



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



## SCHOOL

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Washable markers, blank sheets of paper, teacher's pointer (*preschool safe*), alphabet or number chart, and wall tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Hang the chart on a wall at preschooler level where the children will do the activity.

It works best if the children are seated at a table but they may also sit on the floor.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Choose one child to be the teacher and have the other children sit in front of the wall with the paper and charts. Give each seated child a piece of paper and a marker. Give the "teacher" the pointer and ask them to stand near the wall. Allow the teacher to use the pointer to teach their classmates letters or numbers and ask them to write them on their paper. Offer assistance to the teacher as necessary but try to let them "teach" on their own. Repeat the activity several times to allow each child a turn to be the teacher.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "I love school! Let's pretend that we're in school today."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Choose a child to be the teacher.*) "[Child's name] will be our first teacher. We have numbers and letters to learn. Everyone, pay attention to the teacher and write down the letter that they point to." (*Do activity.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Wow! You're all amazing teachers! Today, we'll hear a Bible story about the BEST teacher of all!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by telling the children that you will teach them a new way to walk to the story area. Lead the children in different movements such as giant steps, bunny hops, tip toes, and bear crawls.

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that God loves us, no matter what.

**PRODIGAL SON**  
**LUKE 15:11-24**

## MEMORY VERSE

"The crowds were amazed at his teaching."

**MATTHEW 7:28, NIV**

## KEY QUESTION

Who teaches you important things?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



## MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Say the memory verse with the following motions in front of the children.

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**PRODIGAL SON**  
**LUKE 15:11-24**

"The crowds (*arms out and around*) were amazed (*hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close*) at his teaching (*hands to mouth*)," Matthew 7:28. (*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, listen and watch me! 'The crowds (*arms out and around*) were amazed (*hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close*) at his teaching (*hands to mouth*),' Matthew 7:28." (*Open hands like a book.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? 'The crowds (*arms out and around*) were amazed (*hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close*) at his teaching (*hands to mouth*),' Matthew 7:28." (*Open hands like a book.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus teaches us everything that we need to know! **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things!**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



## STORY CIRCLE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Story Circle" And "Son Arrow" Activity Pages; cardstock; scissors; crayons; utility knife; brads; and permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Story Circle" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Cut a slit in the center of each circle. Copy "Son Arrow" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Cut a slit where indicated at the end of each arrow. Write child's name on the back of their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color the pictures on their paper. Help children attach their arrow to their paper and secure the brad. Show them how to turn the arrow to each picture and have them follow along while reviewing the story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how God loves us, no matter what, just like the dad in our story loved his son.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, friends! Today, we heard a story that Jesus told to teach us something very important. I have a story circle for you to make to help you remember our story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Use the crayons to color the pictures on your circle. These are pictures from our story. (Pause.) Now we need to add the son to the circle. (Help children attach the arrow with the brad.) The son can move around the circle. (Demonstrate.) Put the son next to the dad. (Pause.) The dad had saved a lot of money for his son to have when he was older, but the son wanted his money right then. So the dad gave his son the money. Move the son to the money. (Pause.)"

"The son took the money and went far, far away. He spent his dad's money on everything! Move the son to the next picture. (Pause.) He bought fancy clothes, ate really good food, and spent money with all his friends. He spent and spent until all of his money was gone. Move the son to the next picture. (Pause.) The money was all gone. He didn't have a bed to sleep in or food to eat. He was so hungry that he thought about eating pig food. The son knew he had made a lot of bad choices. He was so sorry and just wanted to go home."

"When his dad saw him coming home, he ran to him and hugged him. Then he threw a big party to celebrate. Move the son to the celebration. (Pause.) The dad was so glad that his son had come back home. He loved his son, even though he had made bad decisions and spent all the money. Jesus wants us to know that God loves us, even more than that! God loves us, no matter what. He"

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WEEK  
**ONE**  
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

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## (STORY CIRCLE, CONTINUED)

won't get mad at us if we mess up. He wants to forgive us and help us."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus told us this story of a dad and his son to teach us that God loves us, no matter what. I'm so glad we have Jesus to teach us important things. **Who teaches me important things? Jesus teaches me important things.**"





## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen, and heart stickers

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll give ourselves a great . . . big . . . HUG while we walk to our small group spot. Wrap your arms around yourself like this (*demonstrate*) and follow me! (*Continue to hug yourself as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

"Give yourself one last big squeeze then sit down so we can 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 something very important that Jesus teaches us. Jesus teaches us that God loves you (*point to child*) and you (*point to child*) and you . . . (*continue and point to each child*) . . . no matter what! That's why we gave ourselves a great, big hug. Because God loves us!

"Jesus told a story about a father and his son to teach us that God loves us, no matter what. Do you remember what the son did with all of the money his father had saved for him? (*Pause.*) Yes, the son went far away and spent all of the money on food, clothes, and parties. After the money was all gone, the son didn't have any money to buy food, and he was very hungry. That's when the son decided to go back home to his father. What did the father do when he saw his son? (*Pause.*) That's right! The father gave his son a great, big hug and threw a party! The father was SO happy his son was back! Even though the son had made some bad choices, the father still loved him.

"Jesus told this story so we can know that God loves us, no matter what. Where can we read the stories Jesus told? (*Pause.*) Yes, the Bible! (*Hold up the Bible.*) Jesus teaches us lots of important things in the Bible. **Who teaches you important things?"**

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus teaches me important things."**

**SGL:** "He sure does! And the new Bible verse we're going to learn will help us remember that Jesus is an amazing teacher! It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'The crowds were amazed at his teaching,' Matthew 7:28. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say that together with these motions I'll teach you. Just say what I say and do what I do."

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'The crowds (*arms out and around*) were amazed

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### (JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

*(hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close) at his teaching (hands to mouth),' Matthew 7:28." (Open hands like a book.)*

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

**SGL:** "You sound great! *(Give two thumbs-up.)* Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

"Because Jesus teaches us that God loves us, no matter what, we'll put heart stickers by our names in our prayer journal. I'll write your name in our journal. Then, you will put a heart sticker by your name and say, 'God loves me!' Okay, listen for your name and get ready to say, 'God loves me!' *(Say each child's name, write it down, give them a heart sticker, and prompt them to say, 'God loves me!' Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

"Yay! Now 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 sending Jesus to be our friend forever and teach us important things. I pray we will listen to what Jesus says and remember that You love us, no matter what. You are so good, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

