



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JUNE 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 have joy  
when I do hard things.

**EZRA AND THE REBUILDING  
OF THE TEMPLE**  
EZRA 3:10-13

### 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.  
AMAZED

### 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.

Cup Building  
Jingle Joy   
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



### AMAZED

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Painter's tape, six large heart cutouts, one extra-large heart cutout, and a permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Create a large-scale maze on the floor with painter's tape. Write the Memory Verse on one

heart and tape it at the end of the maze. Write one word of the Memory Verse on the remaining hearts and place them in order throughout the maze. Tape to secure.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to walk with you through the maze. When you come to a heart, stop, tell the children what the heart says, and ask them to repeat what you say. When you get to the end of the maze, read the last heart, asking children to repeat and celebrate.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends! Come join me over here and walk this huge maze with me."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Follow me! Look! There's a heart on the floor! Let's stop and read what it says. (*Pause.*) This heart says 'A.' Say that with me, 'A.' Great job! Let's keep going! Wow! Another heart. Let's stop and read this one. This heart says: 'joyful.' Say that with me. 'Joyful.' Our first two hearts say: 'A joyful.'"

"Let's keep going and see if there are more hearts. We found another one! This heart says: 'heart.' Say 'heart' with me. 'Heart.' So far together, the words say: 'A joyful heart.' Let's walk to the next heart. (*Pause.*) This one says: 'is.' Hmm: 'A joyful heart is . . .' Say that with me. 'A joyful heart is.' I wonder what this next heart will say. 'Good!' That's what this heart says. 'A joyful heart is good.' Say that with me. 'A joyful heart is good.'"

"We have more maze to get through, let's go! Here's another heart. This one says: 'medicine.' Medicine? That's interesting! 'A joyful heart is good medicine.' Wait! Friends! That's our Memory Verse! Let's keep going and see what we find at the end. Whoa! It's a jumbo-size heart with the whole Memory Verse on it! I'll read it, then we'll say it together. 'A joyful heart is good medicine,' Proverbs 17:22! Hooray! We made it to the end and learned our Memory Verse! That was hard work, but we did it!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about some people who had joy in their hearts even when they were doing hard things! I can't wait to hear our story."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by encouraging children to make a heart shape with their fingers or hands as you repeat the Memory Verse.

### BIBLE STORY

I can have joy when I do hard things.

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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



## CUP BUILDING

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Cup People" and "Cup Note" Activity Pages, cardstock, paper party cups in a variety of colors, washable markers, scissors, clear tape, resealable gallon-size bags, and a permanent marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Cup People" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Copy "Cup Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their bag.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color their people cutouts. Help fold each one and tape. Give each child a set of five colorful cups to build and play with. Encourage the children to incorporate their people cutouts as they build. Review the Bible Story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line. Send the cups and people cutouts home in a bag with the note.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends! Come sit with me at the table. Today we're going to make a play set to help us review our story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Use the markers to color these people cutouts. (Pause.) Super! Now let's fold and tape them so they can stand. (Pause.) These cups can be your building blocks. In our story today, we heard about some of God's people who started rebuilding the temple that had been destroyed. Move and stack your cups. It was a hard job, but they got the first part rebuilt—hooray! They had SO much JOY! Dance your people around and keep building. (Pause.) Nice job! Put your cups and people in the bag to take home."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "We can be like the people who chose to celebrate in our Bible Story today. We can look at the good things God is doing and have joy! We can play music, sing songs to God, and say 'thank You' to God. We can have joy all the time. **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.**"

## BIBLE STORY

I can have joy when I do hard things.

