



WEEK
TWO
JULY 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

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



3. TOWER BUILDING

WHAT YOU NEED: Sheet pans and foam blocks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather with children around the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to build a tower with blocks on the sheet pan. Once one tower is built, say, "Oh, no! There's an earthquake!" Then shake the sheet pan to make the tower topple over. Encourage children to build a new tower and repeat.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we'll hear a story about an earthquake that happened in the Bible.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come find a spot around the table."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I want you to work together with your friends to build a tower on these pans. (Pause.) Wow, you built a great tower! (Start shaking the pans.) Oh, no! There's an earthquake! An earthquake happens when the whole ground shakes. Let's rebuild the tower. (Repeat as desired.) That was crazy to watch the ground shake and make the tower topple over."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear what happened with an earthquake in our Bible story."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out "EARTHQUAKE" periodically along the way. When you do, lead the children to stop in their tracks and shake, shake, shake their whole bodies until you say, "STOP," then resume walking.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus helps us choose joy.

PAUL AND SILAS ARE THROWN INTO PRISON
ACTS 16:16-40

MEMORY VERSE

"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us."

EPHESIANS 5:2, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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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



1. WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children in your activity area and review the memory verse and motions together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Teach the children the words of memory verse as you sing them to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Repeat several times in different volume levels. Call on them to whisper, sing loudly, or sing in a regular voice before each repetition.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we can follow Jesus and walk in love because Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand with me. Let's say our verse and do the motions together. 'Walk (walk in place) in the way of love (cross arms over chest), just as Christ (point up) loved us (point to self),' Ephesians 5:2. (Open hands like a book. Repeat the verse.) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's sing the verse like this.

(to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

"Walk in the way of love,
Way of love, way of love.
Walk in the way of love.
Just as Christ loved us.

"Now, let's sing it in a whisper voice. (Repeat as desired in different volumes.) Great job, friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We can follow Jesus and walk in love as we love others. I'm SO glad that Jesus loves you and me and wants to be our friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

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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



2. STORY ART
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Story Sentences" Activity Pages, cardstock, markers, crayons, and color pencils

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Story Sentences" on cardstock, one per child.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus helps us choose joy.

PAUL AND SILAS ARE THROWN INTO PRISON
ACTS 16:16-40

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a "Story Sentences" Activity Page. Read each story sentence and encourage the children to draw a picture to go with them in the spaces provided.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus gave Paul and Silas the power to choose joy, even though they were not in a joyful place.

MEMORY VERSE

"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us."

EPHESIANS 5:2, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. We're going to draw today's Bible story!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story, we learned about a time when Paul and Silas chose joy and sang to Jesus, even though they were in a place that makes people sad. Let's draw today's story on this page. (Give each child an activity page.) I'll read part of the story, then you can draw a picture to go with what I read.

KEY QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?

(Read the story sentences slowly, one at a time. Give the children time to draw after you read each sentence.) Paul and Silas moved here, there, and everywhere, telling people that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. (Pause.)

"Some people got mad and put Paul and Silas in jail. Paul and Silas chose joy and sang to Jesus anyway! (Pause.)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"The ground shook, and the door of the jail opened. Paul and Silas stayed and told the guard about Jesus, then the guard followed Jesus, too!" (When the children finish drawing, read the story sentences one more time together.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! Paul and Silas sang songs to Jesus while they were in jail! And when Jesus is our friend forever, He will give us the power to choose joy, too! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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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" from Week One paperclipped in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on

cardstock and cut, one per small group. Paperclip one card in your Ephesians 5:2. You will keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to your Small Group spot, sit down, and gather the children around you. Review the Bible story and memory verse then pray with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll move like a frog and jump to our Small Group spot. Ready. Set. Move like a frog! (*Jump like a frog as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) That was fun! Now, let's sit down so we can 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, Paul and Silas chose joy and sang songs to Jesus, even though they were in a sad place. Then, Paul and Silas chose to tell the guard of the jail that Jesus wanted to be his friend forever, too! Paul and Silas knew that Jesus loved them, and He would be their friend forever. And Jesus helped them choose joy, no matter what! Jesus wants to be your friend forever, too, and give you the power to choose joy. **Who wants to be your friend forever?"**

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"

SGL: "And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that we can move like Jesus and love everyone the way Jesus loves us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us,' Ephesians 5:2. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)"

"When we walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us, we're loving people here, there, and everywhere, the way Jesus loves us. Let's stand up and say that with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'Walk (*walk in place*) in the way of love (*cross arms over chest*), just as Christ (*point up*) loved us (*point to self*),' Ephesians 5:2." (*Open hands like a book.*)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

BIBLE STORY

Jesus helps us choose joy.

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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

SGL: "Yay! You sound great! Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) I don't know what Paul and Silas' favorite songs were, but today, we'll make a list of our favorite songs. Think about songs you like to sing. When I say your name, you can tell me one of them. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

"These are some great songs! I know it makes Jesus happy to hear you sing to Him. Let's 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 giving us Jesus. Thank You that Jesus gives us the power to choose joy. I pray we will choose to sing to Jesus here, there, and everywhere, no matter what. You're the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus' name, amen."