

GOD LOVES ME.

WEEK

FOUR

MAY 2020

SMALL GROUP

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

God loves me and sent Jesus to be my friend forever.

GOD GAVE HIS ONLY SON
JOHN 3:16

MEMORY VERSE

“Nothing at all can separate us from God’s love.”

ROMANS 8:39, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE

God loves me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Monthly Overview
Create the Environment

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.
Symbol Toss
World Map Puzzles
It’s a Wrap

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

God Loves Me Specially
Fear Get Out Of Here

10
MIN

STORY: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways

Introductory Sketch
Bible Story
Prayer

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.
God Loves You!
Pictures of Love
Story Stickers
Freeze Dance
Best Gift
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue



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15 MINUTES

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MOVE

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

1. SYMBOL TOSS

WHAT YOU NEED: “Symbols” Activity Page; copy paper; scissors; beanbags; tape; and four, medium-sized boxes with no top or lids

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Symbols” onto the paper and cut on dotted lines. You will have four, ½ pages with these symbols: gift, world, heart, and Jesus. Tape one symbol to the front of each box. Place the boxes about five feet apart in a horizontal line in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point to one symbol on a box. Ask the children to identify the symbol and invite them to toss a beanbag into that box. Continue with the three remaining boxes.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “There are symbols on all of these boxes!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s look at the symbol on this box. (*Point.*) Do you know what that picture is? Yes, it’s a gift! Let’s toss a beanbag into the box with the gift on it. (*Do activity.*) Great job! Let’s look at the next picture.” (*Finish activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Fantastic work! The pictures on the boxes are symbols in our Bible story today! We will hear a story about the world, a gift, a heart, and Jesus! Sounds like an awesome story!”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting this month’s Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.



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PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

2. WORLD MAP PUZZLES

WHAT YOU NEED: World map floor puzzles OR paper world maps cut into simple puzzle pieces and placed in a zip-top bag

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set the puzzle pieces in your activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to work together to complete the world map puzzles.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect puzzle pieces and return to box or zip-top bag for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Friends, let’s work together to complete these puzzles!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “You did it! Great job, friends. What do you see here? (Pause.) Yes, it’s a map of the world. We live here. (Point to where you live on the map.) In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about how God loves the WHOLE world. Let’s go!”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out different countries in the world as the children respond. Example:

LEADER: “Does God love people in England?”

CHILDREN: “Yes, He does! God loves the world.”

PLACES: Indonesia, Canada, Ukraine, Philippines, Uganda, Brazil, France, China, Nigeria, Armenia, Belarus, Pakistan, Norway, Panama, New Zealand, Namibia, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Vietnam, Germany. Feel free to add more countries as you travel to Large Group.



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EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts

3. IT’S A WRAP

WHAT YOU NEED: Gift wrap, bows, tape, and small toys or trinkets

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place all of the items in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children to wrap the toys or trinkets. Continue until all of the items are wrapped.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “We are talking about a special gift in our Bible story today.”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s wrap gifts together! We can use this paper and these beautiful bows!” (Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Look at all of the beautiful gifts! I can’t wait to find out what the special gift is in our Bible story today!”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story as you name special gifts.



first look™
SMALL GROUP



WEEK
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3-5
YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
REVIEW



MOVE

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

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1. GOD LOVES YOU!

WHAT YOU NEED: A gift box and heart stickers (*one sticker per child*)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the heart stickers in the gift box. Set the gift box on the floor in the center of your small group area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around the box. Starting with the child on your left, repeat the verse together, replacing the word 'us' with that child's name. So, if the child's name is Elizabeth, you would say, 'Nothing at all can ever separate Elizabeth from God's love.' When a child hears her name, she may walk to the gift box, collect a heart sticker, then return to the same spot in the circle. Continue, reciting the verse with each child's name until every child has a sticker. Encourage the children to say the verse with you.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse this month says, 'Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love,' Romans 8:39. I'm going to repeat the verse, but I'll include each of your names when I say it. If you hear your name, you may walk over the box and take out ONE heart sticker. How many stickers do we take? (Pause.) One, that's right! We want to make sure every friend gets a sticker."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone hold up your heart sticker for me. This sticker will remind you that NOTHING can separate you from God's love. He sent His son Jesus to show us how much He loves each one of us. Jesus came to be our friend forever. So, **who loves you? God loves me!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

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2. PICTURES OF LOVE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Story Review Symbol Cards" and "Story Review Symbol Full Page" Activity Pages, cardstock, and scissors
(Option: Zip-top bags, one per child)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make a copy of "Story Review Symbol Cards" on cardstock for each child. Cut the cards apart. Make one copy of "Story Review Symbol Full Page" on cardstock for the small group leader. Set the "note to parents" card to the side to give parents when they pick up their child.

(Note: You can send the "Story Review Symbol Cards" home in a baggie after the "Pictures of Love" activity, OR send the story cards home in the decorated envelope made during the "Best Gift" craft activity.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a set of "Story Review Symbol Cards." Hold up the "Story Review Symbol Full Page" as you review the story. Ask the children to find the matching symbol. The goal is for each child to put their story symbols in order.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Allow the children to take their baggie of "Story Review Symbol Cards" home. Give parents the parent note from the bottom of the "Story Review Symbol Cards" Activity Page.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we heard a story about how much God loves us. Let's see if we can tell the story using these story cards. When I point to a story symbol, I want you to find the match in your story cards. Ready? Say what I say when you hold up your card.

(Point to the heart and wait for the children to find their match.)

"God loved . . .

(Point to the world and wait for the children to find their match.)

". . .the world so much . . .

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(Point to the gift and wait for the children to find their match.)

" . . .He gave us . . .

(Point to Jesus and wait for the children to find their match.)

