



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 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



**4. POUR THE LIGHT**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Yellow ball pit ball and small Solo® cups

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children in a circle. Give them each a cup.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Put the yellow ball pit ball on your cup and demonstrate how to "pour" the ball from your cup to the next child's cup. Encourage them to keep going until the ball makes it around the circle. Continue as long as there is interest.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, let's gather in a circle and play a game. Everyone needs one of these cups."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We've been talking about shining and being the light of Jesus. We can shine when we do what Jesus says. Let's take this light (*hold up ball*) and pour it into each other's cups. I'll show you how. (*Demonstrate.*) Keep it going around the circle. Great job keeping the light going around the circle!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "When we do what Jesus says and love others, we shine like a light for all our friends to see. We can love like Jesus by sharing when someone needs something. We can love like Jesus when we pray and praise God together with our friends. We can all do what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH  
ACTS 2:42-47;  
JOHN 15:12,  
HEBREWS 10:24**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Let your light shine."

**MATTHEW 5:16, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can do what Jesus says?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can do what Jesus says.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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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. LIGHT THE LANTERN**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Light the Lantern" Activity Page, cardstock, washable yellow markers or dot markers, heart stickers, stapler, and permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color the back of their paper with the yellow marker. Help children fold their paper along the solid fold line, and then ask each child to cut along the dotted lines, help as needed. Help children unfold their paper and encourage them to add heart stickers to their lantern. Help roll each child's paper to connect the two edges, add the handle, and staple together to form a lantern.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Let your light shine."

**MATTHEW 5:16, NIV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit at the table with me. Let's make a craft to help you remember to shine your light."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Turn your paper over to the blank side, and color it with a yellow marker. (Pause.) Awesome! Flip your paper back over and fold it in half like this. (Demonstrate and help as needed.) Take your scissors and cut on each of the dotted lines. (Help as needed.) Great job! (Unfold each child's paper.) Add some heart stickers to your paper. (Pause.) Now let's turn your paper into a lantern. (Roll to connect the edges, add the handle, and staple together.) Your lantern looks like it's shining!"

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can do what Jesus says?

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "When you do what Jesus says, you shine your light! Jesus told His friends to love people the way He loves them. And they did! They were loving like Jesus and shining their light! When we love like Jesus, we are shining our light too. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.** We can all do what Jesus says and love like Jesus. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.**"

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can do what Jesus says.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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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 from Week One in Bible, a 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 Matthew 5:16. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead the children to pretend they're carrying baskets of food 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 in the journal of ways we can love like Jesus.

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

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Let your light shine."

**MATTHEW 5:16, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can do what Jesus says?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can do what Jesus says.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're carrying baskets of food to our Small Group spot. Okay, everyone, pretend to fill your basket with food! (*Demonstrate.*) Now that our baskets are filled with food, follow me! (*Pretend you're carrying a basket of food as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay! We made it! You can put your baskets of food down. We're going to sit and 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, people did what Jesus said and loved like Jesus by eating together, helping each other, sharing with each other, and praying together, because they wanted to do what Jesus says and love like Jesus. We can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus too! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"

"And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light! The Bible verse we've been learning will help us remember to shine our light. It says, 'Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine,' (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Jesus said those words! Stand up with me and let's say Jesus' words together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine,' (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)"



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25 MINUTES

**(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)**

“Way to go! (*Clap.*) Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we’re going to make a list of ways we can love like Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus, and I will write it 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 ways we can love like Jesus. And when we love like Jesus, we SHINE! Let’s use our list when we pray. 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 loving us so much You gave us Your Son, Jesus, to show us how to love and to be our friend forever. Please help us to do what Jesus says and love others the way Jesus loves us. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”