



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### 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.

- Sticky Star
- Shape Sorting
- Shining Stars 

### LARGE GROUP

20  
MIN

#### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"You Love Me" and "Follow On"

- 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.

- Expanding Star
- Shine Like Stars
- Ways to Shine Brainstorm
- Make It to the Star!
- You're a Star
- 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.



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

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



#### 1. STICKY STAR

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Clear Con-Tact® paper, scissors, painter's tape, ball pit balls, chisel tip permanent marker, and plastic bin

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Cut a large square of Con-Tact paper and draw a large star with a thick outline on the Con-Tact paper. Remove the backing and lay the Con-Tact paper on the floor, sticky side up. Tape the edges of the Con-Tact paper to the floor. Create a starting line by placing a straight line of tape on the floor about two feet from the Con-Tact paper. Set the bin of ball pit balls next to the line. Ask children to line up behind the tape line.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to take turns rolling a ball so that it stops inside the star drawn on the Con-Tact paper. Repeat until every child has a turn and the star is filled with the ball pit balls.

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

### BIBLE STORY

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

**SHINE LIKE THE STARS**  
**PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come line up here behind this piece of tape. There is a big star drawn on this piece of sticky paper over here. Let's play a game together with these balls and the star."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "[Child's name], take one ball from the bin and roll it to the star. (Pause.) Yay! You rolled the ball onto the star! Great job. [Child's name], your turn! (Pause.) Oh, you almost made it onto the star. Great try, friend. (Continue with each child.) That was so much fun playing the star game!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible Story today, we're going to learn how WE can shine like stars! Come with me, and let's find out how we can shine!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" with the motions as you travel.

### 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.



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**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
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-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



### 2. SHAPE SORTING

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Shape sorter blocks (including a heart and star), butcher paper, washable markers, and masking tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Cover a table with butcher paper and secure the edges with the masking tape. Lay out the

shape-sorter blocks on the butcher paper and use washable markers to trace each shape. Make sure you trace a heart and a star. Trace at least one item per child. Place the shape sorter blocks on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Point out the drawn shapes on the butcher paper and lead children to sort through the blocks to find the matching shape. Once all shapes have been matched, lead them to point to the star and the heart.

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

### BIBLE STORY

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

**SHINE LIKE THE STARS**  
**PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come gather around the table."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at all these shapes on the paper! What shapes do you see? (Pause.) Great job! Look, these blocks are the same shapes as the drawings on the paper! Let's match a block with its shape! You can set the block right on top. Ready? Let's match! You found the circle! Great job. Does anyone see a heart? Oh, there it is. Way to go! What about a star? Yep. There it is! Keep going until we've made all the matches. (Pause.) Great job, friends! You matched up all the shapes! Everyone, point to the heart! Great. Now point to the star! (Pause.) Super-duper!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible Story today, we'll learn how we can love others and shine like stars. Let's go!"

### MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

**MATTHEW 5:16, NIV**

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by calling out, "Heart!" or "Star!" as the children travel. When you say, "Star!" lead the children to make twinkle fingers. When you say, "Heart!" lead the children to put their hands together to make a heart outline.

### 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.



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**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

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



### 3. SHINING STARS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Allergy Alert Poster,” cardstock, medium plastic bin, baby wipes, blue- or black-dyed rice, small uncooked pasta stars, small cups, toy shovels, and plastic spoons. Optional: raw white rice, gallon-size resealable bags, blue or black food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and an airtight storage container

### BIBLE STORY

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

**SHINE LIKE THE STARS**  
**PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16**

*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.

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy “Allergy Alert Poster” on cardstock, list the items, and post at the door. Pour the rice and pasta into the bin. Mix them together gently with hands.

### MEMORY VERSE

“Let your light shine.”

**MATTHEW 5:16, NIV**

*Option:* Make blue or black rice if you do not already have this colored rice from previous activities. Divide rice into bags and add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice out on wax paper to dry, one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour rice into container. Save for future use.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to use the cups, shovels, and spoons to scoop and pour the rice and stars.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Clean hands if needed and introduce the Bible Story.

### KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** “Friends, come join me at the table. Look at the bin we get to explore today! It looks like the night sky! Look at all of the stars!”

### BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “Let’s use these cups, shovels, and spoons to scoop and pour the stars! (Pause.) Nice job! There are so many stars, just like in the sky at night! What do stars do? (Pause.) They SHINE! That’s right!”

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Today in our Bible Story we will hear about all the ways we can shine too!”

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by calling out, “Shine!” and encouraging children to open and close hands to mimic a twinkling star. Then call out, “Stop” and wait for children to put their hands down.



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**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

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



**1. EXPANDING STAR**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic tablecloth or butcher paper, small plastic plates, plastic punch cups, toothpicks, water, and eyedroppers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Before children arrive, bend toothpicks in half until they break, but only halfway through, five toothpicks per child. Prepare a toothpick star on plates by laying five toothpicks in the shape of a star with the ends of the toothpicks touching to create the outer points and the half-broken corners touching in the center. There should be very little space in the middle of each star. See an example on our Pinterest board (<https://pin.it/5e72osE>). Cover the table with a tablecloth. Set a prepared plate at each spot at the table. Fill the eyedroppers with water and set them on the table.

Review the verse and motions together. Then lead the children to find a spot at the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Point out the star shape on each plate; then encourage children to use the eyedropper to carefully drop water onto the center of the toothpick star as you repeat the Memory Verse together. When finished, gather all the toothpicks and eyedroppers and place them out of children’s reach.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** “Friends, we’ve been learning a fun Memory Verse this month! Let’s do the motions as we say it together. ‘Let (*move flat hands forward from your hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine!’ (*twinkling hands moving out*). Matthew 5:16 (*Open hands like a book*) Great job! Now find a spot at the table.”

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “Do you see the star in the center of the plate? What do you think will happen if we add a little bit of water to the plate? (*Pause.*) Pick up the eyedropper and drop one drop of water right onto the center of the star. (*Pause.*) Great job! Let’s keep dropping water and watch what happens as we say our Memory Verse together. ‘Let your light shine.’ Matthew 5:16. (*Repeat.*) Wow! What happened to your star? (*Pause.*) It moved! How cool to see the stars move!”

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Our Memory Verse tells us to ‘Let your light shine.’ We can shine our lights by sharing, by being kind, by helping, and by loving others! We can shine our lights by doing what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**”

**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.



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-OLDS

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



**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.

**2. SHINE LIKE STARS**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Stars” and “Blank Stars” Activity Pages, yellow cardstock, scissors, painter’s tape, black or blue butcher paper, permanent marker, and glitter pens

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy “Stars” on yellow cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group. Copy “Blank Stars” on yellow cardstock and cut one per child. Tape a piece of black or blue butcher paper to the wall at the children’s eye level. Gather the children to sit with you in front of the butcher paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Read the “Stars” cutouts to the children. After reading each star, ask the children if the person complained and argued or chose to have a happy heart. If the person complained or argued, set that star aside. If they did not complain or argue, tape that star to the butcher paper so it can shine like the stars in the sky. After all the stars are on the paper, write each child’s name on a blank star and tape it to the paper. Allow the children to use glitter pens to decorate their star.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to stand in front of the stars and hold up their twinkling fingers like stars while you review the Bottom Line together.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** “This big piece of paper reminds me of the night sky. Sit with me in front of it and we’ll add shining stars to it!”

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** “In our Bible Story today, we learned that when we do things without complaining or arguing, we shine like the stars in the sky! I’m going to read these stars to you. If the person complains or argues, the star does not go in the sky. If the person has a happy heart and does not complain or argue, the star will go in the sky to shine! Ready? (Pick up a star.) This star says a boy said, “Thank you” for his food. Did he complain or have a happy heart? (Pause.) That’s right! He had a happy heart, so this star gets to shine in the sky. (Tape the star to the sky.) Let’s read this star. (Pick up a star.) This one says a girl argued with her sister over a toy. Did she have a happy heart, or did she complain? (Pause.) She complained! So this star doesn’t get to shine in the sky. (Continue with the rest of the stars.) I have more stars for us to add to the sky. This one says [child’s name] and this one says [child’s name]. (Write each child’s name on their star and hand it to them.) Decorate your star with these glittery pens. (Pause.) They are beautiful! (Put a tape roll on the back of each star.) Add your star to the sky. (Pause.) Beautiful!”

