

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, no matter what. THE THANKFUL WOMAN LUKE 7:36-50

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.

STARTER

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. Heart Hunt

LARGE GROUP



WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways "Whole Lotta Bit" **Bible Story** Prayer

SMALL GROUP



GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. Loved No Matter What 🚫 Heart Walk 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.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

SOCIAL

MADE TO EXPLORE

PRELUDE

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

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WORSHIP

HEART HUNT

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Heart Hunt" Activity Page, copy paper, paper or plastic cups, construction paper in various colors, scissors, crayons or washable markers in various colors, and painter's tape

GROUPS

HOME

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Heart Hunt" on copy paper, one per child. Cut ten hearts out of construction paper, each one a different color. Hang the hearts around the room. Place crayons or markers that match the heart colors in cups, one per child.

NOTE: The Activity Page is set up so you can hunt for ten hearts or cut the paper in half and only hunt for five hearts.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have children hunt for the hearts and fill in the hearts on their paper with the color heart they find.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about what hearts mean and how we'll hear a story about someone who loves us, no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I'm so happy to see you today, friends! We're going on a heart hunt! When you find a heart, decide what color it is then use that color crayon or marker to fill it in on your paper."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Ready to heart hunt? Grab a paper and a cup and go hunting! (*Pause.*) Keep going until you find one heart of every color. (*Pause.*) Did you find them all? (*Pause.*) Hooray! You did it! Great job heart hunting!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today, we'll hear how Jesus loves us like He loved the woman who had made bad choices. Jesus loves us, no matter what!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by playing "If you've ever." If you've ever gotten angry/mad come to me. Jesus loves you, no matter what. If you've ever not shared a toy when you were asked, come to me. Jesus loves you, no matter what. If you've ever been a good friend, come to me. Jesus loves you, no matter what. Continue with typical scenarios until all the children have come.



 PRELUDE
 SOCIAL
 WORSHIP
 STORY
 GROUPS
 HOME

 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

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LOVED NO MATTER WHAT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW] 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," "Loved Woman" Activity Page, cardstock, washable paint, paper plates, celery, potato, bell pepper, sharp knife, small heart

cookie cutter, wet wipes, and marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and hang on the door. Copy "Loved Woman" on cardstock, one per child. Cut the bell pepper in half and cut out the seeds. Cut the ends off the celery. Cut the potato in half then press the heart cookie cutter into the cut edge. Cut the potato edge up to the cookie cutter to make the heart come away from the rest of the potato. Pour a little bit of paint on the plates.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Stamp hearts around their paper using all or one of the homemade stampers. Clean hands as needed.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We heard a really neat story today how Jesus loves, us no matter what we've done. The woman in our story was so happy and thankful that Jesus loved her. Let's add some love to your picture."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I made some different love stamps for us to use today. They may not look like hearts, but dip them into the paint then stamp them on your paper and see what shape it makes. (*Pause.*) Look at the hearts they made. (*Pause.*) Keep stamping your paper with all the love. (*Pause.*) Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus loves you just as much as He loved the woman in our story today. She came to where Jesus and the people were eating dinner. The people at the dinner knew this woman had made some bad choices and thought she shouldn't be there. She sat down at Jesus' feet and cried. She cried because Jesus had forgiven her, and she washed His feet with her tears. She dried His feet with her hair then poured perfume on them. Jesus knew everything the woman had done, and He could see how sorry she was and how much she loved Him. Jesus said, 'Woman you are forgiven. Now go in peace.' There is nothing you or I could ever do that would make Jesus stop loving us. Who loves you? Jesus loves me."



 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

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HEART WALK [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Heart Walk" Activity Page, colored cardstock, butcher paper, scissors, clear contact paper, music player, and the monthly song "Whole Lotta Bit"

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Heart Walk" on colored cardstock, one per child. Place on the floor spaced around the room and secure with contact paper. Cut one larger heart out of butcher paper and secure to the floor with contact paper. Cue music.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to walk around the hearts while the music plays. When the music stops have the child that is standing on the large heart tell what they are thankful for. Repeat as long as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we are thankful because Jesus loves us.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everybody, come join me on the hearts. When the music starts, walk around, and when it stops, stand on a heart."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Here we go. (Start the music.) Keep walking until the music stops. (*Pause the music.*) Who stopped on the great big heart? (*Pause.*) Tell me one thing you are thankful for. (*Pause.*) That's a great thing to be thankful for. Let's go again. (*Repeat as long as desired.*) That was so much fun! Now sit down on the heart closest to you."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The woman in our story was so thankful that Jesus loved her and forgave her for all the bad choices she had made. Jesus loves us, no matter what we've done. Jesus loves us so much that He wants to be our friend forever! Tell me, **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.** That's right!"



