

WEEK
THREE
JANUARY 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus teaches us that we can share.

BIGGER BARNs
ACTS 2:45; LUKE 12:16-23

MEMORY VERSE

"The people were amazed at his teaching."

MATTHEW 7:28, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who teaches you important things?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Important Things," included in your monthly files; and "Amazing," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; Optional Dance Moves Video for "Important Things," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Amazing," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! I'm so happy to see your bright, happy faces! Because it's my favorite time of the week! We can sing and dance and say, 'Thank You, God!' for sending Jesus. We've been learning all month long about all the important things Jesus teaches us! **Who teaches you important things?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**Jesus teaches me important things.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, Jesus teaches us SO many important things. So, stand up on your feet and let's sing this out."

Lead children in singing "Important Things," this month's worship song.

"Awesome! Jesus teaches us important things we really need to know! The Bible teaches us that: 'The people (*spread arms out*) were amazed (*hold hands like binoculars, open and shut*) at his teaching;' (*pull O-hands from head*) Matthew 7:28. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's learn our Memory verse together. Let's say it together.

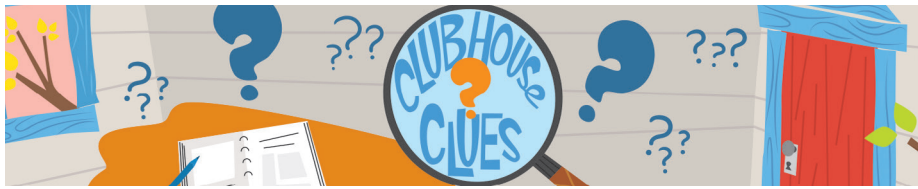
Repeat the verse and motions with the children.

"The people (*spread arms out*) were amazed (*hold hands like binoculars, open and shut*) at his teaching;' (*pull O-hands from head*) Matthew 7:28. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"The people were amazed at all the important things Jesus had to say! Let's sing this together."

Lead children in singing "Amazing."

"Jesus' love will never end. He's my forever friend. I'm SO glad to have a friend like Jesus who teaches us so many important things. **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"



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INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: "Punch Cups" Activity Pages; copy paper; table; tablecloth; foam core board or cardboard; tabletop easel or easel-back poster stands; disposable plastic cups; red, green, blue, and yellow tissue paper; rubber bands; utility knife; hot glue gun; tape; permanent marker; and "Clue Letter Week One" from Week One

Preset table in storytelling area and cover with tablecloth. Set prepared "barns" and pitchers under the table for the Bible Story. Set the prepared punch cup game on the easel on the table. Lean "Clue Letter Week One" against the punch cup game so children can see the clue symbol.

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

HOST: "Hi, friends! I'm [your name]. Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! And guess what I found!

Pick up "Clue Letter Week One" and pretend to read.

"It's from [name of children's pastor or lead pastor]. It says (he/she) hid four clues about today's story in some of these cups. I have to punch through the paper to find the clue.

Look at the cups.

"Are you ready to help me? Should we start with the red one or the blue one? (Listen.) Okay! Let's try the red one.

Punch into the red cup and pull out the Apple clue. Unfold clue and show to children.

"What is this? Listen. Yes, it's an apple! Apples are a yummy snack.

"Let's find another clue. Should I do green or yellow? (Listen.) Yellow!

Punch into the yellow cup and pull out the Crayons clue. Unfold clue and show to children.

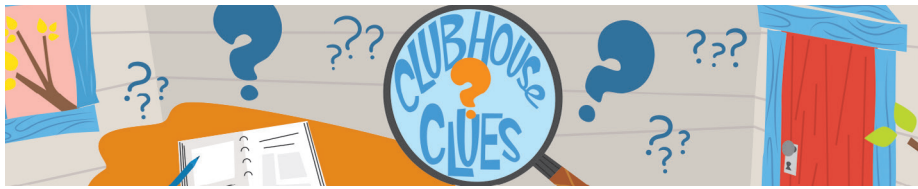
"Who knows what this is? (Listen.) Yes! Crayons are so colorful. They are my favorite thing to draw with. Raise your hand if you like crayons. (Look for response.) Ooh, so many of you!

"Okay. Let's punch one more cup. Should I open blue or green? (Listen.) Blue it is!

Punch into the blue cup and pull out the slide clue. Unfold clue and show to children.

"It's a slide! Raise your hand if you like to go down the slide. (Pause.) Me too!

Host holds up each item to review. Then push the game board to one side of the table, out of the way.



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"We have snacks, crayons, and a slide. Hmm . . . I wonder what our story is about. I think that we're about to find out! See you in a little while."

Storyteller enters as Host exits, leaving the punch cup game behind.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Table (from Intro), "Barns" Activity Pages, cardstock, small box or gift bag, large box or gift bag, popped popcorn or cornflakes, two large pitchers, clear packaging tape, straw hat, and Bible; Optional 11" x 17" cardstock, Optional: wadded-up paper; *Optional Story Images* and cardstock

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible and straw hat, as Host exits.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down on the table.

"Today's true story from the Bible is an important story that Jesus told.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)

"It begins with a farmer.

Put on straw hat.

"This farmer grew a lot of good food.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)

"Like a LOT of food.

Put pitchers in the center of table.

"And he needed a place to put all that food. Where do you think the farmer put his food?

Set the small barn on one side of the table.

"Yes! The farmer needed to put all the food into the barn. Okay, the food is going in the barn. Can you tell me when the barn is full? Just yell 'STOP!' Ready?

Storyteller pours the popcorn into small barn. If children do not yell stop, ask them if they think it is full.

"Oh, I think the barn is full! Uh-oh!

(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)



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"The barn is full, but there's still more food. (*Gesture to pitchers.*) What should the farmer do with all the extra food? He had an idea! He would build a BIGGER barn!

Set the bigger barn on the opposite side of the table.

(*Option: Display Story Image W3 04*)

"The farmer could fill it up and keep ALL the food for himself. It would be WAY more food than he needed, but he wanted to keep it all.

Pour the remaining popcorn into the BIGGER barn.

"Could the farmer have shared the food? (*Listen.*) Yes, he could have helped a lot of people!

"Jesus told this story to teach us that it is important to share what we have.

"What can YOU share with others?

"Raise your hand if you could share a snack. (*Pause.*) Yes! You could share a snack!

"Raise your hand if you could share a toy. (*Pause.*) Yes! You could share a toy!

"What about a turn on the swing? (*Pause.*) Of course! We can share all those things.

"That's the very important thing that Jesus teaches us in this story. God wants us to share. I'm so glad Jesus teaches us important things. **Who teaches you important things?"**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus teaches me important things!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes, **Jesus teaches me important things!** Jesus teaches us to share. That's a very important thing! [**Transition**] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You SO much for sending Jesus to teach us very important things. Help us to share with others this week! Jesus is the BEST forever friend! In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

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

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.



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OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Punch cup game from Intro

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus taught us we should share, and that is SUPER important.

"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! Let's open the last clue.

Punch into the last cup and pull out the swing set clue. Unfold clue and show to children.

"It's swings! Oh, I know what these clues have in common. These are all things we can share. I could swing a million times in a row, but you know what? I think it might be fun to share a few turns too. **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.