



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 2024

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.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to love like Him.

EARLY CHURCH
ACTS 2:42-47;
JOHN 15:12,
HEBREWS 10:24

MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

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.
Glowing

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways
"You Love Me"
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.
Flashlight Scenes
Beanbag Love Toss
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



GLOWING

WHAT YOU NEED: Medium plastic containers, water, ice cubes, glow sticks, and paper towels

Note: Never leave a tub of water unattended. An adult should always be present. When the activity is over, please discard the water immediately.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH
ACTS 2:42-47;
JOHN 15:12,
HEBREWS 10:24**

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Fill one container half full of warm tap water and the other half full of ice water. Place both containers on a table or the floor next to each other. Activate the glow sticks, and place them near the water.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to touch the water and tell you how each feels. Encourage children to look at the glow sticks and put one of each color, if possible, into each container of water. Explore the brightness of the glow sticks in the cold water versus the warm water.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Come join me over here and let's explore."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you know what these are? (*Hold up the glow sticks.*) They are called glow sticks—see the pretty light they make? (*Pause.*) Let's see what happens to their light when we put them in the water. But first, dip your finger in this container of water. How does this water feel? (*Pause.*) What about this water? (*Pause.*) This container of water is warmer than the other one. Let's find two yellow glowsticks. (*Pause.*) Put one in each container. Do you see any changes in their color? (*Pause.*) Let's try the blue one. Put a blue glow stick in each container. (*Continue with all the glow sticks and allow children to play and explore the changes.*) That was fun exploring how the water changed the colors and brightness of the glow sticks."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we're going to hear another story of how we can shine our light and do what Jesus says! I can't wait to hear today's story!"

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by encouraging children to chant the Bottom Line together.

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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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



FLASHLIGHT SCENES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Flashlight Scenes Flashlight," "Flashlight Scenes," and "Flashlight Stickers" Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent, scissors, painter's tape, paper plates, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Flashlight Scenes Flashlight" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Copy "Flashlight Scenes" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Tape these scenes around the room. Copy "Flashlight Stickers" on label paper, one set of labels per child. Cut the labels out and place each scene on its own plate under each large picture of the same scene.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to carry their flashlight cutouts with them as you walk the room together to find each scene. Once you come to the scene, encourage children to add one sticker of each scene to their flashlight.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come join me over here. I have a flashlight cutout for each of you today. We'll use these as we review our story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at the pictures on your flashlight. Our job is to look around the room to find the big picture that matches the picture on your paper. We'll go to each picture together. Ready? Look on your flashlight for the picture of people eating together. Do you see a big picture of people eating in the room? (Pause.) There it is! Let's walk to that picture. (Pause.) Look! There are stickers that match the picture on your flashlight. Put the sticker on your flashlight. (Pause.) Look on your flashlight for the picture of people praying. Do you see a big picture of people praying in the room? (Pause.) There it is! Let's walk to that picture. (Pause.) Put the sticker on your flashlight. (Pause.) Look on your flashlight for the picture of people helping. Do you see a big picture of people helping in the room? (Pause.) There it is! Let's walk to that picture. (Pause.) Put the sticker on your flashlight. (Pause.) Look on your flashlight for the last picture. This is a picture of people sharing. Do you see a big picture of people sharing? (Pause.) There it is! Let's walk to that picture. (Pause.) Put the sticker on your flashlight. (Pause.) Great job, everyone! Look at your flashlights! You found the help sticker, the share sticker, the pray and sing sticker, and the eat sticker! Those are things we do when we follow Jesus and do what He says!"

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, Jesus told His friends to love people the way He loves them. And they did! They loved like Jesus! If someone needed a coat, they gave them a coat! They were loving like Jesus and shining their light! If someone needed a place to stay, they shared their home! They were loving like Jesus and shining their light! If someone didn't have something to eat, they would give them something to eat! They were loving like Jesus and shining their light! When we love like Jesus, we are shining our light too. Jesus' friends also ate and talked and prayed together. They loved each other because Jesus loved them. They were loving like Jesus and shining their light. And do you know what else Jesus' friends did? They sang and praised God. This showed everyone that they were friends with Jesus. When they praised God, they were shining their light. You can love like Jesus and shine your light too.

Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says."



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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



BEANBAG LOVE TOSS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Beanbag Love Toss" Activity Page, cardstock, construction paper in four different colors, glue sticks, painter's tape, scissors, and beanbags

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Beanbag Love Toss" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Glue each picture to a different color of construction paper. Arrange on the floor and tape to secure. About five feet from the papers, make a straight tape line on the floor.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to take turns tossing the beanbags. Discuss with the kids what the pictures represent. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come over here and stand with me at this line. Let's play a game together!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's take turns tossing the beanbags at these four different pictures. [Child's name], come take a beanbag and toss it at the pictures. (Pause.) Wow! Great job! Come tell me what picture you landed on. (Help children describe the picture the beanbag landed on or near.) Awesome! Let's have [child's name] take a beanbag and toss it at the pictures. (Continue with each child.) That was a fun game!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we heard the story of when Jesus told His friends to love people the way He loves them. If someone needed something, they gave it to them. They were loving like Jesus and shining their light. (Hold hand up with pointer finger up like candle.) Jesus' friends also ate and talked and prayed together. We can love like Jesus and shine our light too. Everyone hold up your light. (Hold up pretend light.) We can all do what Jesus says and love like Jesus.

Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says."

BIBLE STORY

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

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 Matthew 5:16. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to pretend they're carrying baskets of food to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of ways we can love like Jesus.

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 pretend we're carrying baskets of food to our Small Group spot. Okay, everyone, pretend to fill your basket with food! (*Demonstrate.*) Now that our baskets are filled with food, follow me! (*Pretend you're carrying a basket of food as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay! We made it! You can put your baskets of food down. We're going to sit and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, people did what Jesus said and loved like Jesus by eating together, helping each other, sharing with each other, and praying together, because they wanted to do what Jesus says and love like Jesus. We can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus too! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"

"And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light! The Bible verse we've been learning will help us remember to shine our light. It says, 'Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine,' (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Jesus said those words! Stand up with me and let's say Jesus' words together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine,' (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)"

BIBLE STORY

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Way to go! (*Clap.*) Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we’re going to make a list of ways we can love like Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus, and I will write it in our journal. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “These are wonderful ways we can love like Jesus. And when we love like Jesus, we SHINE! Let’s use our list when we pray. 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 loving us so much You gave us Your Son, Jesus, to show us how to love and to be our friend forever. Please help us to do what Jesus says and love others the way Jesus loves us. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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 the following activity as your preschoolers arrive. Let one teacher lead the activity while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

GLOWING

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Medium plastic containers
- Water
- Ice cubes
- Glow sticks
- Paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Fill one container half full of warm tap water and the other half full of ice water.
- Place both containers on a table or the floor next to each other.

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 children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

FLASHLIGHT SCENES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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:

- "Flashlight Scenes Flashlight" Activity Page
- "Flashlight Scenes" Activity Page
- "Flashlight Stickers" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- Scissors
- Painter's tape
- Paper plates
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Flashlight Scenes Flashlight" on cardstock, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.
- Copy "Flashlight Scenes" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Tape these scenes around the room.
- Copy "Flashlight Stickers" on label paper, one set of labels per child.
- Cut the labels out, and place each scene on its own plate under each large picture of the same scene.

BEANBAG LOVE TOSS

[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:

- "Beanbag Love Toss" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Construction paper in four different colors
- Glue sticks and Painter's tape
- Scissors and Beanbags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Beanbag Love Toss" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Glue each picture to a different color of construction paper.
- Arrange on the floor and tape to secure.
- About five feet from the papers, make a straight tape line on the floor.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

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

JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place it in the Bible at Matthew 5:16. *NOTE: Keep the Memory Verse Card in your Bible all month.*

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the memory verse card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it 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. bit.ly/FL_Shine