

SMALL GROUP YEAR OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S **BIBLE STORY**

I can thank God for people who help me. **NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL NEHEMIAH 1–6**

MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good." **PSALM 107:1, NIV**

KEY QUESTION

Who is good?

BOTTOM LINE

God is good.

BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

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.

WEEK

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. **Build That Wall** Pasta Building 🚫 Community Dress-Up

LARGE GROUP



WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways "Special" and "Just Wanna Say Thank You" 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. Paired-Up Verse Happy to Help People Who Help Build a Wall Thank You Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home Parent Cue Card (print or email) Parent Cue App



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



PRELUDE	SOCIAL	WORSHIP	STORY	GROUPS	HOME
PROVIDIN	NG TIME FOR FUN INTI 15 MINUTES	ERACTION			
MADE TO M		NADE TO	1. BUILD TH		

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



WHAT YOU DO: **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place a box of craft sticks in your activity area.

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DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to work to build a wall around your classroom with the craft sticks.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Have the children return the craft sticks to the box for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here with me. Let's build a wall around the room with these craft sticks. You can stack them any way you want. Let's work together, because this is a big job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! What awesome builders you are. In our Bible story, we'll hear about a man who wanted to rebuild a very large wall. But he needed help! Let's find out what happened."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to pantomime building a wall.



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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

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2. PASTA BUILDING

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, plastic tablecloths, Play-Doh®, straws, and rigatoni pasta

Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and hang on the door. Cover the tables with tablecloths. Place a lump of Play-Doh at each spot at the table. Take a straw and stick it upright in each lump.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children select a spot at the table. Show them how to thread a piece of pasta onto the straw. Encourage them to build onto it by adding more pasta.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather all the pasta and straws to set aside. Return all Play-Doh to containers.

WHAT YOU SAY: BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, can you find a spot at the table?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you see the straw in the Play-Doh in front of you? Let's add some pasta on the straw, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) You can add more pasta to keep building."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Awesome building, friends! Let's head to Large Group to hear about another builder—but his building project was crazy big! Come on, let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pantomiming building a wall and calling out different building materials (*some real, some silly*). Examples: bricks, wood, clay, gelatin, straws, peanut butter, marshmallows, etc.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



3. COMMUNITY DRESS-UP

WHAT YOU NEED: Community helper dress-up clothes such as firefighter, police officer, and mail carrier costumes, doctor coats, and any other community helper dress-up clothing

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place all of the supplies in the

activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to play with and try on all of the costumes and dress-up items. Be sure each child has a turn to play with the dress-up items. Sanitize items between uses.

WHAT YOU SAY: BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's be community helpers!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We have some really cool items to dress-up with!" (Hold up Items. Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You look awesome! Community helpers help us every day. Today, we'll hear a story about people who help us in our Bible story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by holding each other's hands as you walk and help each other to the story area.

BIBLE STORY

TODAY'S

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MADE TO MOVE

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



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DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children pass the ball back and forth by rolling it on the floor as you repeat this month's memory verse together.

1. PAIRED-UP VERSE

WHAT YOU NEED: Several soft balls

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

floor facing each other in your activity area.

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Pair the children to sit on the

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather all the balls for clean-up.

WHAT YOU DO:

Social Distancing Option – Roll the ball towards the wall so it will bounce back.

WHAT YOU SAY: **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Okay friends, let's find a partner and sit facing each other right over here."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's roll the ball on the floor, back and forth, to our partners and say our memory verse together. Ready? 'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,' Psalm 107:1." (Repeat as a time and interest allow.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We can give thanks to the Lord. Why? Because God is good. Say it with me! Who is good? God is good!"



MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



2. HAPPY TO HELP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW] WHAT YOU NEED: Little People® toy house and LEGO® DUPLO® blocks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Build a wall around the toy house with the blocks, leaving several sections without any blocks.

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DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children to sit with you around the house. Pretend to be Nehemiah as you review the Bible story, and ask each child to help fix the wall by filling a section in the wall with a block.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "(Say each child's name), I need you to help me. (Sit around the house.) Let's pretend this house is the city where Nehemiah tried to fix a wall. I'll pretend to be Nehemiah.

"Hey, my name is Nehemiah! I came a long way to fix a wall around our city, but I can't do it by myself. Will you help me fix the broken wall around the city? [Child's name], you can fix this section with these blocks. [Child's name], you can fix this section. (*Continue giving each child a section to fix.*) Look! The wall is fixed! I'm so thankful God gave me people to help!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Nehemiah was thankful God sent so many people to help him. We can thank God for people who help us, too. Do you know why God gives us people to help us? Because **God is good. Who is good? God is good.**"



MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

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3. PEOPLE WHO HELP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, markers, and wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Hang the butcher paper on the wall with the wall tape. At the top of the page, write a Mo" in large black latters

"People Who Help Me" in large block letters.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children to sit in front of the butcher paper and name people who help them. Write their answers on the butcher paper.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Reread all the things listed on the butcher paper.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! I need your help. Come sit in front of this paper."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I want you to think of someone who helps you. Raise your hand. When I call on you, I want you to name someone who helps you, and I'll write it on the paper."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's see, there are a lot of people who help us! There's (*read all the names on the list*). Tell me, who gave us all these people to help us? (*Pause*.) Yes, God did! God gives us GOOD things like people who help us. Why? Because He is good. **Who is good? God is good.**"



MADE TO MOVE

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



4. BUILD A WALL [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Wall" Activity Page, cardstock, and wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Wall" on the cardstock,

one per child. Place a loop of tape on the back of each of

Activity Page to stick to the wall, later.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a "Wall" page with tape on it. Challenge the children to place the pages on the wall. Help the children place the bricks on top of each other to build the wall. Continue the activity until all of the bricks are on the wall.

