



WEEK
FOUR
MAY 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 can live for God.

**SHADRACH, MESHACH,
AND ABEDNEGO
DANIEL 3:10-28**

MEMORY VERSE

"I will always love you."

JEREMIAH 31:3, CEV

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

BOTTOM LINE

God loves me.

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.
Follow the Bubbles

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways


"You Are with 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.

God Loves Me Necklace 
Scoop Them Out
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
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 MOVE

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



FOLLOW THE BUBBLES

WHAT YOU NEED: Bubble machine and bubble solution

Note: To prevent spreading airborne illnesses, we recommend using a handheld wand or bubble machine.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather in an open area of your room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to follow the bubbles wherever they go.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I'm so happy to see your smiling faces today! Look at this super-cool bubble blower I have."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's check it out. (*Blow a few bubbles.*) Wow! That's so neat! (*Blow the bubbles again.*) Follow the bubbles! These bubbles are going near [child's name]. God loves [child's name]! Look! More bubbles are going near [child's name]. God loves [child's name]! (*Continue to blow the bubbles in different directions and name the children they are near.*) These bubbles are everywhere! That was so fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we are going to hear a story about three people who knew that no matter what happened, God loved them. Let's go hear our story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to blow the bubbles, asking children to follow the bubbles, and chanting, "**God loves me.**"

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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



GOD LOVES ME NECKLACE
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster" and "God Loves Me Necklace" Activity Page, cardstock, O-shaped cereal, yarn, paper plates, masking tape, hole punch, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

Note: Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.

BIBLE STORY

I can live for God.

**SHADRACH, MESHACH,
AND ABEDNEGO
DANIEL 3:10-28**

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list cereal, and post at the door. Copy "God Loves Me Necklace" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child. Punch a hole at the top of the heart and write each child's name on the back of their tag. Cut yarn in 36" lengths, one per child. For each child, wrap tape tightly around one end of the piece of yarn and tape the other end to each child's plate. Place a cutout and a handful of cereal on each plate.

MEMORY VERSE

"I will always love you."

JEREMIAH 31:3, CEV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to thread the cereal and cutout onto the piece of yarn. Knot the ends together and cut off the tape ends.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today we heard the story about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They loved God and God loved them. God loves you too!"

KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I have a special necklace for you to make and wear that says **God loves me**. Thread the cereal and the cutout onto your piece of yarn. (Pause.) Great job! Let me help you tie the ends together so you can wear it. (Knot the ends and cut off the tape.) These look amazing! Tell me, **who loves you? God loves me.**"

BOTTOM LINE

God loves me.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story, we learned that the king, King Nebuchadnezzar, built a giant golden statue and wanted everyone to bow down and worship it when music played. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God said you should only bow down and worship the one true God! They chose to live for God and do what God said. They did not bow down and worship the king's statue. This made the king mad, so he threw them into a fiery furnace. But God had sent an angel to keep Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego safe! They came out of the furnace and weren't hurt! They knew that no matter what happened, God loved them. We can choose to live for God too, because God loves me, and God loves you! **Who loves you? God loves me.**"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



SCOOP THEM OUT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Laundry basket or other plastic bin, ball-pit balls, painter's tape, and plastic serving spoons.
Optional: balled-up construction paper in place of ball-pit balls

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the balls in the container, and then attach the tape in a crisscross fashion over the top of the basket, leaving big enough openings for children to reach in with the spoons.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to take turns reaching into the basket with the spoon, scooping up one ball, and removing it. Once all three balls are removed, place them back in and repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, look at this basket! What do you see inside? (Pause.) That's right! There are three balls inside the basket . . . but there is tape over the top!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's take turns reaching in and scooping up one ball at a time. (Hand child a spoon.) [Child's name], try to scoop up one of the balls and pull it out. (Pause.) Good job! Next friend! (Repeat.) We got all three balls out! Hmm, in our story today, how many people were in the furnace? (Pause.) Three! Let's count the balls as we put them back in. One, two, three. Good job! (Continue until each child has a turn and repeat as desired.) That was fun, friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved God and they knew God loved them. They chose to live for God and do what God said. They did not bow down and worship the king's statue, and God sent an angel to keep them safe in the fiery furnace. They knew that no matter what happened, God loved them. We can choose to live for God, too, because God loves me and God loves you! **Who loves you? God loves me.**"

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, a fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or 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 Jeremiah 31:3. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Tell the children to do what you say as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Tell them to do things like, hop, skip, and wave their hands in the air. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions; then encourage the children to help you make a list of their friends in the journal.

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! I want you to do what I say while we go to our Small Group spot. Here we go! *(Tell the children to do fun things like, hop, skip, and wave their hands in the air as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)* You did it! You did what I said! Now it's time to sit down 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, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did what God said. They lived for God, and they did not bow to the king's statue. Doing what God says is how we show God that we love Him. And we can always trust that what God says is best because God loves us. **God loves me**, and God loves you! **Who loves you? God loves me!**

"The Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that God says: 'I *(point up)* will always *(draw circles with finger pointing up)* love you!' *(cross arms over chest)* Jeremiah 31:3. *(Open hands like a book.)* That is such good news! God will always love us! Stand up with me and let's say God's words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'I *(point up)* will always *(draw circles with finger pointing up)* love you!' *(cross arms over chest)* Jeremiah 31:3. *(Open hands like a book.)* Now who's ready to say that by yourself? I know you can do it! Let's sit down and we can take turns. I have my stickers ready! *(Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)*

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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.*) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were friends. They helped each other live for God. When I say your name, I want you to tell me the name of one of your friends and I will write it in our journal. Then we can pray that our friends will live for God too." (*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 our friends' names! (*Hold up journal.*) Let's pray for our friends now. 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 always loving us. Thank You for teaching us that we can live for You. Please help (*say each child's name*) and our friends (*read the list you made*) do things like read the Bible, pray, talk about You to others, and love You so we can live for You. 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 the following activity as your preschoolers arrive. Let one teacher lead the activity while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

FOLLOW THE BUBBLES

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bubble machine
- Bubble solution

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.

GOD LOVES ME NECKLACE

[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:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- "God Loves Me Necklace" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- O-shaped cereal
- Yarn

- Paper plates
- Masking tape
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Baby wipes
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list cereal, and post at the door.
- Copy "God Loves Me Necklace" on cardstock and cut one per child.
- Punch a hole at the top of the heart and write each child's name on the back of their tag.
- Cut yarn in 36" lengths, one per child.
- For each child, wrap tape tightly around one end of the piece of yarn and tape the other end to each child's plate.
- Place a cutout and a handful of cereal on each plate.

SCOOP THEM OUT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Laundry basket or other plastic bin
- Ball-pit balls
- Painter's tape
- Plastic serving spoons
- *Optional: balled-up construction paper in place of ball-pit balls*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the balls in the container, and then attach the tape in a crisscross fashion over the top of the basket, leaving big enough openings for children to reach in with the spoons.



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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.)
- Reward 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 Jeremiah 31:3.

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_LittleRedWagon