



Memory Verse:

“I trust in God.
I am not afraid.”

PSALM 56:11, NIV

PRESSPLAY

Bottom Line:

I can trust God.

WEEK 3 - June 2021 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: We can trust God's plan.

Jericho • *Joshua 5:13–6:27*

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.

-I can trust God

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.

-Sneaky verse
-Parachute
-Torch in a jar
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. I Can Trust God!

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:

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Invite the children to quietly sneak around the room as they follow you. Every once in a while, pop up and lead the children to say, "I can trust God!"

What You Say:

Before the Activity: (speaking in a quiet voice) "Friends, come over here with me. I'm talking quietly because in our Bible story, we'll hear about an army that had to sneak around and be very, very quiet. Follow me! But pay attention because if I pop up and say something, I want you to pop up and say it, too!"

After the Activity: "You are pretty good at being quiet! Very sneaky. Let's find out if the army in the Bible story was as good as you are at sneaking around. Ready? Let's go!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to sneak along the way to the large group space. Pop up every few feet and lead the children to say, "I can trust God!"

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: God can use you no matter what. Week three, we will hear about how Gideon trusted that God could use him, despite his weaknesses, and God used Gideon to do some pretty amazing things! We want our preschoolers to know that they can Press Play and trust God to use them too.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Sneaky Verse

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: Have the children stand in front of you.

During the Activity: Choose one child to go first and ask them to pretend to sneak to you while they say the memory verse. When the child reaches you and finishes the verse, ask them to return to the other children. Repeat with another child. Continue until all of the children have a turn.

After the Activity: After all of the children have a turn, ask the children to say the memory verse as a large group.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today in our Bible story, we heard an awesome story about how God's army won over the HUGE army! Gideon trusted God! Let's say our memory verse that reminds us to always trust God."

During the Activity: "When I call your name, I want you to use a sneaky walk to me and say the memory verse as you go. Let's see who can be super-sneaky just like Gideon's army! (*Do activity.*) Awesome job! Now let's be super-loud and scare the HUGE army just like Gideon's army did in our Bible story. Let's say our memory verse together in super-loud voices!" (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that we can always trust God! Gideon was scared, but He knew that God's plan was the right plan! **Who can trust God? [Bottom Line] I can trust God!**"

2. Parachute Shake Out

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: Parachute or flat sheet

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the parachute out flat on the floor of your activity area.

During the Activity: Have the children gather around the edge of the parachute. Instruct the children to bend down, grab the edge of the parachute with both hands, then lift to waist height.

Encourage the children to slowly move their arms to shake the parachute as you say, "For the Lord," then raise arms quickly and say, "and for Gideon!" Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Will you come stand with me, friends? Let's gather around the parachute."

During the Activity: "Let's bend down and grab the edge with both hands. Is everyone holding on with both hands? Great! Now, stand up. Let's wave our arms to shake the parachute.

(Demonstrate.) That's it! Now say, 'For the Lord,' then raise your arms over your head like this and say, 'And for Gideon!' *(Demonstrate.)* Remember, this is what God's army said when they snuck into the camp."

After the Activity: "Let's set the parachute down on the floor. *(Pause.)* That was fun! Gideon wasn't sure he was the right person to lead the army, but God proved to Gideon that he can use you, no matter what! I'm so thankful we can trust God. **Who can you trust? [Bottom Line] I can trust God.**"

3. Torch in a Jar

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: "Torch in a Jar" and "Broken Jar" Activity Pages; cardstock; large craft sticks; yellow, orange, and red dot markers; brown crayons or markers; small hole punch; large brads; scissors; glue sticks; and a permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Torch in a Jar" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy "Broken Jar" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Punch a hole where indicated at the bottom of both Activity Pages.

During the Activity: Encourage children to fill in the flames with the dot markers and color the jar with brown crayons or markers. Glue the craft stick to the back of the torch stick. Help children attach the jar pieces to the torch with the brad.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story and have children "break" open their jar.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today, we heard a Bible story about Gideon and his super-small army and how they trusted God."

During the Activity: "Color the flame of your torch red, yellow, and orange. *(Pause.)* Great! Now color the jar brown. *(Pause.)* Glue your craft stick to the torch stick. *(Pause.)* Now we'll cover your torch with the jar by lining up the holes and attaching them with the brad. *(Pause.)* Now watch how you can break the jar to show the torch. *(Demonstrate.)* We'll use your craft as we review our Bible story."

After the Activity: “Today in our Bible story, God told Gideon to take his small army and fight the really big Midianite army. Gideon didn’t think he should be the one to lead God’s army, but he trusted God and did what He told him to do. Gideon told each soldier to take a trumpet, a torch, and a jar and follow him. They snuck into the Midianite camp. When Gideon told them to, they blew their trumpets, broke their jars, and yelled ‘For the Lord, and for Gideon!’ Friends, break your jars to show your torch. *(Pause.)* Now with your torches held high say, ‘For the Lord, and for Gideon!’ *(Repeat.)* The Midianites ran away, and God’s army won! Gideon’s small army beat the big Midianite big army. Friends, you are never too small to trust God. You can trust God, and I can trust God. **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 blow our hand horns while we walk to our small group spot. Will you play your hand horn with me? *(Pause.)* Great! Horns up. *(Demonstrate a hand horn.)* Blow your horns and follow me! *(Blow your hand horn as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*

“Horns down! That was fun! 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 was about how God used Gideon to do a really big thing, even though Gideon and his army were small. Gideon trusted that God could use him, so he did everything God told him to do. Gideon and his army carried the torches, broke the jars, and played the horns. *(Play your hand horn.)* And it worked! Gideon’s army won the battle!

“God can use you and me, no matter what, too. We just have to trust God and not be afraid. That’s why we’re learning this verse. It 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.)* Let’s stand up and say that Bible verse together with the motions. 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: “Yes! And I hope you always remember to trust God and not be afraid, because **who can trust God?**”

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

SGL: “Louder! **Who can trust God?**”

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

SGL: "Yes, you 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 things that sometimes make you afraid. We all feel afraid at times, even me. So, when I say your name, tell me one thing that sometimes makes you afraid. 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.*)

"Thank you for making this list with me. We can use it 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, we know we can trust You. But sometimes we forget and things like (*read the list the children made*) make us afraid. Please help us remember that we can always trust you and we don't have to be afraid. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

