



WEEK
THREE
JULY 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. IN THE BOAT

WHAT YOU NEED: Inflatable boat or raft or laundry basket(s); pool noodles; and blue butcher paper or blue sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay the paper or sheet on the floor of the activity area. Place the boat or basket on top of the paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to get into the boat or basket(s). Give each child in the boat a noodle to use as an oar. Encourage children to pretend to paddle through the water using the oars.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how today's Bible story is about a man named Paul who was on a boat when a storm started.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Look at the boat(s). How cool! Let's pretend to go on a boat ride!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's get in the boat and paddle through the water using these pool noodles as oars. Row your boats! Uh-oh! There's a storm coming, and the water is getting wavy. (*Move up and down.*) Keep rowing. Yay! We made it! (*Repeat as desired.*) Great job, friends. It's so much fun to pretend to ride in a boat."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a Bible story about a man named Paul who rode in a boat in a storm. I can't wait to hear what happened!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to row a boat as you walk to the story area.

BIBLE STORY

Even when it is hard, we can love like Jesus.

PAUL IS SHIPWRECKED
ACTS 27:1-2, 14-25,
33-36, 41; 28:1,7-9

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. MAKE IT RAIN

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Large umbrella, spray bottle, water, and paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Fill the bottle with water. Gather the children in your activity area. Review the verse with the

motions.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Open the umbrella. One at a time, let the children take turns standing under the umbrella and saying the memory verse as you spray water to make it rain. Repeat so that every child has a turn under the umbrella.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Paul loved the scared people on the boat, helped the sick, prayed for them, and told everyone that Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

BIBLE STORY

Even when it is hard, we can love like Jesus.

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ACTS 27:1-2, 14-25,
33-36, 41; 28:1,7-9

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather here with me. Let's say the 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.) Great job."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Hold up the umbrella.) "Who can tell me what this is? (Pause.) Yes, it's an umbrella! Why do we use an umbrella? (Pause.) To protect us from the rain! When I call your name, come stand under the umbrella and say the memory verse while I make it rain with this spray bottle! Don't worry, the umbrella will keep you dry. I'll say it with you. (Spray a few squirts of water.) 'Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us,' Ephesians 5:2. (Continue with each child.) Great job, friends! That was so fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "When Paul was on the boat and it started to storm, he loved like Jesus and helped the people not be afraid. And Paul loved like Jesus when they landed and he helped the sick, prayed for them, and told everyone that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend forever and help you love like Him, too! **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

MEMORY VERSE

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



4. BOAT, WATER, ISLAND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Boat, Water, Island" Activity Page, cardstock, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Boat, Water, Island" on cardstock, one set per small group. Spread images out on

the floor in an open area and tape to secure.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to hop to the picture that you call out. When you get to each picture, everyone says, "Jesus wants to be my friend forever." Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, join me over here. There are three different pictures on the floor. A boat, waves in the water, and an island. Listen for the one I call out, and we'll hop to each one together."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Ready, set, move to the boat. (Pause.) **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Ready, set, and move to the water. (Repeat as desired.) Great job of hopping to the boat, the island, and the water! What do those pictures make you think of? (Pause.) Our Bible story, that's right! Everyone, sit down with me at the island."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "When Paul was on a boat during the storm, he helped the people on the boat not be afraid. When their boat hit land, they weren't where they were supposed to be. Paul chose to love like Jesus and helped the people who were sick. He prayed for them and told them that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. He went here, there, and everywhere to tell people that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. **Who wants to be your friend forever? Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**"

BIBLE STORY

Even when it is hard, we can love like Jesus.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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 chicken and cluck all the way to our Small Group spot. Ready? Set? Move like a chicken! (*Cluck and walk like a chicken as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are little chickens! You can be people now and 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.*)"

"Today in our Bible story, Paul had some hard things happen. First, a big storm made everyone on Paul's ship afraid. Then the big storm made Paul's ship wreck! But no matter what happened, Paul loved like Jesus. Paul encouraged, prayed, helped, and told everyone that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. And the best part is that Jesus wants to be your friend forever, too! **Who wants to be your friend forever?**"

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

SGL: "Yes! And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that we can love like Jesus. 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.*)"

"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.*)

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PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

SGL: "That was fantastic! (Give everyone high fives.)

"Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.) Since Paul loved like Jesus when it was hard, like during a storm, after a shipwreck, and in a strange place, we'll make a list of things that are hard. So, think about it. What are some things that you think are hard? When I say your name, tell me one thing that is hard, and I'll write it in our prayer journal. (Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"We all have times when things are hard, but Jesus is always with us, helping us love like 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 sending Jesus to always be with us and help us love like Him. We really can love like Jesus during hard times, like . . . (Read the list the children made.). I pray we will remember how much Jesus loves us so we can go here, there, and everywhere telling everyone that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. In Jesus' name, amen."