



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. FRIENDSHIP BUILDING

WHAT YOU NEED: Blocks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Scatter the blocks in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask each friend to select a block.

Encourage them to work together to build a tall tower, each friend adding a new block. If the tower falls, remind them that it's okay. Encourage them to work together to rebuild a new tower. Focus on friends helping each other as they build.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible story and how we can thank God for our friends.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I see so many friends here today! Yay! I love it when I see friends at church."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Go find a block, and let's build a tower. (Pause.) Did everyone find a block? Great! Work together to stack one block at a time to make a tall tower. (Pause.) If the tower falls, that's okay. We can work together as friends to rebuild it! Go find another block, and we'll keep adding to our tower. Friends, you did a great job! Friends are great. I'm so glad for friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Did you know that we can thank God for our friends? It's true. And that's what we'll be talking about in our Bible story today. Come with me."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by asking friends to give leaders a high five, fist bump, salute, etc.

BIBLE STORY

I can thank God for friends.

**DAVID AND JONATHAN
1 SAMUEL 18:1-4**

MEMORY VERSE

"Always give thanks to God."

EPHESIANS 5:20, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can you thank for everything?

BOTTOM LINE

I can thank God for everything.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
TWO
NOVEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

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. SHARE AND CARE FRIENDS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Share and Care Friends" Activity Page, cardstock, crayons, safety scissors, heart stamps, washable ink pads, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Share and Care Friends" on cardstock, one per child. Fold each child's paper. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to color their picture. Encourage children to cut on the dashed lines and fold the flaps over to cover the pictures. Stamp a heart on each of the flaps. Clean hands as needed.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We heard a great story about friends today. Thank You, God, for giving us friends."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "On your paper is a picture of David and Jonathan. They were good friends. Look, there are the special gifts that Jonathan gave David. Color the pictures. (Pause.) Great job! Do you see the dotted lines on the side of your paper? Take the scissors and cut only on the dotted lines. (Help as needed.) Great! Now fold those flaps over. (Pause.) And add a heart stamp to each of those flaps. (Pause.) Super-duper! Let's use your pictures as we review the story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "David and Jonathan were good friends. Jonathan loved his friend David, and David loved his friend Jonathan. They were so thankful that God gave them each other. David and Jonathan did all the things friends do. They talked to each other, encouraged each other, helped each other, and Jonathan even gave David some of his special things to show his friendship. Jonathan gave David his robe, his sword, his bow, and his belt. What a good friend! God gives us good friends too! We can play, share with, help, and encourage our friends too! And we can thank God for our friends because we can thank God for everything. **Who can you thank for everything? I can thank God for everything.**"

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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 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. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 5:20. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Tell children to link arms with a friend. (*Demonstrate.*) Lead the children to your Small Group spot while linked arm and arm. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the memory verse and motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list of friends.

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

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WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! I want everyone to hook arms with a friend, like this. (*Demonstrate with a child.*) Looks like we're ready! (*If you have an odd number of children, link arms with a child.*) Let's walk to our Small Group spot! (*Lead the children to your small group spot with everyone linked arm and arm with a friend.*) We made it, friends! You can unhook your arms and sit down. We're going to talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible to the "Memory Verse Card" and lay it open in front of the children.*) "Today, our Bible story was about two good friends named Jonathan and David. Jonathan and David talked to each other. They encouraged each other. And they helped each other. Jonathan even gave David some of his things because they were such good friends! Jonathan was thankful to have such a good friend.

"We can thank God for friends, too, because we can thank God for everything! **Who can thank God for everything? I can thank God for everything!** You sure can! And we're learning a Bible verse that will remind us that we can thank God for everything.

It says, 'Always (*draw large circles with index finger*) give thanks (*move flat hand forward from lips*) to God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*);' Ephesians 5:20. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Always (*draw large circles with index finger*) give thanks (*move flat hand forward from lips*) to God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*);' Ephesians 5:20. (*Open hands like a book.*) Wonderful! (*Give high fives.*)



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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. Jonathan was thankful for his friend David. We can thank God for friends too. When I say your name, tell me the name of one of your friends, 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.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Look at all of these good friends! (*Hold up journal.*) Let's thank God for them! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

"Dear God, thank You for my friends (*say each child's name*). I love going to church with them! Thank You for their friends. (*Read the list the children made.*) Please help us talk to, cheer for, and help our friends like David and Jonathan did. And most of all, thank You for Jesus who wants to be our friend forever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."