



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



HIDE AND SEEK

WHAT YOU NEED: Plush friend

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Hold up the plush friend for all the friends to see. Ask the children to close their eyes (**NO PEEKING**) as you hide the plush friend somewhere in the classroom. Then have the children open their eyes and

search for the plush friend. When they find the friend, celebrate! Repeat for a few more rounds as time and interest allow.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Set the plush friend aside for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come have a seat here with me! I want to introduce you to my friend, [plush friend's name]. Say, 'Hello.'"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "[Plush friend's name] is going to help us play hide and seek today! I want you to close your eyes, absolutely **NO** peeking, as I hide our friend. Ready? Close those eyes. (*Hide the plush friend somewhere in the activity area.*)

"Okay, now you can open your eyes and search! (*Do activity.*) That was super fun! Great finding, friends."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a story about a man who hid because he was afraid."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out, "Red light" for children to STOP walking or "Green light" for children to KEEP walking.

BIBLE STORY

God loves me when I'm afraid.

GIDEON IS AFRAID
JUDGES 6:2-4, 11-12

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

PROVERBS 3:5, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you no matter what?

BOTTOM LINE

God loves me no matter what.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.





WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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



GATHER AND HIDE
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]
WHAT YOU NEED: Toy food items

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Spread toy food items around the room or in your home living center.

BIBLE STORY

God loves me when I'm afraid.

GIDEON IS AFRAID
JUDGES 6:2-4, 11-12

DURING THE ACTIVITY: As you review the Bible story, lead the children in making afraid faces while gathering the toy food items. Once everyone has some food, hide under a table together. When you finish reviewing the story, everyone will come out from under the table and cheer with happy faces.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Gideon talked to God about being afraid because God loved him no matter what.

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

PROVERBS 3:5, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Come stand with me. We have some food to find!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, Gideon was afraid of the Midianites. He was afraid they would take his food. What did Gideon do because he was so afraid? (Pause.) Yes! Gideon hid in a hole. Let's pretend we are Gideon. Make an afraid face like this. (Demonstrate.) Now let's get our food and go hide. Follow me! (Encourage the children to gather all the food.)

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you no matter what?

"Come on! We can hide under here! (Get under a table together.) Gideon was so afraid that he hid in a hole! God knew Gideon was afraid, so He sent an angel to tell Gideon something very special. The angel said, 'The Lord is with You!' Gideon talked to God, and knowing God was with him made him feel better. (Come out from under the table.)

BOTTOM LINE

God loves me no matter what.

"Yay! Look at each other and say, 'The Lord is with you!' The Lord is with you! The Lord is with you! The Lord is with you!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! God loved Gideon when he was afraid because God loved him no matter what. God loves you no matter what, too! **Who loves you no matter what? God loves me no matter what!**"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.





WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS 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



PRAYING HANDS
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Praying Hands Emotions Stickers" and "Praying Hands Label" Activity Pages; Avery® #6450 labels or equivalent; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; cardstock, washable inkpads; hand wipes; scissors; and a permanent marker

BIBLE STORY

God loves me when I'm afraid.

GIDEON IS AFRAID
JUDGES 6:2-4, 11-12

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Praying Hands Emotions Stickers" on Avery® #6450 labels or equivalent and cut, one set per child. Copy "Praying Hand Label" on Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, one per child. Fold a piece of cardstock in half for each child.

Fold the cardstock in half like a greeting card. Draw half of a large heart with the center beginning and ending at the fold. This should be large enough for one preschooler's hand to fit inside half of the heart. Cut out the heart shape and unfold, one per child. Write each child's name on their heart.

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

PROVERBS 3:5, NIV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Help children ink their LEFT hand and press it down on the RIGHT side of the heart with fingers closed and with the pinky side of their hand lined up at the center fold. Clean their hand. Repeat with the child's RIGHT hand on the LEFT side of the heart with the pinky side of their hand lined up at the center fold. Clean their hand.

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you no matter what?

