3-5 YEAR -OLDS

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

## MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

### KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

### BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## 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.

Light Bright Toss

Love People

Teach Me

## **LARGE GROUP**

20 MIN WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Be a Light" and "Made Us Wonderful" Bible Story Prayer

## **SMALL GROUP**

**25** 

## **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

When We Love Like Jesus . . .

Hearts for Everyone Important Things Loving Like Jesus Love Glasses Journal and Prayer

## **HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home Memory Verse Card Parent Cue Card (print or email) Parent Cue App

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

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

#### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

#### KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



#### 1. LIGHT BRIGHT TOSS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bottles of water, glow sticks, heart-shaped paper plates, and scissors

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Remove the labels from the bottles of water, and pour out a small amount of water from

each bottle. Cut a large circle out of the middle of each heart-shaped plate. Set up the bottles of water in a pyramid pattern on the floor. Just before the activity, activate two to three glow sticks per bottle. Then, put them into each bottle, and secure the lids.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to take turns tossing the hearts onto the water bottles.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's play a fun game of ring toss! Instead of rings, we have these fun heart-shaped plates to use. Hearts make me think of love! Come line up behind me!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Wow! Those water bottles are glowing—they are so bright! Let's take turns tossing the hearts to try and get them around those bright bottles of water. [Child's name], here is a heart! Toss it and see if you can get it on a bright bottle. (Pause.) Wow, you did it/good try! Let's let our friend [child's name] have a turn. (Continue with each child. Repeat as desired.) It was fun playing with you today and tossing the hearts at those bright bottles of water."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our Bible Story today is about love and water! Wow, I can't wait to hear all about it!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by giving high fives and saying, "Good game!" as the children line up.

3-5 YEAR -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

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

#### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

#### KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



#### 2. LOVE PEOPLE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic heart-shaped bowls, clothespins, 2" people cutouts, and double-sided tape; Optional: Smiley-face stickers in place of people cutouts and tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Tape a people cutout on the end of each clothespin. Place a handful or more clothespins in each bowl, and set the bowls at the table.

Option: Place a smiley-face sticker at the end of each clothespin.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to work together to clip the people around the edge of each bowl. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, friends! It's wonderful to see everyone today! Come sit at the table with me."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's work together and clip the people all around these fun heart-shaped bowls. (*Pause.*) What do hearts remind you of? Hearts make me think of love! Big hearts, big love! Look at all the people we are bringing love to. Keep going until we add them all. (*Pause.*) Hooray! You did it!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear how Jesus wants us to love others."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by calling a child's name, making a hand or finger heart, and pretending to throw it to them to catch and put in their pocket. Repeat with each child. Say: "[Child's name], I'm sending you some love. (Make the finger/hand heart and toss it their way.) Here it comes! Catch it, and put it in your pocket."

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

**WORSHIP** 

**STORY** 

**GROUPS** 

**HOME** 

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning



Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

#### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

#### KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



#### 3. TEACH ME

**WHAT YOU NEED:** White butcher paper, washable markers, and painter's tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Tape a piece of butcher paper on the wall at child's height. Cover table(s) with butcher paper, and tape to secure. Place markers on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children one at a time to come up to the paper and teach the class how to write a letter, number, or draw a shape. Encourage the child to discuss and teach everyone as they try to write/draw the shape on the table. Continue with each child. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, I love to learn new things! I bet you are amazing teachers! Let's play teacher and learn new things! Come sit at the table, and let's learn!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "[Child's name], come up here with me. Will you teach us how to write a letter or number? Or, you can teach us how to draw a shape! But just one. Let's listen closely so that we know what to do! (Allow child to write on the paper while encouraging them to give instructions.) Great job! Okay friends at the table, pick up a marker, and write/draw what [child's name] taught us. (Pause.) Fantastic! Thank you for teaching us how to make a [letter/number/shape]. You may sit at the table, and we'll let another friend come up and teach us. (Continue with each child.) You are such amazing teachers and listeners! Look at all the things you learned today!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Did you know that we learn new things every time we listen to a Bible Story? WE DO! Are you ready to learn something new today? I can't wait to find out what our Bible Story will teach us!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by asking the children to pretend to write/draw different things on an imaginary board as they walk.