" . . .Jesus.

"You did a great job telling the story with your story cards! Let's do it again!"

(Repeat several times.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You can use your story cards to tell other people the good news that God loves us so much He gave us Jesus! **Who loves you? God loves me!**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

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3. STORY STICKERS

WHAT YOU NEED: “Story Words” and “Sticker Symbols” Activity Pages, cardstock, and Avery® #22807 labels or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make one copy of “Story Words” on cardstock for each child. Copy “Sticker Symbols” on the label paper, one set of symbols stickers per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Talk through the story words (*John 3:16*) while assisting the children in placing their story stickers in the designated spaces above the words.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “**Who loves you? God loves me!** He sure does! I have something fun for us to do to help us remember how much God loves us. We have a page with the story words on it (*give each child a “Story Words” page*) and some story stickers (*give each child a set of story stickers*). Our job is to put all of the stickers in the right place on this page. Do you think we can do it? Sure, we can!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Listen as I read the story words. I want you to tell me what sticker you think goes in the first circle. Ready? God **LOVES**. Do you see a sticker that looks like love? Yes! The heart! Put your heart sticker in the first circle. Great! Now, let’s think about what sticker goes in the second circle.

“Listen as I read the story words. God loves the **WORLD**. Do you see a sticker that looks like a world? Yes! That’s the world! Put your world sticker in the second circle. Looking good! Now, let’s think about what sticker goes in the third circle.

“Listen as I read the story words. God loves the world so much He **GAVE**. Do you see a sticker that looks like something you give to someone? Yes! The present! We give presents. Put your present sticker in the third circle. We’re almost done. Now, let’s think about what sticker goes in the fourth circle.

“Listen as I read the story words. God loves the world so much He gave us

PRELUDE

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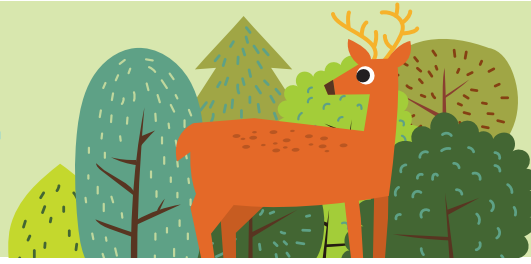


THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

JESUS! Do you see a sticker that looks like Jesus? Yes! That's a picture of Jesus. Put your Jesus sticker in the fourth circle."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We did it! Now, you have story stickers to take home. You can use them to tell everyone that (*point to the stickers*) God LOVES the WORLD so much He GAVE us JESUS! Yay! **Who loves you? God loves me!**"



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MOVE

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

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MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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God loves me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

4. FREEZE DANCE

WHAT YOU NEED: Music player and "God Made Me Specially"

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand in front of you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Turn the music on and ask the children to dance. After about 30 seconds, turn off the music and ask the children to stand very still or FREEZE. Ask the children to say the bottom line when they FREEZE. Replay the music and ask the children to dance again. Repeat the activity several times in 30 second increments.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's dance! God gave us Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to play our song for this month. When you hear the music, dance. When the music stops, everyone FREEZE! (*Demonstrate.*) Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Whew! That was so much fun! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **Who loves you? God loves me!**"



PRELUDE

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GROUPS

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25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

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5. BEST GIFT

WHAT YOU NEED: The "Story Review Symbol Cards" Activity Page used in the "Pictures of Love" activity, letter envelopes, small peel-n-stick gift bows, crayons, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you aren't doing the "Pictures of Love" activity, make a copy of "Story Review Symbol Cards" on cardstock for each child. Cut the cards apart. If you do the "Pictures of Love" activity, use the story cards from that activity. Set the "parent note" aside to give parents when they pick up their child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: The children will decorate an envelope to look like a present using the bows, crayons, and markers. When they are done decorating their envelope, they will put the story cards inside the envelope to take home.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "God loves us so much, He gave us the best gift ever! God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. That's a lot of love! Let's decorate these envelopes so they look like presents. Then we will put our story cards inside of them, because Jesus really is the best gift!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Your envelopes look so special! Now, when you open your envelope it will be like opening a present. And inside is the best gift that says God loves the world so much, He gave us Jesus. **Who loves you? God loves me.**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Romans 8:39. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's small group time. I want everyone to pretend you are holding a little, bitty baby in your arms. Rock it gently. Keep rocking it while we walk to our small group spot."

(Pretend you are rocking a baby as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

SGL: "Shhh. I think the babies are sleeping. Let's lay them down so they can take a nap while we talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)

SGL: "Today we learned that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to be our friend forever. That's a lot of love! But wait, there's more! Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love either. It's true! And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember how much God loves us."

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

SGL: "Let's stand up and say it together with the motions."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Nothing at all (*shake head and wave your arms in front of you*) can separate (*lock your fingers together*) us from God's (*point up with both hands*) love (*hug yourself*). Romans 8:39." *(Open your hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with the motions a few times.)

SGL: "See? God loves you! A lot! **Who loves you?"**

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**God loves me!**"

SGL: "Yes, God loves you and everyone in the whole world SO much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Now, let's sit down so we can write

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in our prayer journal and talk to God.”

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

SGL: “Today, we are going to make a list of people God loves. Think of someone you want to write down in our prayer journal. When I say your name, you tell me their name, and I’ll write it down. It can be anyone, because God loves everyone!”

(Say each child’s name and write down who they say. Remember to print the names so the children recognize their names and the letters.)

SGL: “Thank you for making this list with me. Let’s pray and thank God for loving everyone so much He gave us Jesus. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: “Dear God, thank You for loving us SO much You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You for loving *(read the list the children made)*, and everyone else in the world. You really are the best! In Jesus’ name, amen.”