



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. BOAT HOP

WHAT YOU NEED: Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape the outline of a simple boat shape on the floor.

BIBLE STORY

God knows what is best for everyone.

JONAH
JONAH 1:1-3:10

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.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to jump in and out of the boat when the leader says this way and that way. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the concept of making choices as we learn more about Jonah in our Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! It's great to see you today! Look at this boat in our room. How cool! We're going to play a fun game of jumping in and out of the boat to special words."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Find a spot to stand on the outside of the boat. When I say, 'This way,' we will all jump into the boat. And when I say, 'That way,' we will all jump out of the boat. Is everyone ready to give it a try? (Pause.) Okay, here we go! This way! Everyone take one big jump into the boat. Oh, wow, friends! Great job of jumping into the boat. That way! Everyone take one big jump out of the boat. You guys are so good at this. Let's do it again! (Repeat as desired.) Yay! We did it! Way to go, friends! Sit down with me inside the boat."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about a man named Jonah who had to make a choice to either go God's way or his own way. I can't wait to find out what he chooses!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by moving in a "this way, that way" zig-zag line or walk in a straight line and encourage children to "lean" this way or that way by tilting their heads or upper bodies.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. HALF OF THE STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Finish the Pictures" Activity Page; cardstock; and thick colored pencils, crayons, or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Finish the Pictures" on cardstock, one per child.

BIBLE STORY

God knows what is best for everyone.

JONAH
JONAH 1:1-3:10

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a paper and instruct them to draw the other half of each picture on their paper and color. As children are working on their papers, review the Bible story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Give each child the opportunity to stand up and show their drawings to the other children. Review the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"God . . . knows everything."

1 JOHN 3:20, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit with me! I need some help drawing the pictures from our Bible story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Hold up an activity page and point to the pictures.) "There are parts to three pictures on your paper (pointing to each), a boat, a fish, and a heart. I'll give each of you your own paper so you can draw the other half of the pictures.

KEY QUESTION

Who knows what's best for you?

"In our Bible story, we learned that God had a special job for Jonah. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people to do what God says and love one another. Did Jonah do what God said or did he run away and get on a boat? (Pause.) You're right. Jonah got on a boat, like the boat on your paper. While Jonah was on the boat, God sent a big storm. Jonah told the people on the boat to throw him in the water and the storm would stop. They did what Jonah said, and the storm stopped. While Jonah was in the water, God sent something to swallow Jonah and keep him safe. What did God send? (Pause.) Yes! A big fish! Like the fish on your paper.

BOTTOM LINE

God knows what's best for me.

"While Jonah was in the big fish, he prayed and told God he would do what God told him to do. And three days later, God made the big fish spit Jonah out. What did Jonah do then? Did Jonah go to Nineveh or run away again? (Pause.) Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people to do what God said and love one another. That's what the heart on your paper is for. LOVE! Now that you have finished the pictures, color them in. Nice job, friends!"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jonah finally did what God said after he learned that God knows what's best. So when I ask you, 'Who knows what's best for you?' I want you to say, 'God knows what's best for me!' Ready? Who knows what's best for you? God knows what's best for me!"



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

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, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you don't have the "Memory Verse Card" used during Week One, 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 row a boat as you 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 people we can tell about God.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to row a boat to our Small Group spot. Follow me and do what I do! (*Pretend to row a boat as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Whew! That was some great rowing! Let's sit down so we can rest and 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 a man named Jonah. Was Jonah supposed to get on a boat? (*Pause.*) No! God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people to do what God said and love each other. What happened while Jonah was on the boat? (*Pause.*) Yes, a storm came, and Jonah ended up in the belly of a big fish! But Jonah prayed to God, and God gave Jonah another chance to do what God said. Jonah finally went to Nineveh and told all the people to do what God said and love each other. And they did!"

"God knew what was best for Jonah. God knew what was best for the people in Nineveh. And God knows what's best for you and me because God knows everything! We're learning a Bible verse to help us remember that God knows everything. 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 with me so we can say that verse together with motions. Just say what I say 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 SO good! Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God."

BIBLE STORY

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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Jonah told the people in Nineveh to do what God said and love each other. Let’s make a list of people we can tell about God, too!” (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Look at all these people! (*Hold up journal.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

“Dear God, You know everything. That means You know what’s best for me and (*name each child*). Help us tell (*read the list the children made*) that You love them and they should do what You say because You know what’s best for everyone! You’re the best, God! In Jesus’ name, amen.”