**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



# 1. WHEN WE LOVE LIKE JESUS ... [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to stand in a circle with you. Review the Memory Verse and motions together.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Select a child to stand in the center of the circle. Lead the children in a version of "Ring Around the Rosie" with the words of the Memory Verse. Include the child's name who is standing in the center. Continue with each child.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Say the Memory Verse with the motions one more time, and then review the Bottom Line.

## MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14. NIRV** 

## WHAT YOU SAY:

was so fun!"

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come stand in a circle with me. We've been learning a great verse from the Bible this month. Let's say it together. 'You (point to others) are the light (twinkle fingers) of the world,' (make a circle with your arms) Matthew 5:14. (Open hands like a book.) Great job!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, I have a fun game for us to play while we say our verse. [Child's name], come stand in the center of the circle. Okay, everyone in the circle, hold hands and walk this way.

(Start walking slowly and sing the following to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie.")

"When [child's name] loves like Jesus, When [child's name] loves like Jesus, she/he is, she/he is, the light of the world.

"Great job! Everyone, freeze and drop hands. Now, [child's name] come join the circle and [child's name] go stand in the center. (Continue with each child.) That

## KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say our verse one more time with the motions. 'You (point to others) are the light (twinkle fingers) of the world,' (make a circle with your arms) Matthew 5:14. (Open hands like a book.) Super-duper! Friends, you are a bright light when you love like Jesus. Jesus loves everyone and we can too! Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!"



SMALL GROUP

S-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

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

## KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



# 2. HEARTS FOR EVERYONE [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Hearts for Everyone" Activity Page, cardstock, self-inking heart stamps, baby wipes, and a permanent marker; *Optional: Crayons* 

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Hearts for Everyone" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child "Hearts for Everyone" and a heart stamp. Encourage children to put a heart on each picture as you review that part of the story. Optional: If desired, children can color their pictures if using the black and white version of "Hearts for Everyone."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Come sit at the table with me. I have something for us to do together."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "First, you'll need this page, and a heart stamp. (Give each child the "Hearts for Everyone" Activity Page with their name on it and a heart stamp.) I love hearts because they remind me of love! And a heart stamp lets us put lots of love on our papers.

"Look at your paper, and put your finger on the picture of Jesus and the children. (Pause.) Jesus told His disciples to let the children come to Him. Let's put a heart on Jesus and the children with our heart stamp because Jesus loves children. (Pause.)

"Now, put your finger on the picture of Jesus and Zacchaeus eating at Zacchaeus' house. (*Pause*.) Zacchaeus made a lot of bad choices, but Jesus still wanted to be his friend. Let's put hearts on Jesus and Zacchaeus with our heart stamp because Jesus loves us no matter what. (*Pause*.)

"Okay, put your finger on the last picture. (*Pause*.) This is a picture of Jesus and the woman at the well. Jesus loved the woman even though people in her town and people in Jesus' town were not friends. Let's put hearts on Jesus and the woman with our heart stamp because Jesus wants to be everyone's friend forever!" (*Pause*.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's look at all the love on your paper. Jesus loves children. Jesus loves people even if they make bad choices. Jesus loves everyone—no matter where we live. Jesus loves everyone! And Jesus said the most important thing WE can do is to love like Him. I can love like Jesus, and YOU can love like Jesus! Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!"



3-5 YEAR -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

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

#### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

## KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



## 3. IMPORTANT THINGS [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Butcher paper, and red and black washable markers

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place a piece of butcher paper on the table. Ask children to join you around the table.

do. Write down their answers on the butcher paper with the black marker as they share them. Explain that Jesus said that love is the most important thing. Use a red marker to draw a large heart around and over the list the children made.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make a list of important things. Can you name some important things? I'll write down your answers. (Encourage the children with examples as needed, like helping others, listening, being a good friend, etc.) Wow! What a great list you made! These are all important things! But do you remember what Jesus said the MOST important thing to do is? (Pause.) That's right! Jesus said the most important thing for us to do is to love people the way He loves us! (Draw a thick, large heart over their answers with the red marker.) This heart means love! So, when we (read some or all of the list), we are loving like Jesus!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "When we love everyone the way Jesus loves us, we are doing the most important thing Jesus taught us to do: Love like Jesus! Jesus loves everyone, and we can too! Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!"

