



WEEK
THREE
FEBRUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

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



2. BANDAGES

WHAT YOU NEED: Rolls of bathroom tissue

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather with children in an open area of the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: A leader stands in the middle of the activity area with the children. Give children the bathroom tissue and encourage them to bandage the leader by wrapping the tissue all around them.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we'll hear how Jesus helped someone who was sick.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather over here with me. We're going to play a game with this bathroom tissue."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We'll pretend [leader's name] needs our help. Let's pretend that [he/she] is sick and we need to bandage [him/her] all up! We'll use this tissue as our bandages. Let's get wrapping! (Pause.) Wow! You did a great job of bandaging [leader's name] and making them all better!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story, we will hear about a real sick person and someone special who really helped him!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by following the bandaged leader.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and wants to help me.

THE CENTURION
MATTHEW 8:5-13

MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. LOOKING FOR HELP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Which Way?" Activity Page, cardstock, and washable markers or crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Which Way" on cardstock, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a "Which Way" page and a marker or crayon. As you review the Bible story, encourage the children to draw a line along the path to help the centurion find Jesus and then continue along the path to his healed servant.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Let children color the pictures. Talk about how Jesus wanted to help the centurion and his servant because Jesus loved them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. We're going to help this centurion (*point*) find Jesus so Jesus can help his servant like in our Bible story today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone needs a [marker/crayon]. Now put your finger on the picture of the centurion. (*Demonstrate.*) A centurion is a soldier who leads a lot of other soldiers. We're going to draw a line on the path to help the centurion find Jesus. When you get to the picture of Jesus, stop and put your finger on Him."

"When the centurion found Jesus, he asked Jesus to help his sick servant. Jesus told the centurion He would come to his house, but the centurion said he knew Jesus was so powerful that He could make his servant all better by just saying it. And that's what happened! Draw a line on the path from Jesus to the centurion and his servant. When you get to the picture of the centurion and his servant, stop and put your finger on them."

"When the centurion got home, his servant was all better! Jesus had helped them! Now you can color all of the pictures."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus helped the centurion and his servant because Jesus loved them. Jesus wants to help us because Jesus loves us, too. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and wants to help me.

THE CENTURION
MATTHEW 8:5-13

MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



4. CENTURION SAYS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Centurion Says" Activity Page; cardstock; and utility knife

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Centurion Says" on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines, including the mouth;

one per small group. Gather children in an open area of the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Play a version of "Simon Says" while holding the centurion's face up to yours as you speak through the mouth. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how even though the centurion was an important person, he knew that Jesus was MORE important.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! Come over and join me. Spread out and make sure you aren't too close to your neighbor."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we're going to play a game of 'Centurion Says.' I will be the centurion, and when I say, 'Centurion says touch your toes,' you will touch your toes. Listen for 'Centurion says.' What if I just said, 'Touch your toes?' You will stay still. Let's do a practice round. Remember to listen for 'Centurion says.'"

"Okay! Centurion says, 'Clap your hands.' (Pause.) Yay! Okay, listen closely. Touch your toes. (Pause.) Nice! Centurion says 'Hop up and down.' (Pause.) Centurion says, 'Freeze.' (Pause.) Centurion says, 'Give a friend a high five.' (Pause.) Sit down. (Pause.) Did I say, 'Centurion says'? (Pause.) Okay, here we go. Centurion says, 'Rub your belly.' (Pause.) Centurion says, 'Turn around.' Good job! (Repeat as desired.) That was so much fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story, we heard about a centurion. He was powerful and important, but he knew that Jesus was even more important, and he needed Jesus' help. Jesus loved the centurion and wanted to help him. Jesus loves you and wants to help you, too! That's right! Jesus loves you! And He wants to be your friend forever. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and wants to help me.

THE CENTURION
MATTHEW 8:5-13

MEMORY VERSE

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" paperclipped in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" used during previous weeks, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut then paperclip one card in the Bible at Ephesians 3:18. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

Lead the children to your Small Group spot.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Talk about today's Bible story and review the memory verse. Make a list of things we need help with in the journal.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray together.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and wants to help me.

THE CENTURION
MATTHEW 8:5-13

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll march like a centurion soldier to our Small Group spot. Get those legs marching and follow me! (*March as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)"

"Halt! That means stop. (*Smile big.*) 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.*)"

DURING THE ACTIVITY:

SGL: "In our Bible story today, we learned that Jesus wants to help us because Jesus loves us! **Who loves you?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus loves me!"

SGL: "He sure does! And the Bible verse we're learning tells us how much Jesus loves us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,' Ephesians 3:18. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)"

"Jesus' love for us is wide and long and high and deep! 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: "'How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*hold arms up and down*) and high (*jump high*) and deep (*crouch low*) is the love (*hug yourself*) of Christ,' (*point up*) Ephesians 3:18." (*Open hands like a book.*)"

MEMORY VERSE

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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "Yay! (Clap your hands.) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Since Jesus loves us and wants to help us, let's make a list of things we need help with. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need help with. (Write each child's name and what they say in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"Thank you for telling me what you need help with. Now let's pray about it! Would anyone like to pray before I pray?" (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY:

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us and help us. Please help [child's name] with (what child listed). Please help [child's name] with (what child listed). Please help . . . (continue with each child). We trust You to give us what we need when we need it. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."