



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



HOUSE BUILDING

WHAT YOU NEED: Craft sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set eight craft sticks at each spot at the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to lay the craft sticks out on the table to "build" a house.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather their craft sticks and set aside for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let's build a house! You can lay your craft sticks flat on the table like this and build a house!" (*Demonstrate.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great building, friends! In our story today, we'll hear about a couple of house builders. Let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to build a house.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us how to live.

HOUSE ON A ROCK
MATTHEW 7:24-27

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



TUNNEL VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool tunnel or pop-up house

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set the tunnel or pop-up house in your activity area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us how to live.

HOUSE ON A ROCK
MATTHEW 7:24-27

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to take turns crawling through the tunnel or into the pop-up house and saying the memory verse.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather the tunnel or pop-up house and set aside for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come with me! Let's take turns crawling [through the tunnel/into the house] and say our memory verse together! Everyone will have a turn."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say our 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.)

"If you have on a [color] shirt, you can go through the tunnel." (Continue until each child has a turn.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job, friends! The crowds who heard Jesus were AMAZED by the things He taught them. We learn so many important things from Jesus. I'm so glad He teaches us how to live. **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things.**"

MEMORY VERSE

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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



FOLDING HOUSE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Folding House" Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; crayons or washable markers; glue sticks; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Folding House" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Write child's name on their paper. Option: Pre-fold each paper at the solid lines.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to fold their paper at the thick lines. Paper should be folded so the house design is on the outside of the fold. The words will be on the back of the house. Have children decorate the outside of their house then draw their family on the inside of the house.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, Jesus taught us how to live. We heard about two men who built houses, one on the sand and the other on the rock."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I have a house for you to make and decorate. Fold your paper at the solid lines. (Pause.) You should be able to see the roof and outside walls of your house. (Help re-fold as needed.) Decorate the outside of your house with the [crayons/markers]. (Pause.) Open your house and draw your family inside. (Pause.) You did a nice job of building your house and showing your family in it."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Both houses looked great but then it started to rain, harder and harder. The house built on the sand fell down because the rain washed the sand away. But the house on the rock was still standing. The rain couldn't wash away the rock. Jesus told us this story so He could teach us how to live and be strong like the house built on the rock. We can love everyone like God loves us and treat them like they are important to God. We can share and help, just like Jesus teaches us to do. I'm so glad we have a friend like 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 rewards stickers or handstamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time!

Today, we'll pretend to splash in rain puddles while we walk to our small group spot. Every time you step say, 'Splash!' Okay, let's put on our pretend raincoats (*demonstrate*) and get ready to splash in some rain puddles! Follow me! (Say "Splash" each time you step as you lead the children to your small group spot.) 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, today, was another story Jesus told. In this story, Jesus said a wise man builds his house on a rock, because rocks are strong. When it rains and storms, the house stands strong because it's on a strong rock.

"Jesus told this story to teach us how to live. When we remember that God loves, us no matter what, that we're important to God, and we choose to share our stuff and help everyone, it's like building a house on a rock. When hard things happen, we can stand strong!

"Where can we read the stories that Jesus told? (*Pause.*) You got it! 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: "Jesus is the most amazing teacher ever, and the Bible verse we've learned will help us remember that. 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 one time, then anyone who wants to say it can have a turn."

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.*)

SGL: "You sound awesome! (*Give two thumbs-up.*) Now sit back down, and anyone who wants to try to say it can try. I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready! (*Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.*)

"Yay, [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! (*Repeat with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.*) Okay everyone, when I count to three, I want

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WEEK
FIVE
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 stand up and show me your [sticker/handstamp]. One, two, three! *(Pause to look.)* Yayyyy! *(Give fist bumps to the children.)*

“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 some of the important things Jesus teaches us, like sharing, helping, that God loves us, and that we are important to God. Then, when we pray, we can use our list to thank Jesus for teaching us important things! When I say your name, tell me one thing Jesus teaches us, 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.)*

SGL: “Wow! Jesus teaches us a lot of important things! Let’s use this list 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, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever and teach us important things like *(read the list the children made)*. Help us remember the things Jesus teaches us and do what He says. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