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “Come stand in front of the starry sky. Now hold up your fingers and twinkle them like stars. (Demonstrate.) When we do what Jesus says, we shine like the stars! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**”



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-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



### 3. WAYS TO SHINE BRAINSTORM [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Butcher paper and a marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Write "Ways to Shine" across the top of the butcher paper and lay it on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask the children to list different ways they can shine by doing what Jesus says. Write children's answers in large block letters on the paper. Give prompts as needed if children get stuck (*help, share toys, choose to be kind, give a hug or high five, etc.*). After you've filled the page, point each one out as you review the answers.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come gather around the table with me."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We've been learning that when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light. Can you name some ways you can shine your light? Raise your hands and I'll call on you one at a time and write down your answers. I'll get us started. We can shine our lights by being kind! [Child's name], how can you shine your light? (*Pause.*) Great answer! (*Write their answer.*) [Child's name], how can you shine your light? (*Continue with each child.*) What an awesome list! We shine our light by (*read answers from the list.*)"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "These are all ways we can shine our lights by doing what Jesus says! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!** One more time! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"

### 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.



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**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
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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



**4. MAKE IT TO THE STAR!**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large star cutout, construction paper, and painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Tape the star to a wall at the children's eye level. Lay six to eight pieces of construction

paper on the floor in a serpentine path leading to the star cutout on the wall. Secure each piece of paper to the floor with tape.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children at the end of the construction paper path. Place the children in groups of two or three. List different scenarios, moving the children forward or backward in their groups along the path until they reach the star. When a group reaches the star, lead them to say, "Shine!"

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

**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 SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, do you see the star over there on the wall? Let's play a game to get to the star!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone, line up here in front of the path. Let's play our game together in groups of friends. (Put children in groups of two or three.) I'll read some examples of shining or not shining your light and tell you how many spots to move. We'll keep playing until we reach the star! When you get to the star, I want you to say, 'Shine!' What will you say? (Pause.) 'Shine!' You've got it. Let's play.

- You shared your toy. Move forward three spaces.
- You were kind to your brother. Move forward three spaces.
- You hugged a friend. Move forward three spaces.
- You didn't share with your friend. Move back one space.
- You got mad and yelled at your brother. Move back one space.
- You remembered to say, "Thank you." Move forward three spaces.
- You helped clean up the toys. Move forward three spaces.
- You left your toys all over the floor in a big mess. Move back one space.
- You were unkind to a friend. Move back one space.
- You didn't say, "Thank you." Move back one space.
- You chose not to complain. Move forward three spaces.
- You wanted to get mad, but you didn't. Move forward three spaces.
- You argued with your sister. Move back one space.
- You told your sister you were sorry. Move forward two spaces.





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**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

“We all reached the star! There are so many ways we can shine! When we help, when we are kind, when we don’t argue or complain, then we shine like stars!”

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** “When we do what Jesus says, we SHINE. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says! Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.**”



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

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



**5. YOU'RE A STAR**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "You're a Star" Activity Page, cardstock, washable markers or dot markers, metallic or glitter crayons, star stickers, star stamps, yellow washable ink pads, yellow tissue squares, glue sticks, scissors, craft sticks, masking tape, and a permanent marker

**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 "You're a Star" on cardstock and cut one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to use the supplies to decorate the side of their star with no writing and make it shine. Help attach the star to the craft stick and encourage children to use their star as you review the Bottom Line.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit at the table with me. Today, we heard how we can shine like the stars. Let's make our very own beautiful star to help us remember that we shine when we do what Jesus says."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at all these fun supplies I have for you to use! Decorate the side with no words on it. (Pause.) Wow! Your stars are amazing! And they are all so wonderfully different! Turn it over and let's add a craft stick so it's easier for you to hold. (Help tape the craft stick to the back of each child's star.) When I say shine, I want you to hold your stars way up high. Ready? Shine! (Pause.) Look around at all these bright stars! Stars down. This time, when I say your name, hold up your star and say a kind word, like, 'Please,' 'Thank you,' or 'I love you.' [Child's name], hold up your star and say a kind word. (Pause.) Nice! Put your star down. (Continue with each child.) When we do what Jesus says, we shine like the stars!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "**Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.** Now you can take your stars home, do what Jesus says, and shine like the stars with your family! Tell me one more time, **who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.**"



