:* Help children trace and cut out their hand outlines. *Optional materials from above:* Have children put the label on the middle of the heart plate and add the accordion arms. Trace and cut out hands and have them glue their hand cutouts to the accordion arms.

After the Activity: Talk about how God loves you.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today, I have a fun craft for us to make to show how much God loves you. It starts with this heart. (*Hold up the heart cutout.*) It says, ‘God loves me.’ Say that with me. God loves me. (*Repeat.*) Awesome!”

During the Activity: “Now, we need to make arms to go on the heart. Take one of the strips of paper and fold it like this. (*Demonstrate.*) This is called an accordion fold. Once you finish the first strip, do the same for the other strip. (*Pause.*) Nice. Glue one arm to each side of your heart. (*Pause.*) Remember earlier I traced your hands? Well, here they are! Glue one hand to the end of each arm. (*Pause.*) Look how long the arms on your heart are. (*Pause.*) God loves you more than that! Stretch your arms out like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Look how big that is. (*Pause.*) God loves you more than that! That is amazing!”

After the Activity: “God loves you, and you, and you, and you! (*Point to each child.*) God loves each and every one of us so very much that He gave us the most special gift He could ever

give. God gave us His Son, Jesus to be our friend forever! We can trust God because He gave us the best gift, Jesus, to be our friend forever. **Who can you trust? [Bottom Line] I can trust God.**”

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 Psalm 56:11, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll pretend to carry a little baby as we walk to our small group spot. Hold your arms like this *(demonstrate holding a baby)* and walk very slowly and quietly so we don’t wake our babies. *(Pretend to carry a baby to your small group spot.)*

“Shh . . . now lay your baby down so it can take a nap. *(Pretend to lay a baby down.)* Good job! 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 a very special baby who grew up to do amazing things that only He can do. Who is the special baby God gave us? *(Pause.)* Jesus! Yes, God gave us Jesus! And because God loves us so much He gave us Jesus, we can totally trust Him!

“That’s why the new Bible verse we’ll learn says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)* ‘I trust in God. I am not afraid,’ Psalm 56:11. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“When we remember that God loves us so much He gave us Jesus, we can say, ‘I trust in God. I am not afraid.’ 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: “‘I *(point thumbs to chest)* trust in God *(point up)*. I am not afraid *(cross hands back and forth and shake head)*,’ Psalm 56:11.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: “You sound great! Now that we know we can trust God, when I ask, ‘**who can trust God?**’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can trust God.’** Got it? Let me hear you. **Who can trust God?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “I can trust God!”**

SGL: “**Who can trust God?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “I can trust God!”**

SGL: “You sure can! 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 gifts we have ever been given. Maybe it was a toy or clothes or something yummy to eat. So think about it, and when I say your name, tell me your favorite gift. 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.)

“Wow! This is a great list of gifts! But as awesome as these gifts are, the best gift EVER is Jesus. God loves you and me so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever! Ok, 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 allowing us to get such wonderful gifts like *(read the list the children made)*. These gifts are so fun and special. And thank You for giving us the best gift ever, Your Son, Jesus. Help us remember how much You love us so we will always trust You. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”