

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

People came to hear Jesus because He teaches important things.

JESUS TEACHES A CROWD
MARK 6:30-34

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.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Looking for Clues
Taking It to the Beach
Teacher of the Year

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Important Things," "Amazing"
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

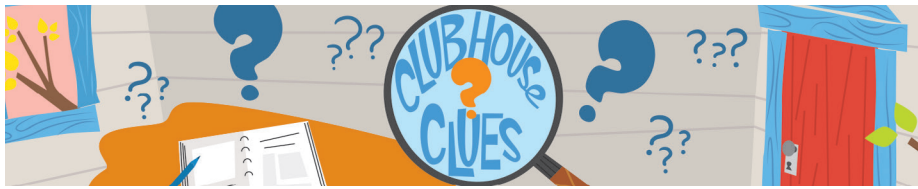
GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Memory Verse with Motions
Fingerprint People
Lacing Fun
From Your Town
Jesus Teaches Me Notebook
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! We have a brand-new memory verse to learn today! Everyone, listen and watch me as I say and do the motions for our new verse. '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.*) This is a great verse."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's you and I do it together! Are you ready? 'The people (*spread arms out*) were amazed (*hold hands like binoculars open and shut*) at his teaching,' (*pull O-hands from head*) Matthew 17:8. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's do it again! (*Repeat several times.*) Super-duper, friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus is an amazing teacher! Jesus teaches us so many important things! **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things!** Let's say that together. **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things!** Great job, friends!"

BIBLE STORY

People came to hear Jesus because He teaches important things.

JESUS TEACHES A CROWD
MARK 6:30-34

MEMORY VERSE

"The people were amazed at his teaching."

MATTHEW 7:28, NCV

KEY QUESTION

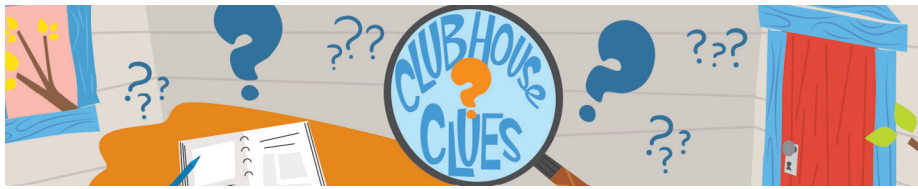
Who teaches you important things?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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



2. FINGERPRINT PEOPLE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Fingerprint People" Activity Page, cardstock, washable paint, small heart stickers, paper plates, baby wipes, and permanent marker; Optional smiley face stickers or dot markers in place of paint

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Fingerprint People" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Pour some paint on the paper plates.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to put a heart sticker on the picture of Jesus. Encourage children to dip their fingertip in the paint and make dots for people around Jesus. Clean hands as needed.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit with me! We're going to make paint people as we review our Bible story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This is a picture of Jesus from our Bible story. Lots and lots of people came to hear Jesus teach, because they knew Jesus teaches important things. When Jesus saw the large crowd of people, He loved them and began teaching them.

"Let's put a heart on Jesus because He loved the people. *(Give each child a heart sticker to put on the picture.)* Now let's add people all around Jesus. Dip your finger in the paint and dot it all around Jesus. *(Pause.)* Look at all those people! Lots and lots of people came to hear Jesus teach." *(Clean hands as needed.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus taught the large crowd of people important things, and Jesus teaches you important things too. **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things!**"

BIBLE STORY

People came to hear Jesus because He teaches important things.

JESUS TEACHES A CROWD
MARK 6:30-34

MEMORY VERSE

"The people were amazed at his teaching."

MATTHEW 7:28, NCV

KEY QUESTION

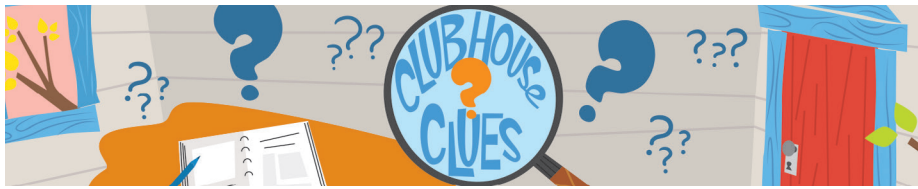
Who teaches you important things?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Place one card in your Bible at Matthew 7:28. Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to put a hand behind their ear like they are listening for something as you lead them to your small group spot. 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 places we can hear the important things Jesus teaches.

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

BIBLE STORY

People came to hear Jesus because He teaches important things.

JESUS TEACHES A CROWD
MARK 6:30-34

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's small group time! Today we are going to put our hand behind our ear, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Let's pretend we are listening for something while we walk to our small group spot. Follow me and tell me what you hear! (*Pretend you hear different things and name them as you lead the children to your small group spot.*) We heard a lot of things! 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 and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible story today, lots and lots of people went to hear Jesus teach, because they knew Jesus teaches important things. When Jesus saw the people coming, He loved them and began teaching them. When the people heard Jesus, they were amazed at His teaching!"

MEMORY VERSE

"The people were amazed at his teaching."

MATTHEW 7:28, NCV

"The Bible verse we are going to learn even says the people were amazed at Jesus' teaching! It says '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.*)

"Stand up with me and let's say that together! Just say what I say and do what I do. '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.*)

KEY QUESTION

Who teaches you important things?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches me important things.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"Way to go! Let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today we learned that Jesus teaches us important things. **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things.**



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2024

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)

Since Jesus teaches us important things, let's think of some places we can hear the important things Jesus teaches, and then I will write them in our journal. *(Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "These are wonderful places to hear the important things Jesus teaches us! Let's pray and talk to God about 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 sending Jesus to teach us important things, like how to love and be kind and forgive one another. Help us do things like *(go to church, read the Bible . . . the things you listed in your journal)*. We want to hear all of the important things Jesus teaches us! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."