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

**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

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

#### KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



## 4. LOVING LIKE JESUS [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Loving Like Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, painter's tape, and heart stickers

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Loving Like Jesus" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Tape each picture to

different areas of the room at child's height.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child three heart stickers. Encourage them to love like Jesus by going to the different parts of the story and placing a heart sticker on each of the images.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a heart sticker, and review the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come stand with me! I have an activity for us to spread some love today."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I'm going to give you three heart stickers. What do hearts make us think of? (*Pause.*) LOVE! That's right! These heart stickers are the love that we are going to spread to the pictures from our Bible Story today.

"First, we heard how Jesus LOVES children. Jesus told the disciples to let the children to come to Him. Let's go find the picture of Jesus and the children. (Pause.) Yay, you found it! Put one of your stickers on the picture to add some love. (Pause.) Jesus loves children, Jesus loves everyone, and we can too!

"We also heard about Zacchaeus in our Bible Story. Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had made bad choices. Let's go find the picture of Jesus and Zacchaeus and put some love on that picture. (*Pause*.) Jesus loves people even when they make bad choices, and we can too!

"Then we heard about the woman at the well. She lived in a different town than Jesus and the people in her town didn't get along with the people from Jesus' town. But Jesus loved her no matter where she lived. Put some love on the picture of Jesus and the woman at the well. (*Pause*.) Jesus loved the woman! Jesus loves everyone—no matter where they live, and we can too!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! Look at all the love you spread to each of the pictures from our story! You did a great job loving like Jesus! I want to spread some love too! I have a heart sticker for each of you to wear home today. (Give each child a sticker.) Tell me friends: Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus! One more time! Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus! Great job!"



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

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

#### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

#### KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



## 5. LOVE GLASSES [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Love Glasses" Activity Page, cardstock, washable markers, clear tape, scissors, and a permanent marker; *Optional: Laminate pouches* 

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Love Glasses" on

cardstock and cut on dotted lines, one set per child. Write each child's name on a leg of their glasses. Assemble a set of glasses by taping the legs to each side for each child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to decorate their glasses and wear them as you review the Bible Story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit with me at the table. I have a fun way for us to remember today's Bible Story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We have glasses to make and wear! What fun shape are your glasses? (*Pause.*) Yes! They're shaped like hearts! And hearts make us think of LOVE! Use the markers to decorate your glasses. (*Pause.*) Awesome! (Option: Laminate each child's pair of glasses and cut out. Bend the legs at the fold line on either side.)

"Let's put our glasses on and review the stories we heard about today. (*Pause*.) Jesus said the most important thing for us to do is LOVE each other the way He loves us! Jesus showed us how to love like Him, and we can read about it in the Bible. In our story today, we heard a few stories of how Jesus loved others. Like when Jesus was teaching one day, some children wanted to see Him, but the disciples told the children to go away. Jesus said: 'Let the little children come to me' (*Luke 18:16, NIrV*). Jesus loved the children! Jesus loves everyone! We can love like Jesus and love everyone too!

"Another story is when Jesus loved Zacchaeus even when Zacchaeus made bad choices. When Zacchaeus didn't have any friends, Jesus was his friend. Jesus loved Zacchaeus and went to his house for dinner—He wanted to help Zacchaeus love others. Jesus loves everyone, even when they make bad choices. We can love like Jesus and love everyone too!



3-5 YEAR -OLDS

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

**WORSHIP** 

**STORY** 

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

"The story of the woman at the well is another story of how Jesus loves everyone. Jesus asked a woman at the well for a drink of water. The woman was surprised when Jesus spoke to her because she was from a different town than Him. The people from her town did not get along with the people from Jesus' town. But Jesus loved the woman! Jesus loves everyone—no matter where they live. Jesus loves everyone. We can love like Jesus and love everyone too!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, when we love everyone the way Jesus loves us, we are doing the most important thing Jesus taught us to do—love like Jesus! You can love like Jesus, and I can love like Jesus. Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!"



SMALL GROUP

S-5 YEAR
-OLDS

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus said to love one another.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMAND JOHN 4:1-30, 13:34-35; LUKE 18:15-16, 19:1-10

#### MEMORY VERSE

"You are the light of the world."

**MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV** 

#### KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

## BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



## 6. 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

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

#### 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 Matthew 5:14. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

Tell the children to give themselves a big hug as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of how Jesus shows that He loves us.