Have children open their paper and add a label and set of emotion stickers. Show children how their handprints make praying hands and how they can pray and talk to God about all the emotions they added to the inside of their praying hands.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

BOTTOM LINE

God loves me no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! I'm so glad you're here today. It's always great to see you! Today, we heard a story about a man named Gideon. He was afraid. Sometimes we're afraid, too, and we learned it's okay to be afraid."

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We're going to do handprints today. First, we'll start with your left hand. We need to cover your whole hand with ink. (Pause.) Let me help you line it up on the fold of the paper and press down. (Pause.) Now clean that hand. (Pause.) Let's get ink on your right hand. Let me help you line it up on the fold of the paper and press down. (Pause.) Now clean that hand. (Pause.)"





WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(PRAYING HANDS, CONTINUED)

“Open your paper and put this label on the inside. *(Pause.)* It says, ‘God loves me no matter what’ and tells you where to find today’s story in the Bible. Now add your emoji stickers all over the inside. You have a sad face sticker, and we know it’s okay to be sad because God loves us when we’re sad. *(Repeat for a few more emoji stickers.)* What other faces do you have? *(Pause.)* I see a silly face, a surprised face, an excited face, a sleepy face, a love face, a worried face, and an angry face. Add all those face stickers to your paper. *(Pause.)*”

“Now show me praying hands like this. *(Demonstrate.)* And open them like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Everyone, close your paper so you see your handprints. *(Pause.)* And open it. *(Pause.)* Your paper has your praying hands. And can you pray and talk to God about any of these emotions that you see in your praying hands? *(Pause.)* YES! We can ALWAYS talk to God because God loves us no matter what.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “In our story, Gideon was afraid of the Midianite army. They were big and mean and took things that didn’t belong to them. Gideon was afraid they would take his food, so he hid in a hole in the ground so the Midianites wouldn’t see him and take his food. God knew Gideon was afraid, so he sent an angel to talk to him. Then Gideon talked to God. God told the angel to tell Gideon, ‘The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!’ God was with Gideon, and that made him feel better. It’s okay to feel afraid because God loves us no matter what. **Who loves you no matter what? God loves me no matter what.**”





WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2022

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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 at Proverbs 3:5; journal; and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll make an afraid face while we walk to our Small Group spot. Everyone, show me your afraid face.

(Demonstrate.) Okay, afraid faces, follow me. *(Make an afraid face and look around like you're afraid as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)*

"Whew! We're here! Now we can smile. *(Make a happy face.)* I'm smiling because the Lord is with us! 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.)*

"In our Bible story today, we learned that we can always talk to God when we feel afraid like Gideon did. God knew Gideon was afraid, so He sent an angel to tell Gideon that the Lord was with him.

"Do you remember why Gideon could talk to God about feeling afraid? *(Pause.)* Because God loved Gideon no matter what, and God loves you no matter what, too. **Who loves you no matter what?"**

CHILDREN AND SGL: "God loves me no matter what!"

SGL: "Yes, He does! And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that we can ALWAYS trust God with ALL our hearts. It says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)* 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart,' Proverbs 3:5. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

"Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'Trust in the Lord *(point up)* with all *(arms out wide)* your heart *(hands over heart),'* Proverbs 3:5." *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "You sound wonderful! Good job!"

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

BIBLE STORY

God loves me
when I'm afraid.

GIDEON IS AFRAID
JUDGES 6:2-4, 11-12

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord
with all your heart."

PROVERBS 3:5, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you no matter what?

BOTTOM LINE

God loves me no matter what.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.





WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 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)

“The Midianites made Gideon feel afraid. Today, we’ll make a list of things that make us feel afraid. When I say your name, tell me one thing that makes you feel afraid, and I will write it in our journal. *(Write down what each child says beside their names. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*”

“Thank you for doing that with me. Everyone feels afraid sometimes. I love knowing that we can always talk to God when we feel afraid, and He will always love us no matter what! Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: “Dear God, sometimes we feel afraid. [Child’s name] feels afraid when *(read what they listed)*. And [child’s name] feels afraid when *(read what they listed then continue with each child)*. Please help us remember that when we feel afraid, we can always talk to You about it, and You will love us no matter what. You’re the best, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

