



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. SEED SORTING

WHAT YOU NEED: "Flowers" Activity Page; cardstock; pom-poms in red, green, yellow, blue, and purple; and clear cups

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Flowers" on cardstock, one set per small group. Place the Activity Pages on the table. Sort the colored pom-poms by color into separate

BIBLE STORY

God knows what is best for me.

IN THE GARDEN
GENESIS 1:31, 2:8-3:24

clear cups.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the flowers and name each color with the children. Point out the colored seeds (*pom-poms*) in the cups on the table. Encourage children to sort the seeds by placing the matching-colored seed (*pom-pom*) on the flower. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the concept of people taking care of a garden in the Bible story.

MEMORY VERSE

"God . . . knows everything."

1 JOHN 3:20, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! Join me at the table. Look at all the pretty flowers. I have a fun activity for us today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "All of these flowers have seeds with the same color. Can you name the colors you see? (*Point to the flowers and name the colors together.*) I also see five different colors of seeds. What colors do you see? (*Point to the pom-poms and name the colors.*) Let's sort a few seeds! Match the colored seeds with their flowers. (*Pause.*) You sorted all the seeds! Great job."

KEY QUESTION

Who knows what's best for you?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "When you plant a seed in the ground and water it and take care of it, it can grow into a beautiful flower! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about the very first people God made and how God put them in a garden to take care of it."

BOTTOM LINE

God knows what's best for me.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to care for a garden. They can pretend to dig some small holes, plant the seeds, cover them back up with soil, water the seeds, check for bugs, pull weeds, etc.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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



5. STANDING TREE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Standing Tree Label" Activity Page, Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, paper towel tubes, green construction paper, washable markers, glue sticks, scissors, and permanent marker; Optional "Leaf Template" Activity Page and cardstock

BIBLE STORY

God knows what is best for me.

IN THE GARDEN

GENESIS 1:31, 2:8-3:24

MEMORY VERSE

"God . . . knows everything."

1 JOHN 3:20, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who knows what's best for you?

BOTTOM LINE

God knows what's best for me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Standing Tree Label" on label paper, one per child. On one end of each paper towel tube, make six equal cuts two inches down then slightly bend out. Write each child's name on their tube. Cut several leaf shapes out of the green construction paper, six per child. Option: Copy "Leaf Template" on cardstock and cut, one per small group then cut leaves from the green construction paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to color the tree trunk and then color fruit on the leaves. Ask children to glue a leaf to each of the "branches" then add a label to their tree trunk.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, sit at the table with me. We're going to make a standing tree that will help us remember today's Bible story and that **God knows what's best for me.**"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "What do these tubes look like? (Pause.) You're right! They look like tree trunks! Color your tree trunks. Nice job. Your trees need leaves. (Give children their leaves.) Draw some fruit on the leaves and glue them to the branches. (Pause.) Nice job! You are almost finished. Add the label to the trunk of your tree. This tells you where you can find today's story in the Bible. Look at our beautiful garden of trees."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story, we learned that the first people God made, Adam and Eve, were told by God to take care of the big, beautiful garden He made. The garden was full of trees with yummy food to eat. God told Adam and Eve they could eat from ANY tree but one. God said, 'Don't eat from this one.' One day, a snake told Eve to eat the fruit that God said not to eat. And she ate the fruit! Oh, no! Then Eve went to Adam and asked him if he wanted the fruit, and Adam ate the fruit, too!

"Adam and Eve made the wrong choice, and they had to leave the garden. But even though they had to leave the garden, God still loved them and gave them what they needed. Adam and Eve learned that they should have done what God said because God knows what's best for them. God loves you and me, too, and God knows what's best for us! **Who knows what's best for you? God knows what's best for me.**"



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" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Place one card in

your Bible at 1 John 3:20.

Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to pretend to hop on garden stones as they go to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Bible story, Bottom Line, and memory verse with motions. Then encourage the children to help you make a list of things God made.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to hop on garden stones while we go to our Small Group spot. Follow me and do what I do! (Pretend to hop on garden stones as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Here we are! Let's sit so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Open the Bible to this month's memory verse and lay it in front of the children.) "Our Bible story was about how God made everything. And if God made everything, then God knows everything. And if God knows everything, then **God knows what's best for me** and you and you and you and you. (Point to each child as you say "you.") And Adam and Eve.

"When God told Adam and Eve they could eat from every tree in the garden except one, what should they have done? (Pause.) You're right! Adam and Eve should have done what God said because God knew what was best for them, but they didn't. And they had to leave the garden.

"We'll learn a Bible verse that will help us remember that God knows everything. Since God knows everything, God knows what's best for us! It says, 'God . . . (hold open palm with thumb to forehead and pull down) knows (touch head with fingertips) everything (spread arms out);' 1 John 3:20. (Open hands like a book.)

"Stand up, and let's say that verse together with motions. Just say what I say

BIBLE STORY

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KEY QUESTION

Who knows what's best for you?

BOTTOM LINE

God knows what's best for me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

and do what I do. 'God . . . *(hold open palm with thumb to forehead and pull down)* knows *(touch head with fingertips)* everything *(spread arms out)*! 1 John 3:20. *(Open hands like a book.)* You sound great! Let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

"We know that God knows everything because God MADE everything! So let's make a list of things God made. When I say your name, tell me one thing God made." *(Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "This is a great list! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

"Dear God, we believe You made the whole world and everything in it. You made things like *(read the list the children made)*. And because You made everything, You know everything. Because You know everything, You will always know what's best for me and *(say each child's name)*. Help us trust You and do what You say. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."