



WEEK
FOUR
FEBRUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

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



1. WITH YOUR FEET

WHAT YOU NEED: Two laundry baskets or large plastic bins, small playground balls, and a chair

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set the classroom chair in the center of your activity area. Set the balls in one of the

laundry baskets and set both baskets in front of the classroom chair.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Show the children how to sit in the chair, stick their feet in the basket and pick up a ball with ONLY their feet or legs then drop it into the empty basket. Give each child a turn.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how in today's story, we'll hear how someone did something special to Jesus' feet.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather here with me. I have a fun game for us to try today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you think you can move this ball with your feet? Watch me. (*Demonstrate.*) When I call on you, you can sit in this chair and use your feet to move a ball from one basket to the other just like I did. [Child's name], come sit in the chair and give it a try. (*Pause.*) Remember, only use your feet. (*Pause.*) Wow! Great Job! (*Continue with each child.*) That was a fun game!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did that with your feet! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who did something special to Jesus' feet. Come with me."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out different ways to travel or move with your feet: hop, skip, march, jog, walk backward, sidestep, tiptoe, etc.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me
no matter what.

THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50

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

woman wanted to do something to show how special Jesus is and that she was thankful Jesus forgave her and loved her, no matter what. Look for the story sticker with a picture of the woman sitting at Jesus' feet. Put the sticker of the woman sitting with Jesus on heart number four. (*Assist as needed.*) The woman was so thankful that she wiped her tears off Jesus' feet with her hair. She kissed Jesus' feet then took her special perfume and poured it on them."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The woman in our story knew how much Jesus loved her, and Jesus loves us too! When we know how much Jesus loves us, we can have thankful hearts and show Jesus that we love Him. Jesus loved the woman no matter what, and Jesus loves you no matter what, too. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"



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4. PARACHUTE HEARTS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Parachute, foam hearts, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay the parachute flat in your activity area. Write each child's name on a foam heart.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children to spread out around the parachute. Lead them to bend down and grab the edge of the parachute in front of them with both hands. Encourage them to begin waving the parachute then add the hearts to bounce along the surface.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pass out the foam hearts for children to take home.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather around the parachute with me, and let's have some fun!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, bend down and grab the parachute in front of you with both hands. (Pause.) Great job! Now let's wave it by moving our arms up and down. (Demonstrate.) And now, let's add some hearts. (Pause.) These hearts have your names on them. Do you know why? Because Jesus loves you! Let's shake the parachute and make them bounce. (Pause.) Awesome! (Repeat as desired.) That was fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You'll get to take your foam heart home today as a reminder that Jesus loves you, no matter what! Tell me, **who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me
no matter what.

THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50

MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



3. JESUS LOVES ME NO MATTER WHAT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Good Choice/Bad Choice Cards" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, butcher paper, and a marker

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me
no matter what.

THE THANKFUL WOMAN
LUKE 7:36-50

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.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Good Choice/Bad Choice Cards" on cardstock and cut apart, one set per small group. Shuffle cards together in a stack and place them face down on the table. Draw a line down the center of the butcher paper to create two columns. Draw a large check mark at the top of the left-hand column and a large "X" at the top of the right-hand column.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around the table. Point out the check mark and "X" on the butcher paper. Draw a card and decide together as a group if it's a good choice or a bad choice and place it in the correct column on the page. When you've finished categorizing the cards, talk about how we all mess up. Draw a large heart in the center of the butcher paper and put the cards inside the heart.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus loves us, no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather around the table. I have some cards for us to sort today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "These cards are pictures of choices. Some are good choices, and some are bad choices. Let's talk about each choice and place the good choice cards on the check mark side and the bad choice cards on the 'X' side. What is this a picture of? (Pause.) Is this a good choice or a bad choice? (Pause.) Let's put it in the correct column. (Continue until all cards have been categorized.) We all mess up, like some of the choices on this 'X' side. We ALL need forgiveness. And I have some very good news for all of us. (Draw a large heart on the paper and pull all of the cards inside the heart.) Jesus loves us, NO matter what! He loves us when we make good choices, and He loves us when we mess up. He always forgives us when we say we're sorry. And He will help us make good choices next time."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Isn't it awesome to know that Jesus loves us, no matter what? **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



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, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or handstamp

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from previous weeks, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Paperclip one card in the Bible at Ephesians 3:18. Lead the children to your Small Group spot and sit together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story and memory verse. Give each child a reward sticker or handstamp when they try to say the memory verse. Write in the journal.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray together.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll make heart hands, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Hold your heart hands up and follow me! (*Make a heart with your hands as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

"Okay, little hearts! We made it! 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: "Today in our Bible story, we learned that Jesus loves us, no matter what. That's A LOT of love! And since I don't want us to ever forget how much Jesus loves us, we have been learning a Bible verse that will help us remember! 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.*)

"Let's stand up and say those words together one time 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.*)

SGL: "Wow! You sound awesome! Now I need everyone to sit down. Anyone who wants to try to say that verse can. I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready!



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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

(Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)

"Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! (Continue with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)"

"Okay everyone, when I count to three, I want you to stand up and show me your [sticker/handstamp.] One, two, three! (Pause.) Yay! (Clap.) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)"

"Since the woman in our story wanted to show Jesus how thankful she was, we'll make a list of things we're thankful for. When I say your name, tell me one thing you are thankful for. I'll write it in our prayer journal. (Write down what each child says beside their names. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)"

"I love this list! Let's use it when we pray. 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, We have so much to be thankful for! [Child's name] wants to thank You for [what child listed]. [Child's name] wants to thank You for [what child listed]. (Continue with each child.) And we all want to thank You for how much Jesus loves us. In Jesus' name, amen."*