



WEEK  
**THREE**  
FEBRUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRE-K**  
STARTER

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

*NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and preschoolers. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your preschoolers for both Large and Small Group time.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### 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.*

Building Help

### LARGE GROUP

20  
MIN

#### **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

#### **STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

"Whole Lotta Bit"

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.*

Long Journey

Noodle Necklace 

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.



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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



## BUILDING HELP

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Sand buckets, sand castle shapes, and DUPLO® blocks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Put all the supplies together.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Have children work solo building a tower. Ask a friend to help when it falls over.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how we will hear a story about someone really important who asked for help.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, friends! Come build a tower."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Try it by yourself and see how big you can build it. (Pause.) Your towers are getting big! Keep going! (Pause.) If it falls over, ask a friend for help. (Pause.) See how big you and your friend can build the tower. (Pause.) Super!" (Repeat as long as desired.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our story today, we'll hear how the Centurion asked Jesus for help just like you asked a friend for help when your tower fell over."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by marching like soldiers.

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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



## LONG JOURNEY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Backpack, snack, water, map, sunglasses, and first-aid kit

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Sit together around the supplies

on the floor.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Pack up the backpack with supplies for a long journey. Encourage children to follow as you walk around the room. Stop and take breaks along the way.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, friends! Can you help me? We're going on a long journey, and we need to be prepared."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "What should we pack in our backpack? (Pause.) All these things will be super helpful for a long journey. (Stand up and put backpack on.) Let's get going. (Walk around the room, in and out of the tables and chairs.) Let's take a break. (Pause.) All right, let's get going. We have a ways to go before we get there. (Repeat as long as desired.) We made it! Everyone sit down with me."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we heard a story about the Centurion. He was an important leader in the army, but he knew that Jesus was even more important. The Centurion traveled a long way to see Jesus so he could ask Him to heal his servant. Jesus said He would. But the Centurion knew that Jesus was busy and didn't have to go to his servant. Jesus could just say it, and the servant would be better. That's just what happened! Jesus is a good friend, and when He heard someone needed His help, He helped them. Jesus loved the Centurion and his servant, just like He loves you. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"

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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



## NOODLE NECKLACE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," "Noodle Heart" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, hole punch, pasta, yarn, and a marker

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and  
wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and hang on the door. Copy "Noodle Heart" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Hole punch each heart at the top. Cut yarn in 18-inch lengths, one per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to string pasta and their "Noodle Heart" on their yarn. Help tie a knot to secure. Help them put on their necklaces.

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

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."  
**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's make a 'Jesus loves me' necklace! Come sit at the table with me."

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "String the pasta and a heart on your yarn. (Pause.) Add as many pieces of pasta as you want. (Pause.) Nice job, friends. Let me help you tie it together. (Pause.) You can put your necklaces on and wear them home."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "The heart on your necklace says, 'Jesus loves me.' Jesus loves each and every one of us, and He wants to be your friend forever.  
**Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"

### BOTTOM LINE

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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17, journal, and fun-shaped pen

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend we are soldiers like the Centurion and march to our small group spot. March like this and follow

me! (*March as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

"Halt! (*Stop suddenly.*) Halt means stop. We're here! 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 how Jesus wants to help people. The Centurion heard that Jesus has the power to help people and that He wants to help people. That's why he went to ask Jesus for help when his servant was so sick. What did Jesus do when the Centurion asked Him to help his servant? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus made the Centurion's servant all better!

"Jesus helps people because Jesus loves us. And we know that a friend loves at all times. That's what the Bible verse we have been learning says. (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"'A friend loves at all times.' Proverbs 17:17. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

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

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'A friend (*hook your pointer fingers together*) loves (*hug yourself*) at all times,' (*stretch your arms out and turn in a circle*) Proverbs 17:17." (*Open hands like a book.*)

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

**SGL:** "Jesus is a good friend, and He loves you all the time! **Who loves you?"**

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

**SGL:** (*cheering*) "He sure does! Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Since Jesus wants to help you and me, I think we should make a list of things we need help with. Then when we pray, we can use the list to ask Jesus to help us, just like the Centurion asked Jesus for help. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need help with, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

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## (JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

*(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.)*

"This is a great list! It's important to talk to Jesus when we need help. Let's use this list when we pray. 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 sending Jesus to help us. Thank You that Jesus is always with us, listening, and ready to help. Please help [child's name] with [what they listed]. Please help [child's name] with [what they listed]. Please help . . . *(continue with each child)*. We believe Jesus can help us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



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## 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.

### BUILDING HELP

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Sand buckets
- Sand castle shapes
- DUPLO® blocks

### 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.

### LONG JOURNEY

#### [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Backpack
- Snack
- Water
- Map

- Sunglasses
- First-aid kit

### NOODLE NECKLACE\*\*

#### [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Create:** An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- "Noodle Heart" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Pasta (*rigatoni, penne, or other string-able pasta*)
- Yarn
- Marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list items you're using, and post at the door.
- Copy "Noodle Heart" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one heart per child.
- Punch a hole in each heart.
- Cut 18-inch lengths of yarn, one per child.

### JOURNAL AND PRAYER

#### [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17.
- Journal, one per small group
- Fun-shaped pen, one per small group



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## GETTING READY

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### 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>