



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. GET INTO THE WATER

WHAT YOU NEED: Two classroom tables, posterboard, ball pit balls, scissors, masking tape, and three plastic containers or laundry baskets

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut an eight-inch circle in the middle of the poster board. Line your two tables up, end to end,

leaving about two feet in between them. Lay the posterboard over the space between the two tables, making sure the hole is unobstructed. Tape the poster board to the tables. Place one container or basket on the floor under the poster board. Place ball pit balls in the other two baskets and place at the end of each table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Divide children into two groups. Have the groups line up single file at either end. Encourage children to take a ball from the basket and roll it down the table, trying to make it into the hole. Let children roll one ball then go to the back of the line for the next friend in line to roll. Continue until all the children have had a turn and all the balls have been rolled. Collect the balls and divide them between the two baskets. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. I have a super-fun game for us to play today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make two groups. (Divide the children into two groups and send them to either end of the table.) The first person in line will take a ball out of your basket then roll it down the table and try to get it into the hole in the paper. (Point to the hole in the paper.) Once you've rolled the ball, go to the back of your line. Then the next friend will take a ball and roll it. Let's get ready to play! One, two, roll! (Pause.) Yay! Go to the back of the line, and the next person can take a ball and roll it. (Pause.) Good job! (Continue with each child.) That was a fun game!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our story, we'll hear how a man named Naaman had to dip into the water like the balls went down into the hole."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting, "God knows what's best for me."

BIBLE STORY

I can trust God knows best even when it is hard.

NAAMAN
2 KINGS 5:1-14

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.



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. THIS OR THAT ART

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "This or That Art" Activity Page, cardstock, scrap paper, stickers, stamps, washable ink pads, markers, miscellaneous craft supplies, glue sticks, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "This or That Art" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Place the supplies on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to make "this or that" decisions, such as using a sticker or a stamp. Let children make their own masterpieces.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come to the table and look at all the things you get to use to create your this or that masterpiece!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Would you rather use the stickers or the stamps on your picture? (Pause.) Pick one to use. All right! This (hold up a supply) or that (hold up another supply)? The great thing about this or that art is you can choose what you want or don't want to use to create it! (Continue as interest holds.) These are amazing pieces of art! What a fantastic job you did!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our stories this month, we've learned that God's way is best because God knows everything. But each person was given a choice, just like we all have choices. Each person in our story was given a chance to follow God's way or go their way. What happened with Naaman in our story today? Did he go straight to the water and dip seven times as God said? (Pause.) No, he didn't. But his workers told him he should go into the water. So he did, and he dipped seven times. When he came out of the water, all of his boo-boos were gone! Amazing! God really knows what's best. **Who knows what's best for you? God knows what's best for me.**"

BIBLE STORY

I can trust God knows best even when it is hard.

NAAMAN
2 KINGS 5:1-14

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.



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, a fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or a handstamp

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.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to count out loud with you as you walk to your Small Group spot in only seven steps. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Bible story, Bottom Line, and memory verse with motions. Encourage the children to help you make a list of things that are hard to do.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children.

BIBLE STORY

I can trust God knows best even when it is hard.

NAAMAN
2 KINGS 5:1-14

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 SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll count our steps while we walk to our Small Group spot. Let's try to get there in seven steps. Count with me! (Count your steps out loud as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) One, two, three, four, five, six, seven! We made it in seven steps! Now let's sit down 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 a man named Naaman. How many times did God tell Naaman to dip in the water to make his boo-boos go away? (Pause.) You got it! Seven! It was hard for Naaman to dip in the water, but Naaman trusted God and did what God said. What happened to Naaman's boo-boos when he dipped in the water seven times? (Pause.) Yes! All of Naaman's boo-boos went away! Naaman was all better! God knew what was best for Naaman because God knows everything. Just like it says in the Bible verse we've been learning. 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. We're going to say that verse together one time with motions. Then, if anyone wants to say it by themselves, they can. 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.) Wow! That was so good! You can sit down now.

"Okay, who wants to try to say that Bible verse? I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready! (Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.) Everyone,



WEEK
FOUR
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)

clap for, [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! *(Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)*

"I am so proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your [sticker/handstamp]. One, two, three! *(Pause.)* Yay! *(Clap.)* Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. Today, we'll make a list of things that are hard to do. So when I say your name, tell me one thing that is hard to do." *(Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Thank you for helping me make this list. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

"Dear God, there are lots of things that are hard to do like *(read the list the children made)*. There will be times when what You say is best for us will be hard, too. But we can always trust You, God. You will always know what's best for us because You know everything. Help *(say each child's name)* trust that You will always know what's best for them. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."