



WEEK
THREE
JANUARY 2023

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' power is amazing.

CALMING THE STORM
MATTHEW 8:23-27,
MARK 4:35-41

MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone who heard him was amazed."

LUKE 2:47, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is amazing?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is amazing.

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.
Will It Sink or Float?

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways
"Amazing"
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.
Calm the Water
Stop and Go
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
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



WILL IT SINK OR FLOAT?

WHAT YOU NEED: Shallow, plastic container; water; foam meat trays; DUPLO® blocks; tablecloth; and paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay out the tablecloth on the table or floor. Place container on the tablecloth and fill it about half full with water. Put foam trays and blocks next to

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the container.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to put a foam tray or trays in the water and observe it floating. Add blocks to the tray(s), one by one, to see how many blocks the tray can hold before it sinks. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we'll hear a story about Jesus and His friends when they were on a boat and Jesus did something really amazing.

MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone who heard him was amazed."

LUKE 2:47, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, everyone! I'm so happy to see you today! Come join me at the table."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Take one of these trays and place it in the water. (Pause.) Look, it floats like a boat! Let's add one block at a time to see how many blocks it can hold and still float. I'll count as you add them. (Pause.) Whoa! The tray boat held [number] blocks before it sank. (Pull out the tray and blocks.) Let's try again! (Repeat as many times as desired.) That was amazing to see how many blocks we could add before it started to sink."

KEY QUESTION

Who is amazing?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "If you think that was amazing, Jesus' friends, the disciples, thought their boat was going to sink until He did something amazing in our story. I can't wait to hear what Jesus did!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is amazing.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by having children pretend to "float, float, float, swim." Repeat the pattern until you get to your designated spot.

BASIC TRUTH

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LARGE GROUP
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PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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MEMORY VERSE

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" paperclipped in Bible from Week 1; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Amazing," which is included in your monthly files; Optional Dance Moves videos for "Amazing," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com

WHAT YOU DO: Download all songs and have them ready to use.

LEADER: "Hey, friends! I'm SO glad to see you today. All month long, we've been hearing about Jesus and how AMAZING He is! Tell me, **who is amazing?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus is amazing.**"

Lead children in singing "Amazing," this month's worship song.

LEADER: "Jesus is SO amazing. He's the best friend ever. His love will never end! **Who is amazing?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**Jesus is amazing.**"

LEADER: "That's right! **Jesus is amazing!** Let's say our memory verse!"

LEADER AND CHILDREN: "'Everyone (arms out and around) who heard him (hands behind ears) was amazed (hands like binoculars, open and shut),' Luke 2:47." (Open hands like a book.)

LEADER: "You've got it! Jesus is amazing! Thanks for singing and dancing and praising God with me!"



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible; *Optional Story Images*

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I'm here to share a true story straight from the Bible!

Hold up the Bible for the children to see then lay it open on the floor in front of you.

"Today's true story is about someone who did something amazing! But before I tell you about it, let's practice our 'THAT'S AMAZING!' face! Because when you see something that's truly, incredibly amazing, your face does like this! (*Make a wide-eyed, open-mouthed face of wonder.*)

"Now it's your turn. Show me your 'THAT'S AMAZING!' face! (*Pause to look at their faces.*) Yes! That's it. Well, the person I want to tell you about today made a whole group of people make their 'THAT'S AMAZING!' face. It started in a boat at night with Jesus and His friends, the disciples.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)

"Who was there?"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus and the disciples."

LEADER: "Great listening, friends. Now, it was really late at night and Jesus wanted to take a rest. Let's all yawn and pretend to go to sleep.

Lead children to follow you as you yawn, stretch, and lay your head to the side on your hands with eyes closed. Then open your eyes and whisper . . .

(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)

"Good job, you can open your eyes now. It looks like Jesus went to sleep, too. (*normal voice*) But Jesus wasn't going to sleep for long because all of the sudden, it started to rain.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)

"Can you do this with me?"

Rub hands together to make it sound like rain.

"Then it rained harder. Do this with me! (*Start patting your legs.*) And harder! (*Pat legs harder and faster.*) And harder! And it was SO windy! Everyone, say, 'Whoosh, whoosh' for the wind."

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Whoosh, whoosh!"

LEADER: "Then the waves got bigger and bigger! Can you rock back and forth like we're on a boat?"

Lead the children to rock back and forth with you.



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10 MINUTES

"This made Jesus' friends afraid. So, they woke up Jesus. And this is what Jesus did. He held out his arms. (*Hold out your arms.*) And Jesus said two words—just two—to the big storm. Do you know what Jesus said? Jesus said, 'BE STILL.'

Put your arms down and pause for two seconds.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)

"And the storm . . . stopped. The wind and the waves and all that rain . . . stopped.

Make a wide-eyed, open-mouthed face of wonder then whisper . . .

"What? That's AMAZING! (*normal voice*) Everyone, make your 'THAT'S AMAZING!' face. (*Pause.*) Yes, it WAS amazing. And Jesus' friends were amazed, too. Jesus is SO amazing, and He is SO powerful that He can stop a storm! Only Jesus can do that. He is totally amazing. **Who is amazing?"**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus is amazing!"