WHAT YOU SAY: BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's be like Nehemiah and build a wall."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Give each child an Activity Page.*) "These will be our bricks. (*Point.*) Place them on the wall on top of each other, and we can build a wall." (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "WOW! Nice wall! It looks like the one Nehemiah built in our Bible story today! God gives us people who help us! We can thank God for people who help us. **Who is good? God is good!**"

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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

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5. THANK YOU

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Parent Note Thanks" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, crayons, markers, and stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Parent Note Thanks" on cardstock and cut apart, one per child. Cut blank cardstock

in half and fold to make a card, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how God gave us a lot of people in our community who help us. Encourage children to decorate a card for someone who has helped them.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we can thank God for people who help us like the people who helped Nehemiah in our Bible Story today. Send a "Parent Note Thanks" and the thank you card they made home with each child.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today, we heard how God gave Nehemiah people who helped him rebuild a wall. God gives us people who help us, too."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's think about people in our community who help us. (*Pause.*) Do you have a mail person who brings you mail and packages? (*Pause.*) What about a police officer? Do you have one who helps in your neighborhood by keeping you safe or directing traffic? (*Pause.*) Who else helps us in our neighborhood? (*Pause.*) Do you have a neighbor who helps you? (*Pause.*) God gives us all sorts of people who help us. Let's make a card to thank a special helper in your neighborhood. You can use markers, crayons, and stickers. (*Pause.*) Don't forget to write your name on it! (*Pause.*) These cards are wonderful and will definitely put a smile on their faces!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "When we have people who help, we should thank them and thank God for giving these wonderful people to us. **God is good** and gives us people who help. **Who is good? God is good.**"



MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Psalm 107:1, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll march to our small group spot. Get your knees up high like this (*demonstrate*) and follow me! (*March with*

high knees while pumping your arms as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

"That was some mighty fine marching, friends! Now, let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children*.)

"Our Bible story today was about a man named Nehemiah. Nehemiah had a big job to do. He wanted to repair a wall that went all the way around the city! It was a very big job. Did he do it all by himself? (*Pause.*) No way! He had lots of people help him. They marched right up and got to work. Do you think Nehemiah was thankful for the people who helped him? (*Pause.*) I do, too. **God is good** to give us people to help us. **Who is good? God is good!**

"Having people help us is another good gift God gives us. And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember to thank God because **God is good!** (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, Psalm 107:1. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together with the motions."

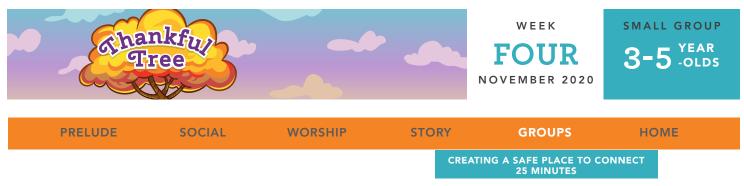
CHILDREN AND SGL: "Give thanks (clap on each word) to the LORD (point up) for he is good, (two thumbs up) Psalm 107:1." (Open hands like a book.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "Wow! Next time we are together, I'll have my stickers/handstamp ready so you can try the verse by yourself. I know you will be ready!

"Right now, we'll sit down now so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Today, we'll make a list of people who help us. This could be a very long list. Doctors, teachers, grocery clerks, librarians, friends, coaches, police officers, garbage collectors, farmers . . . there are SO many people who help us! So when I say your name, I want you to tell me one person who helps you, and I



(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

will write the name in our prayer journal."

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

SGL: "Look at all of the people who help us! (*Hold up the journal.*) Let's use this list when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

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

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, You are so good! You give us so many people to help us. We just want to thank You for some of the people who help us like (*read the list the children made*). And I want to thank You for (*name each child*), because they help me every time we come to church. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. amen."



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

1. BUILD THAT WALL

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

Craft sticks, at least one large box

2. PASTA BUILDING

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster" •
- Cardstock •
- Plastic tablecloths
- Play-Doh®
- Straws, one per child
- Rigatoni pasta

Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from "Other Resources" on the Website) and post it at the door to your room.

- WHAT YOU DO:
- Copy the "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and hang on the door.
- Cover the tables with tablecloths.

3. COMMUNITY DRESS-UP

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning WHAT YOU NEED:

• Community helper dress-up clothes such as firefighter, police officer, and mail carrier costumes, doctor coats, and any other community helper dressup clothing

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. PAIRED-UP VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

• Several soft balls, one for every two children

2. HAPPY TO HELP [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning WHAT YOU NEED:

- Little People® toy house
- LEGO® DUPLO® blocks

3. PEOPLE WHO HELP [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- Markers
- Wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hang the butcher paper on the wall with the wall tape.
- At the top of the page, write "People Who Help Me" in large block letters.



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

4. BUILD A WALL [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

- WHAT YOU NEED:
- "Wall" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Wall tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Wall" on the cardstock, one per child.
- Place a loop of tape on the back of each of Activity Page to stick to the wall, later.

5. THANK YOU [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Parent Note Thanks" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Markers
- Stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Parent Note Thanks" on cardstock and cut apart, one per child.
- Cut blank cardstock in half and fold to make a card, one per child.

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

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Psalm 107:1
- Journal, one per small group
- Fun-shaped pen, one per small group

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app.**

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. https://bit.ly/FirstLookPinterest