

FOUR
AUGUST 2024

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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

BIBLE STORY

God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus.

GOD LOVES ME JOHN 3:16; 1 JOHN 4:9-10

MEMORY VERSE

"How you made me is amazing and wonderful."

PSALM 139:14, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who made you wonderful?

BOTTOM LINE

God made me wonderful.

BASIC TRUTH

God made me.



1. GOD GAVE US JESUS

WHAT YOU NEED: "God Gave Us Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, heart-shaped sticky notes, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "God Gave Us Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Tape the picture of Jesus on

the wall at child's height, and cover with heart sticky notes. Place a tape line on the floor opposite the heart-covered picture of Jesus.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children, one or two at a time, to run to the picture and remove one heart sticky note at a time until all sticky notes are gone to reveal Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, come stand with me behind this tape line. There is something very special underneath the hearts on the wall. We are going to play a game to see what is under those hearts."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "[Child(ren)'s name(s)], run down and take one heart off the wall. (Pause.) Good job! Run back. [Child(ren)'s name(s)], your turn! Run down and take one heart. (Continue with each child until the picture of Jesus is revealed.) Wow, look! That was the last heart. Who is this a picture of? (Pause.) That's right! It's Jesus! That was really fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear a story about how God loves us so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by encouraging the children to make a heart with their hands when you say: "God loves [child's name]!" Repeat with each child's name.



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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

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5. INTO THE MIXING BOWL [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Mixing Bowl" and "Into the Mixing Bowl" Activity Pages, cardstock, washable markers, glue sticks, scissors, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Mixing Bowl" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Fold each child's paper into a bowl, and write their name on the bowl. Copy "Into the Mixing Bowl" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their bowl, then glue only the sides together. Ask children to decorate their spoon and hearts and write their name on the blank heart. Help as needed. Encourage children to slide their hearts and spoon into the bowl.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come find a seat at the table! I have a super-fun way for you to remember that God made YOU wonderful!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Use the markers to decorate your paper. (Pause.) Super! Flip it over and run a glue stick along these two sides, but not the top and bottom. (Demonstrate.) Fold it and press the sides together. Look! You made a cute little mixing bowl! Your bowl has writing on it, it says: God made me wonderful. Use the markers to decorate the spoon, and the two hearts. (Pause.) One heart doesn't have any writing on it—it's super-special, just like you! Write your name on this heart. (Help as needed.) Pick up your spoon. It has our Memory Verse written on it. Let's say our verse together. 'How you made me is amazing and wonderful,' Psalm 139:14. Slide the spoon into your bowl. (Help as needed.) Pick up the two hearts. One says your name, and the other says: 'God loves me' and tells you where you can look in the Bible to find today's story. Slide the hearts into your bowl. (Help as needed.) Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, God made you wonderful and amazing, and God loves you so much! Who made you wonderful? God made me wonderful. Say it one more time—really loudly! Who made you wonderful? God made me wonderful."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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MEMORY VERSE

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, a fun-shaped pen, and a heart stamp

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude

folder and on Pinterest.

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 Psalm 139:14.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to give themselves a big hug as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and hand motions, then write each child's name in the journal, and let them put a heart stamp by their name.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to give ourselves a big hug—like this (demonstrate)—while we walk to our Small Group spot. Give yourself a big hug and follow me! (Hug yourself as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Okay, give yourself one last squeeze, and then we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

"In our Bible Story today, we learned that God loves (hug yourself) us so much that God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever! Do you know why God loves us so much? Because God made us! All people are wonderfully made by God. That means God made you and you and you and you (point to each child) . . . wonderful! Who made you wonderful? God made me wonderful!

"That's right! God made you wonderful! And we are learning a Bible verse that will help us remember that how God made us is amazing and wonderful. It says, 'How you (point up) made me (point to self) is amazing and wonderful,' (push hands up twice) Psalm 139:14. (Open hands like a book.) Let's stand up and say that together. Then, anyone who wants to try and say it can give it a try! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'How you (point up) made me (point to self) is amazing and wonderful,' (push hands up twice) Psalm 139:14. (Open hands like a book.) Yay! You sound amazing AND wonderful! (Clap.) Now I need everyone to





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

sit down so we can take turns saying our Bible verse. Who's ready to try and say it by yourself? I have my heart stamp ready!

"Everyone, clap for [name of child]! Here is a heart for you! (Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.) I am very 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 heart stamp. One, two, three! (Pause to look.) Yay! (Clap.)

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal*.) Today, we're going to do something special in our prayer journal. First, I'll write everyone's name in our journal. Then, when I say your name, you can put a heart stamp by your name, because God loves you so much, God gave you Jesus! Listen for your name!" (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Look! God loves [child's name]! God loves [child's name]! God loves . . . (say this with each child's name). God loves you all so much God gave you Jesus! 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 making (say each child's name) amazing and wonderful! Thank You for loving all of us so much You gave us Jesus. You're the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."