



10 MINUTES

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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page; cardstock; Bible; scissors; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "God's Way," included in your monthly files; and "Just The Way I Am," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; Optional Dance Moves Video for "God's Way," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Just The Way I Am," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad to see your bright smiling faces! And I'm super happy that it's time to sing and dance and talk about how awesome God is. Are you ready to worship? (Pause.) Yay! Me, too! We can worship God because God knows what's best for us. When I ask, '**Who knows what's best for you?**', I want you to say, '**God knows what's best for me. Who knows what's best for you?**'"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God knows what's best for me.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, **God knows what's best for me.** And God's way is the best way. Stand up and sing with me.

Lead children in singing "God's Way," this month's worship song.

"Who knows what's best for you?"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God knows what's best for me.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! The Bible teaches us that '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.) Let's learn that verse together. Are you ready? Watch me say it and do the motions, then you can do it with me!

"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.)"

Repeat the verse and the motions with the children.



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“Great job! God is awesome! **God knows what’s best for me** because God made me just the way I am. Let’s sing about that.

Lead children in singing “Just the Way I Am.”

“What a great song! Thanks for singing and worshipping with me! Remember, **God loves me**, and God loves you. And God always knows what’s best for us. **Who knows what’s best for you?”**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: “God knows what’s best for me.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Yes, **God knows what’s best for me**. [Transition] And now it’s time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story’s all about!”

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Table, two flowerpots, two pairs of gardening gloves, pack of carrot seeds, pack of strawberry seeds, and a watering can

Preset the flowerpots, gloves, and ONE watering can on the table.

Host enters, carrying the seed packs.

HOST: “Hi, friends! I’m [your name]. I’m so excited because today I’m planting seeds! Do you want to help me? I need to make some choices. I have two packets of seeds. (*Hold up each packet as you name it.*) I have strawberry seeds and carrot seeds. (*Adjust for seeds you have.*) Hmm, which seeds should I plant? The strawberry seeds or the carrot seeds? What do you think?”

Hold the seeds packets, one in each hand, and pause as children respond.

“They’re both good choices, but I think I’ll plant the strawberry seeds because they’re my favorite. SO yummy!”

Put down the seed packets and pick up the gardening gloves.

“Now, which gloves should I wear to work in the garden? This pair (*hold up one pair of gloves*) or that pair? (*Hold up the other pair.*) What do you think? (*Pause as children respond.*)

Hold up the chosen pair of gloves.

“Awesome! I’ll wear these. Okay, one more choice. Should I use this pot (*point to one flower pot*) or that pot? (*Point to the other flowerpot.*) What do you think? (*Pause as children respond.*)

Hold up the selected flowerpot.

“Great! Thanks for your help!”



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Look around the table.

"It looks like I forgot my other watering can! I'll be back in a little while."

Storyteller enters as Host exits, leaving the props on the table.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible; table, flowerpots, and watering can from Intro Sketch; *Optional Story Images* and cardstock

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm so happy to be here to share a true story from the Bible today!"

Hold up the Bible for the children to see then set it down.

"Today's true story from the Bible begins in the VERY beginning when God created the world and everything in it! God made a great big, beautiful world and saw that it was (*give two thumbs-up*) good.

"Can you give the world a thumbs-up like this?"

Lead children to give two thumbs-up.

"Great! Now say, 'That's good!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "That's good!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes! God made the water and trees and animals and people! And the first two people God made were named Adam and Eve.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)

"What were their names?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Adam and Eve!"

STORYTELLER: "You've got it! God told Adam and Eve to take care of the big, beautiful garden.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

Walk to the table and pick up the watering can then act like you're watering the flowerpots.

"Everything there was perfect because God made it. Give two more thumbs-up!"

Lead children to give two thumbs-up.

"Yes! The garden was amazing. It was full of trees with yummy food to eat! God told Adam and Eve that they could eat



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from ANY tree but one. God said, 'Don't eat from this one.'

"Well, one day a snake told Eve to EAT the fruit God said NOT to eat. Yes or no—should Eve eat the fruit? (*Listen for a response, then shake your head 'no.'*) Should Eve do what God says? (*Listen for response, then nod your head 'yes.'*)

"But guess what? Eve ate the fruit that God said not to eat!

(*Option: Display Story Image W1 03*)

"Was that the right choice? (*Shake your head 'no.'*) No!

"Then, Eve went to Adam and asked him if he wanted the fruit. Now Adam had the same choice: eat the fruit or do what God says. Should Adam eat the fruit? (*Listen for response, then shake your head 'no.'*) But guess what? He did!

(*Option: Display Story Image W1 04*)

"Adam ate the fruit. Adam and Eve both made the wrong choice. And now, they had to leave the garden.

Move away from the table with the flowerpots and watering can.

"Even though they had to leave the garden, God took care of Adam and Eve and gave them what they needed.

"Did God still love Adam and Eve? (*Listen for response, then nod 'yes.'*) Yes!

(*Option: Display Story Image W1 05*)

"Adam and Eve learned that they should have done what God said because God knows what's best for them.

"And guess what? God loves us and God knows what's best for us, too. When I ask, '**Who knows what's best for you?**', I want you to say, '**God knows what's best for me.**' **Who knows what's best for you?**'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God knows what's best for me!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes, **God knows what's best for me!** [**Transition**] Our story time is over (*pick up Bible and close it*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "God, we love You. Thanks for loving us and always knowing what's best. Help us listen and follow what You say. You are an awesome God! In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

"Bye, friends! I'll see you next time."

Host enters as Storyteller exits with Bible.



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OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Second watering can

Host enters, carrying the watering can.

HOST: "Wow! Adam and Eve had a choice to make. They learned that God knew what was best for them, and now we know that God knows what's best for us, too!"

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good! **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.