



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



WHO'S MISSING?

WHAT YOU NEED: Bedsheet

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Hang a bedsheet in your classroom. Gather the children to stand on one side of the sheet.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Explain to the children that you will have them close their eyes. If they feel a tap on their shoulder, they can open their eyes and walk to the other side of the sheet. When you say, "Open your eyes," the remaining children will open their eyes and try to guess which friend is missing. For each round, walk the group over to the other side of the sheet to find out who's missing!

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Take down the sheet and set aside.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather on this side of the sheet with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's play a super-fun game called, 'Who's Missing?' In just a second, I will call on everyone to close their eyes. NO peeking! While your eyes are closed, I will tap ONE friend on the shoulder. If you are tapped, I want you to open your eyes and quietly walk to the other side of the sheet like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Then I'll say, 'Everyone, open your eyes!' All of our friends will open their eyes and try to guess which friend is missing. Then we will walk to the other side to see if we are right! Everyone ready to play? Okay, close your eyes!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! Great job, friends. Today, we'll hear a story about a sheep that goes missing! Let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story pretending to search for a lost sheep.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that we are important to God.

THE LOST SHEEP
LUKE 15:3-7

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



WHERE IS THE SHEEP?

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Cotton balls

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Spread cotton balls all over the room

BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that we are important to God.

THE LOST SHEEP
LUKE 15:3-7

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children gather around you and say the memory verse together several times. Then, have them find a sheep (cotton ball). Encourage them to stand near the cotton ball and say the verse with you again. Have them bring that sheep to you then stand by another sheep and say the verse. Continue until all of the sheep are found and returned. Redistribute the sheep to play again.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here with me! Let's say our memory verse together. '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.*) Great job! Today, we heard a story that Jesus told about a lost sheep."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I see a lot of sheep around the room. The cotton balls are our sheep. Go find a sheep and stand next to it. (*Pause.*) Yay! Everyone found a sheep. Let's say our memory verse together again. '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.*)

Great job! Now, bring your sheep to me and find another sheep!" (*Continue as long as there is interest.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did an awesome job of finding all the sheep. Jesus told us the story about the shepherd and his lost sheep because he wanted us to know that we're all important to God. So, when I ask '**Who teaches you important things?**', you say, '**Jesus teaches me important things.**' Ready? **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things.**"

MEMORY VERSE

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HOME

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



BUBBLE SHEEP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bubble Sheep" and "Bubble Sheep Outline" Activity Pages; light blue cardstock; cardstock; bubble wrap; scissors; white washable paint; paint brushes; paper plates; wet wipes; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Bubble Sheep" on light blue cardstock, one per child. Write child's name on their paper. Copy "Bubble Sheep Outline" on cardstock and cut out. Use the outline to cut the bubble wrap in that shape; one per child. Pour paint on paper plates.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to paint the bumpy side of the bubble wrap then stamp their paper with it to make the body of the sheep.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that we are important to God.

THE LOST SHEEP LUKE 15:3-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, Jesus told a story about a shepherd and his sheep. He was counting his sheep and noticed one was missing. Let's make a picture of that lost sheep."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "On your paper are the legs and the face of the sheep. We'll use the bubble wrap as a stamp for the sheep's body. Find the bumpy side of the bubble wrap. (Pause.) Paint over it with the white paint. (Pause.) Now flip it over and press it on your paper. (Pause.) Peel the bubble wrap off and look! (Pause.) There's your cute little sheep."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus said that the shepherd loved all of his sheep; each one mattered to him. So he went out to find the one missing sheep. Jesus told us this story to teach us something very important: we are important to God. He tells us that if we were lost, God would find us then celebrate. You are important to God. I'm glad we have Jesus to teach us important things. **Who teaches me important things? Jesus teaches me important things.**"

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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; and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to be sheep while we walk to our small group spot. What do sheep say? (Pause.) Yes! Baa! Baa!

Okay little sheep, follow me!(Pretend to be a sheep as you lead the children to your small group spot.) We made it little sheep! 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.)

"Today's Bible story was about another story Jesus told. In this story, there was a shepherd who had lost one sheep. Did the shepherd say, 'I have enough sheep. Who cares about one lost sheep?', OR did the shepherd leave all of his sheep to look for his one lost sheep? (Pause.) Yes! The shepherd cared about ALL of his sheep, so he looked for his lost sheep. What did the shepherd do when he found his lost sheep? (Pause.) You're right! The shepherd was SO happy that he told all of his friends!

"Jesus told this story so we can know that we are important to God. Where can we read the stories that 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: "Yes, He does! Jesus is an amazing teacher, and the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember it! 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 the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'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.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

"Great job! (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.)

"Today, we'll make a list of things that are important to us. Maybe it's your favorite blanket or toy, a special book or someone you live with. It can be anything or anyone that is important to you. So, when I say your name, I want

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WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

you to tell me one thing that is important to you, and I will write it in our prayer journal. *(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.)*

"These are some very important things. But if God was making a list, He would write YOUR name! Because YOU are important to God. It's true! You are important to God. Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus to teach us that we are important to Him. 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 have things and people that are important to us, like *(read the list the children made)*. All of these things and people are very important. That's why it's so special that we're important to You! *(Name each child)* . . . and I are all important to You. Thank You for loving us and thinking we are important. Help us treat everyone like they are important, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