**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're going to give ourselves a big hug, while we walk to our Small Group spot. Give yourself a big hug and follow me! (Hug yourself as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Here we are! Now, let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

"In our Bible Story today, we learned something very important that Jesus wants us to do. Jesus said He wants us to love (hug yourself) people the way He loves (hug yourself) us! That means I can love like Jesus, and YOU can love like Jesus! Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus! And when we love like Jesus, we are a bright light that helps everyone see Jesus! That's why we are learning the verse where Jesus said, 'You (point to others) are the light (twinkle fingers) of the world,' (make a circle with your arms) Matthew 5:14. (Open hands like a book.) Let's stand up and say Jesus' words together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'You (point to others) are the light (twinkle fingers) of the world,' (make a circle with your arms) Matthew 5:14." (Open hands like a book.)



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**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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**HOME** 

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

"You sound so good! Way to go! (Give children high fives.) 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 how Jesus shows that He loves us. When I say your name, tell me one way Jesus showed that He loves people, and I will write it by your name." (Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters. Be ready to help children think of things like prays for us, listens to us, is a good friend, forgives us, helps us, died for us, lives for us, is kind, is patient, etc.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! Jesus loves us in so many ways! (Hold up journal.) 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 show us how to love others by first loving us. Thank You for how Jesus (read the list the children made). Jesus loves us no matter what! Please help (say each child's name) and me to love others the way Jesus loves us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

**STORY** 

**GROUPS** 

**HOME** 

## **GETTING READY**

## HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

# SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader areats parents and children at the door.

### 1. LIGHT BRIGHT TOSS

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

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- · Bottles of water
- Glow sticks
- Heart-shaped paper plates
- Scissors

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Remove the labels from the bottles of water, and pour out a small amount of water.
- Cut a large circle out of the middle of each heartshaped plate.
- Set up the bottles of water in a pyramid pattern on the floor.
- Just before the activity, activate two to three glow sticks per bottle, put them into each bottle, and secure the lids.

#### 2. LOVE PEOPLE

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic heart-shaped bowls
- Clothespins
- 2" people cutouts
- Double-sided tape
- Optional: Smiley-face stickers in place of people cutouts and tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape a people cutout on the end of each clothespin.
- Place a handful or more clothespins in each bowl, and set the bowls at the table.
- Option: Place a smiley-face sticker at the end of each clothespin.

#### 3. TEACH ME

**Made to Imagine:** An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning **WHAT YOU NEED:** 

- White butcher paper
- Washable markers
- Painter's tape

## WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape a piece of butcher paper on the wall at child's height.
- Cover table(s) with butcher paper, and tape to secure.
- Place markers on the table.

# 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 kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

## 1. WHEN WE LOVE LIKE JESUS... [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:

No supplies needed

SMALL GROUP

SHAR YEAR -OLDS

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

**WORSHIP** 

**STORY** 

**GROUPS** 

**HOME** 

## **GETTING READY**

## HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

## 2. HEARTS FOR EVERYONE

### [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:

- "Hearts for Everyone" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Self-inking heart stamps
- · Baby wipes
- Permanent marker
- · Optional: Crayons

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Hearts for Everyone" on cardstock, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

#### 3. IMPORTANT THINGS

### [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- · Red and black washable markers

#### WHAT YOU DO:

• Lay the butcher paper on the table.

## 4. LOVING LIKE JESUS

### [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:

- "Loving Like Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- · Painter's tape
- Heart stickers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Loving Like Jesus" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Tape each picture to different areas of the room at child's height.

## 5. LOVE GLASSES [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**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:

- "Love Glasses" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- · Washable markers
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Permanent marker
- Optional: Laminate pouches

## WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Love Glasses" on cardstock and cut on dotted lines, one set per child.
- Write each child's name on a leg of their glasses.
- Assemble a set of glasses by taping the legs to each side for each child.

## 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.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie pen at 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 Matthew 5:14. Note: Keep the Memory Verse Card in your Bible all month.

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

**PRELUDE** 

SOCIAL

**WORSHIP** 

**STORY** 

**GROUPS** 

HOME

## **GETTING READY**

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

## 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. <u>bit.ly/FL\_LightBright</u>