



WEEK
FOUR
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

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

SHINE LIKE THE STARS
PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

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.
Big Star

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.

Foil Painting
Shooting Stars
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 MOVE

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



BIG STAR

WHAT YOU NEED: Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Make a large outline of a star on the floor using tape.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to find a spot on the tape. Spread children out if needed. Ask children to complete a movement when you say, "Shine." Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends, come join me over here. Come stand inside this big tape shape."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When I say, "Shine", go find a spot to stand on the tape. Ready? Shine! (*Pause.*) Spread out a little. Fantastic! We worked together and made a great big star! This time, when I say, "Shine," I want you to turn around and face the other way. Ready? Shine! (*Pause.*) Awesome! This time when I say, "Shine," I want you to turn back around. Shine! (*Pause.*) This time, jump up and down. Shine! (*Continue with different movements.*) Great job! Now, last one: When I say, "Shine," everyone can sit down on the tape where you are. Shine!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was fun making a star with you. And you did a great job doing what I said. In today's Bible Story, we'll learn that when we do what Jesus says, we shine like the stars in the sky!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by singing,
"One little, two little, three little stars;
Four little, five little, six little stars;
Seven little, eight little, nine little stars;
Ten little stars shining bright today!"

BIBLE STORY

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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



FOIL PAINTING

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Foil Painting" Activity Page, cardstock, aluminum foil, washable paint in a variety of colors, scissors, glue sticks, paper plates, paintbrushes, cotton swabs, dish soap, tablecloth, baby wipes, and a permanent marker;
Optional: smocks

BIBLE STORY

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

SHINE LIKE THE STARS
PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

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.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Foil Painting" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Cut aluminum foil in 5"x7" pieces, one per child. Glue one piece of foil, shiny side up, in the center of each child's paper. Lay the tablecloth on the table. Put a few different colors of paint on several plates, adding a drop or two of dish soap to each color and mixing well.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to paint their paper. Explore how the paint looks on both the shiny paper and the regular paper.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come sit at the table with me. I have a special shiny paper for you to paint on today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at your paper. The paper is so shiny, you can almost see yourself! I thought it would be fun to paint on shiny paper since we have been learning that we shine when we do what Jesus says! You can use any of the paints to create your picture. (Pause.) Wow! Your paintings look really neat! Did you like painting on shiny paper? (Pause.) Great!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "When we do what Jesus says—like when we don't argue or complain—we will shine like stars! When your mom asks you to clean up and you do it with a happy heart without complaining, you shine like the stars. When your brother asks you to share and you do it with a happy heart and you don't argue, you shine like the stars. When you say thank you for the snack you are given—even if it's not your favorite—you shine like the stars. Sometimes, there will be people around you who complain or argue, but YOU can choose to do what Jesus says. **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 EXPLORE
an activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts



SHOOTING STARS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Shooting Stars” Activity Page, yellow cardstock, scissors, water, shallow plastic container, 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

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

SHINE LIKE THE STARS
PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Shooting Stars” on yellow cardstock and cut three per child. Fold each arm of every star into the center. Fill the container half full of water and place on the table or floor.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to say a way they can shine. Then place a folded paper into the water to watch it unfold into a star. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

MEMORY VERSE

“Let your light shine.”

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Friends! Come sit with me around this container of water. I have an experiment for us to do today!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “I have some pieces of paper for us to add to the water, but before we do, tell me how YOU can do what Jesus says. [Child’s name], what is a way you can do what Jesus says? (Pause.) That is a fantastic way to do what Jesus says! Place this piece of paper into the water and watch what happens. (Pause.) Look at that! It turned into a star! (Continue with every child. Remove stars as needed to continue.) I have some more papers for everyone. Let’s count to three and shout, **“I can do what Jesus says!”** Then you can all add your papers and watch the papers unfold. Ready? One, two, three! **I can do what Jesus says!** (Pause.) Amazing! Look at all the shooting stars!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “The Bible teaches us that when we do what Jesus says, we will shine like stars! We don’t have to complain or argue. We can do what Jesus says with a happy heart. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.”**

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

BOTTOM LINE

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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 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, a fun-shaped pen, and stickers or a handstamp

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 Ephesians 5:2. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

BIBLE STORY

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

SHINE LIKE THE STARS
PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to twinkle their fingers like stars as you lead them 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 their own names, because they can do what Jesus says and shine like stars.

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

MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are twinkling stars while we walk to our Small Group spot. Twinkle your fingers like this (*demonstrate*) and follow me! (*Twinkle your fingers in the air as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are, twinkling stars. It's time to sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, we learned that one way we can shine our light like Jesus says is by not complaining and arguing. When we do things without complaining and arguing, we shine like the...do you remember what we shine like? (*Pause.*) Yes! Stars! I have one question for you. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!** Yes, you can!"

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

"And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that Jesus 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.*) 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.*) You sound ready to try and say it by yourself! Let's sit down and take turns doing that. I have my stickers ready! (*Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.*)"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is your sticker! (*Say this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*) I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/handstamp. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Yay! (*Clap.*) Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*)

"Today, when I say your name, stand up and say, **I can do what Jesus says!** Then I will write your name in our journal. Can [child's name] do what Jesus says? (*Child stands and says the Bottom Line.*) Can [child's name] do what Jesus says? (*Continue with each child as you write their name in the journal.*) Great job, everyone!" (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I wrote all your names in our prayer journal! (*Hold up journal.*) Now let's pray for each other. 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 sending Jesus to teach us how to shine our light. [Child's name] wants to do what Jesus says. [Child's name] wants to do what Jesus says. (*Continue with each child.*) Please help us do everything without complaining and arguing so we can shine like the stars and people can see that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



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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.

BIG STAR

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make a large outline of a star on the floor using tape.

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.

FOIL PAINTING

[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:

- "Foil Painting" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Aluminum foil
- Washable paint in a variety of colors

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Cotton swabs
- Dish soap
- Tablecloth
- Baby wipes
- Permanent marker
- *Optional: smocks*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Foil Painting" on cardstock, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.
- Cut aluminum foil in 5"x7" pieces, one per child.
- Glue one piece of foil, shiny side up, in the center of each child's paper.
- Lay the tablecloth on the table.
- Put a few different colors of paint on several plates, adding a drop or two of dish soap to each color and mixing well.

SHOOTING STARS

[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:

- "Shooting Stars" Activity Page
- Yellow cardstock
- Scissors
- Water
- Shallow plastic container
- Paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Shooting Stars" on yellow cardstock and cut three per child.
- Fold each arm of every star into the center.
- Fill the container half full of water and place at the table or on the floor of your activity area.



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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.)
- Stickers or handstamp

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