LEADER: "He sure is! Let's bow our heads and talk to God."

PRAYER

LEADER: "God, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. He is SO amazing that He could stop a great big storm with just two words! Jesus is amazing and so powerful. Thank You for Jesus, and it's in His name we pray, amen.

"Friends, you are the best! I'll see you next time. Bye!"



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



CALM THE WATER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Waves" and "Boat" Activity Pages; cardstock; craft sticks; washable markers; masking tape; utility knife; scissors; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Waves" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy "Boat" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their "Waves" page.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have children color the waves on their paper. Color the boat and tape it to one end of a craft stick. Slide the boat into the slit on their paper and show them how to rock it back and forth. Let children use their craft as your review the story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit at the table with me. What an AMAZING story we heard today! Let's make a picture that will help us remember how amazing Jesus is."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Color the waves on your paper and your boat. (Pause.) Great job! Now tape your boat to the end of the craft stick. (Help children slide craft sticks through the slits.) Move the craft stick back and forth and that will move your boat along the waves! (Pause.) Okay, let's use your pictures to help retell our Bible story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today's true story from the Bible started in a boat at night with Jesus and His friends, the disciples. It was really late at night and Jesus wanted to take a rest. But suddenly, it started to rain. Then it rained harder and harder! It got really windy, and the waves got bigger and bigger. The boat rocked back and forth. Friends, rock your boat back and forth. (Pause.)

"This made Jesus' friends afraid. So they woke Jesus up, and this is what Jesus did. He held out His arms and said two words to the storm. He said, "BE. STILL." And the storm stopped! The wind and the rain and the waves all stopped. And the boat stopped. Freeze your boats. (Pause.) AMAZING. Jesus is so amazing, and He is so powerful that He can stop a storm! Only Jesus can do that. He is totally amazing! **Who is amazing? Jesus is amazing.**"

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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



STOP AND GO

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Red and green construction paper and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape a line on the floor on one side of the room.

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DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have children line up on the tape line. Leader stands on the opposite side of the room. When the leader holds up the green paper, children move forward. When the leader holds up the red paper, children stop. If a child moves when the leader holds up the red paper, they go back to the tape line and start again. Continue until the first child gets to the leader then the game starts again. Repeat as many times as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

MEMORY VERSE

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WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand on this tape line. I have a game for us to play where you have to pay attention to these pieces of paper. I have a red paper and a green paper. What do you think the green paper means? (Pause.) Yes! Green means 'Go!' What does the red paper mean? (Pause.) Stop! That's right."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'll stand all the way over there. And you need to get to me, but you can only move when I hold up the green paper. If I hold up the red paper, you have to stop. Are you ready? (Hold up the green paper.) Walk, don't run. (Hold up the red paper.) Red means 'Stop.' (Continue until a child reaches you.) Wow! Great job! Now go back to the starting line, and let's play again. (Repeat as desired.) You did a great job of watching when to stop and go."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus is so amazing that when the disciples were afraid of the storm, Jesus held out His arms and said two words to the storm. He said, "BE. STILL." And the storm stopped! The wind and the rain and the waves all stopped. AMAZING. Jesus is so amazing, and He is so powerful that He can stop a storm! Only Jesus can do that. He is totally amazing! **Who is amazing? Jesus is amazing.**"

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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" from Week 1 paperclipped in Bible; journal; and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Talk about today's Bible Story, say the memory verse, and make a list of things that make us feel afraid.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend we're rocking in a boat while we walk to our Small Group spot. Let's climb in our boat. *(Encourage the children to step with you as if getting in a boat.)* Now rock side-to-side like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Follow me! *(Rock side-to-side like you're in a boat as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)*

"We're here! Everyone, get out of the boat. *(Step as if getting out of a boat.)* Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!" *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)*

DURING THE ACTIVITY:

SGL: "In our Bible story today, we heard about something amazing that Jesus did. Do you remember what Jesus did? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus stopped a storm while He and His disciples were in a boat! Only Jesus has the power to stop storms. **Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing?"**

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**Jesus is amazing!**"

SGL: "That's right! **Jesus is amazing!** And the Bible verse we've been learning says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)* 'Everyone who heard him was amazed,' Luke 2:47. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

"I know the disciples were amazed when they heard Jesus tell the storm to stop and it stopped! Let's stand up and say those words together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'Everyone *(arms out and around)* who heard him *(hands behind ears)* was amazed *(hands like binoculars, open and shut),'* Luke 2:47." *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

SGL: "Way to go! (Give high fives.)"

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) Today, we'll make a list of things that make us afraid. The storm made the disciples afraid when they were in a boat. When I say your name, tell me one thing that makes you afraid, and I'll write it by your name in our prayer journal. (*Say each child's name and write down what they say beside their names in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)"

"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.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY:

SGL: "Dear God, we believe that Jesus' power is amazing. Help (*say each child's name*) remember to go to Jesus when they are afraid of things like . . . (*read the list the children made*). We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."