 PRELUDE
 SOCIAL
 WORSHIP
 STORY
 GROUPS
 HOME

 CREATING & SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Proverbs 17:17, journal, fun-shaped pen, reward stickers or a handstamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll make our biggest happy faces while we walk

to our small group spot, because Jesus loves us, no matter what! That should make us SUPER happy! Let me see your happy faces while you follow me. (Make your happiest happy face as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

"Here we are! I need all my little happy faces to sit down so we can 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 loves us, no matter what. Even though the woman in the story had made a lot of wrong choices, Jesus still loved her and forgave her. Jesus did that because a friend loves at ALL times. And the Bible verse we learned this month will help us remember that a friend loves at ALL times, because it 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 with the motions together, one more time, then anyone who wants to say it can give it a try!"

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.)

SGL: "You did that so well! Good job! (*Give two thumbs up.*) Let's sit down. When it's your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and try it. I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready!

"You did it, [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! (Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)

"Okay, when I count to three, I want everyone to show me their [sticker/ handstamp]. One, two, three! Yay! I see them! I'm so proud of you! (*Clap and cheer for the children.*)

"Let's sit down again so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)



(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Today, we learned that Jesus loves us, no matter what. Jesus loves us when we're happy, sad, angry, and even when we make wrong choices. Anytime we make a wrong choice, we can talk to Jesus about it and tell Him we're sorry. Jesus will always love us and forgive us, because Jesus is a friend who loves at all times.

"Today, we'll make a list of wrong choices we've made. Everyone has made a wrong choice before, even me. That's why everyone needs to know that Jesus loves them, no matter what. I'll go first and write that I am sorry for . . . (share a preschool appropriate wrong choice as you write it down). Now when I say your name, you to tell me a wrong choice you've made, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

(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.)

"You are very brave to share your wrong choices, just like the woman in the Bible story was very brave to go to Jesus. 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, thank You for sending Jesus to love us, no matter what. Thank You that He is the kind of friend who forgives us every time and will never, ever stop loving us. Every person in the world has made wrong choices, and we all need Jesus to forgive us. Today, we want to say we are sorry for (*read the list the children made*). I pray (*name each child*) will always talk to You about their choices and trust that Jesus loves them, no matter what. 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.

HEART HUNT

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

- "Heart Hunt" Activity Page
- Copy paper
- Paper or plastic cups
- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Crayons or washable markers in colors to match the construction paper
- Painter's tape
- WHAT YOU DO:
- Copy "Heart Hunt" on copy paper, one per child. If only hunting five hearts, cut in half and discard the 6-10 side.
- Cut one heart out of each color of construction paper.
- Tape each heart up around the room.
- Place one crayon/marker of each matching color in a cup, one per child.

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 ©2020 The reThink Group, Inc. All rights reserved. www.ThinkOrange.com

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.

LOVED NO MATTER WHAT [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- "Loved Woman" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable paint
- Paper plates
- Celery
- Potato
 - Bell pepper
 - Sharp knife
 - Small heart cookie cutter
 - Wet wipes
 - Marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list foods on it, and post on the door.
- Copy "Loved Woman" on cardstock, one per child.
- Cut the bell pepper in half and cut out the seeds.
- Cut the ends off the celery.
- Cut the potato in half then press the heart cookie cutter into the cut edge. Cut the potato edge up to the cookie cutter to make the heart come away from the rest of the potato.
- Pour a little bit of paint on the plates.

HEART WALK

[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:

- "Heart Walk" Activity Page
- Colored Cardstock
- Butcher paper
- Scissors
- Clear contact paper



GETTING READY

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

- Music player
- This month's song, "Whole Lotta Bit"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Heart Walk" Activity Page on colored cardstock, one per child.
- Place hearts on the floor and secure with contact paper.
- Cut a large heart out of butcher paper and secure to the floor with contact paper.
- Cue music

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
- Reward stickers or handstamp

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