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## MEMORY VERSE

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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



**JINGLE JOY\***

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster;" cardstock; jingle bells; clear, plastic cup or jar; baking soda; vinegar; bottle of water; plastic spoon; paper towels; measuring cups; measuring spoon; and plastic tablecloth

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list baking soda and vinegar, and post at the door. Place the tablecloth over the table. Measure out a cup of vinegar and two teaspoons of baking soda. Place all the items on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask several children to each put a bell in the glass. Fill the glass halfway with water and add the two teaspoons of baking soda. Ask a few children to take turns stirring the water. Pour in vinegar and ask children to watch and wait.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, let's experiment with these jingle bells!"  
(Ring or shake a few.)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "[Children's names], pick up one bell and place it in the glass. (Pause.) I'll add some water to the glass and some baking soda. [Child's name], will you take a turn and stir it up? (Pause.) Thank you. (Ask a few more children to help stir.) I'm going to add some vinegar, and I want you to watch to see what happens with the bells. (Pause.) Do you see it? Do you see the bells dancing? (Pause.) Wow! What happens if we add a little more vinegar? (Pause.) They are moving up and down doing a happy dance! That was really fun, friends!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "We can do a happy dance like the jingle bells and can have joy all the time. **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.**"

**BIBLE STORY**

I can have joy when I do hard things.

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**EZRA 3:10-13**

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

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**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:** "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 Proverbs 17:22. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead the children to pretend to hold a hammer and hammer things 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 children to help you make a list in the journal of things that are hard to do.

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

### BIBLE STORY

I can have joy  
when I do hard things.

**EZRA AND THE REBUILDING  
OF THE TEMPLE  
EZRA 3:10-13**

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### MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart  
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**PROVERBS 17:22, ESV**

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### KEY QUESTION

Who can have joy all the time?

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### BOTTOM LINE

I can have joy all the time.

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### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend to hammer things while we walk to our Small Group spot. Everyone, hold up your pretend hammer like this! (*Hold up your hand like you're holding a hammer.*) Great! Now every time I count to three, we'll stop and pretend to hammer something. Follow me! One, two, three! Stop and hammer! One, two, three! Stop and hammer! One, two . . . (*Continue doing this until you reach your Small Group spot.*) We did it! We hammered our way right to our Small Group spot! Now let's sit down so we can 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, God's people did something hard. What did they do? (*Pause.*) Yes, they rebuilt the temple. When they finished building the bottom of the temple, some of the people stopped and started celebrating! They played music and sang songs! They had joy even when doing something hard! We can have joy when we do hard things too, because we can have joy all the time! **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time!**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Now let's talk about the Bible verse we have been learning. 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.*) Did you hear that? Having JOY is like taking medicine that makes you feel better! Stand up with me, and let's say our 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.*) Great job! (*Two thumbs up.*) 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 things that are hard to do. I'll go first. I think [name of action] is a hard thing to do. (*Write your hard thing in the journal.*) There! Now, when I say your name, you can tell me something you think is hard to do 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:** "Thank you for making this list with me. We can 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, sometimes we have to do hard things, like (*read the list you and the children made*). I'm so glad we can have joy all the time, even when we do hard things, because You love us all the time. Help us remember how much You love us the next time we do something hard. It may even help us to sing a song to You while we do the hard thing! 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.*

#### AMAZED

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Painter's tape
- Six large heart cutouts
- One extra-large heart cutout
- Permanent marker

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Create a large-scale maze on the floor with painter's tape.
- Write the Memory Verse on one heart and tape it at the end of the maze.
- Write one word of the Memory Verse on the remaining hearts, and place them in order throughout the maze. Tape to secure.

### 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.*

### CUP BUILDING

#### [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:

- "Cup People" Activity Page
- "Cup Note" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Paper party cups in a variety of colors
- Washable markers
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Resealable gallon-size bags
- Permanent marker

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Cup People" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
- Copy "Cup Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their bag.

### JINGLE JOY\*

#### [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:

- \*"Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Jingle bells
- Clear, plastic cup or jar
- Baking soda
- Vinegar and Bottle of water
- Plastic spoon
- Paper towels
- Measuring cups
- Measuring spoon
- Plastic tablecloth

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list baking soda and vinegar, and post at the door.
- Place the tablecloth over the table.
- Measure out a cup of vinegar and two teaspoons of baking soda.
- Place all the items on the table.



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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](https://bit.ly/3B4Z71j).)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at [bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh](https://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 Proverbs 17:22. *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\\_StartTheParty\\_June](https://bit.ly/FL_StartTheParty_June)