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**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO REFLECT**  
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



**6. 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.

**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.

**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!

**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!"

"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.*)

**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.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (6. 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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## 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 one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.*

#### 1. STICKY STAR

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Clear Con-Tact® paper
- Scissors
- Painter's tape
- Ball pit balls
- Chisel tip permanent marker
- Plastic bin

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Cut a large square of contact paper and draw a large star with a thick outline on the Con-Tact paper.
- Remove the backing and lay the Con-Tact on the floor, sticky side up.
- Tape the edges of the contact paper to the floor.
- Create a starting line by placing a straight line of tape on the floor about two feet from the Con-Tact paper.
- Set the bin of ball-pit balls next to the line.

#### 2. SHAPE SORTING

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Shape sorter blocks, including a heart and star
- Butcher paper
- Washable markers
- Masking tape

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover a table with butcher paper and secure the edges

with masking tape.

- Lay out the shape-sorter blocks on the butcher paper and use washable markers to trace each shape. Trace at least one item per child.
- Make sure you trace a heart and a star.
- Place the shape-sorter blocks on the table.

#### 3. SHINING STARS\*

**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
- Medium plastic bin
- Baby wipes
- Blue- or black-dyed rice
- Small uncooked pasta stars
- Small cups
- Toy shovels
- Plastic spoons
- *Optional: raw white rice, gallon-size resealable bags, blue or black food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and air-tight storage container*

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list the items, and post at the door.
- Pour the rice and pasta into the bin. Mix them together gently with your hand.
- *Option: Make blue or black rice if you do not already have colored rice from previous activities. Divide rice into bags; add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice out on wax paper to dry, one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour rice into container. Save for future use.*



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## GETTING READY

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### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line 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.

#### 1. EXPANDING STAR

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic tablecloth or butcher paper
- Small plastic plates
- Plastic punch cups
- Toothpicks, five per child
- Water
- Eyedroppers

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Before children arrive, bend toothpicks in half until they break, but only halfway through, five toothpicks per child.
- Prepare a toothpick star on plates by laying five toothpicks in the shape of a star with the ends of the toothpicks touching to create the outer points and the half-broken corners touching in the center. There should be very little empty space in the middle of each star. See our Pinterest board (<https://pin.it/5e72osE>) for an example.
- Cover the table with a tablecloth.
- Set a prepared plate at each spot at the table.
- Fill the eyedroppers with water and set them on the table.

#### 2. SHINE LIKE STARS

[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:

- "Stars" Activity Page
- "Blank Stars" Activity Page
- Yellow cardstock
- Scissors
- Painter's tape
- Black or blue butcher paper
- Permanent marker
- Glitter pens

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Stars" on yellow cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Copy "Blank Stars" on yellow cardstock and cut one per child.
- Tape a piece of black or blue butcher paper to the wall at the children's eye level.

#### 3. WAYS TO SHINE BRAINSTORM

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Think:** An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- Markers

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Write "Ways to Shine" along the top of the butcher paper in big block letters.



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### 4. MAKE IT TO THE STAR!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Large star cutout
- Construction paper, six to eight pieces per Small Group
- Painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Tape the star to a focal wall at the child's eye level.
- Lay six to eight pieces of construction paper on the floor in a serpentine path leading to the star cutout on the wall.
- Secure each piece of paper to the floor with tape.

### 5. YOU'RE A STAR

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Create:** an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "You're a Star" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable markers or dot markers
- Metallic or glitter crayons
- Star stickers
- Star stamps
- Yellow washable ink pads
- Yellow tissue squares
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Craft sticks
- Masking tape
- Permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "You're a Star" on cardstock and cut one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

### 6. 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](http://bit.ly/3B4Z71j).)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at [bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh](http://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](http://bit.ly/FL_Shine)