



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

I can have joy
because God loves me.

STORY OF THE LOST SHEEP
LUKE 15:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart
is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who can have joy all the time?

BOTTOM LINE

I can have joy all the time.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves 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.

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.
Fill the Sheep

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Start the Party"
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.
Sheep Mask
What's Missing?
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



WEEK
ONE
JUNE 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



FILL THE SHEEP

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, permanent marker, cotton balls, plastic spoons or preschool tweezers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: On the butcher paper, draw a few simple sheep body outlines, and place them on a table or floor. Scatter cotton balls on the floor around the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to collect one cotton ball at a time with their spoon/tweezers, then place it in one of the sheep bodies. Continue until the sheep are filled or you run out of cotton balls. Collect the cotton balls, scatter them, and repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello friends! I am so happy to see you all today! What animal do you think this looks like? *(Pause.)* You're right! They're sheep! Today we're going to fill these sheep with the cotton balls that are all over the room!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Pick up one cotton ball at a time using these spoons/tweezers, then place it on one of the sheep. *(Demonstrate.)* Ready to give it a try? *(Hand each child a spoon/tweezer.)* Let's go! *(Pause.)* These sheep are getting full! Keep going! *(Pause.)* Wow! You did it! You were like a shepherd, taking care of the sheep. Look at how fluffy the sheep are now!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about a shepherd who had a whole bunch of sheep to love and take care of."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to be sheep.

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SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
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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



SHEEP MASK

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Sheep Ears" Activity Page, cardstock, paper plates, craft sticks, cotton balls, craft glue, scissors, masking tape, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Sheep Ears" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Cut the center out of each child's plate, and write their name on the back of their plate.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to glue the ears to the top of their plate with the text facing forward, then have them glue cotton balls around the entire plate. Help children tape the craft stick to the back of their plate, and hold it in front of their face as you review the Bible Story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come join me at the table, and let's make a super-cute sheep mask!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our story, we heard that there were a lot of . . . sheep! Let's turn this plate into a sheep! First, we need to glue the ears on. (*Hold up the pair of ears.*) One ear at the top of each side. (*Pause.*) Great! Now, are sheep soft and fuzzy? (*Pause.*) They are! Let's use these fluffy cotton balls to make your sheep all nice and fluffy. Glue them all around your plate. (*Pause.*) Fantastic! Now, let's give your mask a handle so it's easier to hold in front of your face." (*Help tape a craft stick to the back of each child's plate at the bottom.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Hold your mask up to your face and look around. What do you see? (*Pause.*) I see lots of cute little sheep looking back at me! In our Bible Story today, we learned about a shepherd who had one hundred sheep! That's a lot of sheep. That is more than all of you cute little sheep! But one of his sheep went missing and the shepherd was sad. He left all the other sheep and went to find the one missing sheep because he loved each and every one. The shepherd loved his sheep, just like God loves US. We can have JOY all the time because God loves us ALL the time! **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.**"

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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



WHAT'S MISSING?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Tray or sheet pan, small towel or blanket, toy sheep, Little People® figure, heart cutout, toy car, block, crayon, and other items from the room

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Spread the items on the tray and place them on the table.

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy because God loves me.

STORY OF THE LOST SHEEP
LUKE 15:1-7

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to observe the items on the tray. Cover the tray and remove one item. Place the item in your lap or out of sight from the children. Uncover the tray and ask children to figure out what is missing. When children guess, show the item, return it to the tray, and repeat.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over to the table with me. Let's see, we have [child's name], and [child's name], (*name all but one child*) but wait! We are missing someone . . . we are missing [child's name]! Here they are!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We are going to play a what's missing game today with the things on this tray. Look at all the things on the tray. (*Pause.*) I'm going to cover the tray and take one item from the tray. (*Take one item and uncover the tray.*) Look at the tray. Do you know what's missing? (*Pause.*) Take another guess. (*Pause.*) You're right! It was the [item]! I'll put it back and we can play again. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was really fun playing the 'What's Missing' game with you today. That reminds me of our Bible Story about the missing sheep."

KEY QUESTION

Who can have joy all the time?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The shepherd in our story loved his sheep like God loves us. We can have joy all the time because we are important to God and God loves us all the time! **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.** One more time! **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.**"

BOTTOM LINE

I can have joy all the time.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
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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, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Proverbs 17:22. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy because God loves me.

STORY OF THE LOST SHEEP
LUKE 15:1-7

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to pretend to be sheep as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and hand motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people they love.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're sheep while we walk to our Small Group spot. Follow me and say 'baa-baa-baa' all the way to our Small Group spot! (Say 'baa-baa-baa' like a sheep as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) We made it, little sheep! Now let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

KEY QUESTION

Who can have joy all the time?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible Story today, Jesus told a story about a shepherd and his sheep. What did the shepherd do when one of his sheep was lost? (Pause.) That's right! The shepherd looked for his lost sheep because he loved all of his sheep. And what did the shepherd do when he found his lost sheep? (Pause.) Right, again! The shepherd celebrated! Jesus told this story so we can know how much God loves us. God loves us even MORE than the shepherd loved his sheep! And knowing how much God loves us can give us joy all the time! That's why when I ask you, **'Who can have joy all the time,'** I want you to say, **'I can have joy all the time!'** Let me hear you! **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time!** Yay! (Clap.)

BOTTOM LINE

I can have joy all the time.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

"We're going to learn a new Bible verse about joy. It says, 'A joyful (brush flat hands upward twice) heart (tap chest twice with fingertip) is good medicine,' (move flat hand from chin to palm) Proverbs 17:22. (Open hands like a book.)



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Raise your hand if you have ever taken medicine. *(Pause.)* Me too! Medicine makes you feel better. And guess what! JOY makes you feel better too! JOY is good medicine! Stand up with me and let's say our new Bible verse together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'A joyful *(brush flat hands upward twice)* heart *(tap chest twice with fingertip)* is good medicine,' *(move flat hand from chin to palm)* Proverbs 17:22. *(Open hands like a book.)* You sound awesome! *(Clap.)* I love learning Bible verses with you! 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 people we love. When I say your name, tell me one person you love 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: "Look at all of the people we love. *(Hold up journal.)* Let's use it 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 like the shepherd loved his sheep. We love *(read the list the children made)*. It gives us so much joy to know that You love us even more! You love [child's name]. You love [child's name]. You love . . . *(name each child)*. Help us remember how much You love us so we can have joy all the time! You are amazing, God! And we love You. 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.

FILL THE SHEEP

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- Permanent marker
- Cotton balls
- Plastic spoons or preschool tweezers

WHAT YOU DO:

- On the butcher paper, draw a few simple sheep body outlines, and place them on a table or floor.
- Scatter cotton balls on the floor around the room.

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.

SHEEP MASK

[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:

- "Sheep Ears" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Paper plates, one per child
- Craft sticks, one per child
- Cotton balls
- Craft glue
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Sheep Ears" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
- Cut the center out of each child's plate.
- Write each child's name on the back of their plate.

WHAT'S MISSING?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tray or sheet pan
- Small towel or blanket
- Toy sheep
- Little People® figure
- Heart cutout
- Toy car
- Block
- Crayon
- Other items from the room

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread the items on the tray and place them on the table.



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STARTER

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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
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- 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:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
- Place one card in your Bible at Proverbs 17:22.

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_StartTheParty_June