



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

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

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

### 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.*

Spreading God's Love

Jars

Watch the Light

### LARGE GROUP

**20**  
MIN

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

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

"You Love Me" and "Never Better"

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.*

Shine Bright Memory Verse

All Together

Spread the Love

Pour the Light

Light the Lantern

Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



WEEK  
**THREE**  
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. SPREADING GOD'S LOVE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Dominos, heart stickers, smiley-face stickers, and a bucket (*for Transition*); Optional: permanent marker in place of the stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Add a smiley-face sticker to the

front and back of one domino. On the other dominos, add a heart sticker to the front and back.

*Option: Instead of using stickers, use a permanent marker to draw a stick figure on one domino and hearts on the rest of the dominos.*

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Stand up the dominos in a line with the "person" domino in front and the "love" dominos behind. Encourage children to watch what happens when you tap the person domino. Ask children to help reset the dominos and repeat as desired.

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

#### BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

#### MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

**MATTHEW 5:16, NIV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends! Come join me over at the table! I have something really fun for us to play with today! Dominos!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look! What do these dominos have on them? (*Pause.*) Yes! This domino has a smiley-face sticker (*or a person drawn on it*), and all the others have hearts on them! What do hearts remind us of? (*Pause.*) Love! That's right! Let's set them up and put the person in the front. Okay, we did it! Now let's knock it over in 3, 2, 1. Wow! Look at all those hearts falling. It's like the person in the front was spreading love to everyone. Let's set it up again. (*Give each child a chance to help set up the domino chain and knock it down.*) That was so fun! You guys are great at setting up and knocking down the dominos."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, we can share God's love and it will keep going and going—just like the dominos! These dominos remind me of the story we're going to hear today. Let's go hear more about it!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by asking each child to pick up and carry a heart domino to the story area and drop it in a bucket before sitting.

#### 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.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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



### 2. JARS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jars" and "Jar Pictures" Activity Pages, copy paper, tap lights or flashlights, glue sticks, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jars" on copy paper, two sets per Small Group. Copy "Jar Pictures" on copy paper, one set per Small Group. Glue "Jar Pictures" to the back of "Jars" pages and cut apart. Place the cutouts and the lights on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to pick a jar and hold it in front of the light to reveal the image. Talk about how the image is hard to see without the light shining on it.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:**

"Hello, everyone! It's so nice to see you today! Come explore with me at the table."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at all these little jars. Do you see anything in them? (Pause.) What if you hold the jar up to the light? (Pause.) Wow! There is something in the jar! What do you see in this jar? (Pause.) Pick another jar and hold it to the light. (Repeat as desired.) When we used the lights, we were able to see so many neat pictures."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we're going to hear a story about how we can love like Jesus and shine our light for others to see."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by having the leader shine the way with the tap light or flashlight.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH  
ACTS 2:42-47;  
JOHN 15:12,  
HEBREWS 10:24**

### 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.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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



### 3. WATCH THE LIGHT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Strand of battery-operated multi-function Christmas lights, batteries, and duct tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Insert batteries in the battery compartment and tape shut, leaving the power button uncovered. Place the Christmas light strand out along the

center of the table. Gather the children to have a seat at the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Turn on the Christmas lights. Lead the children to describe what they see as you cycle through the different settings.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come find a spot at the table!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** *(Point to the light strand.) "What are these? (Pause.) Yes! These are lights. What are they doing right now? (Pause.) Nothing! Let's turn them on. (Turn on the lights.) Ooo, so pretty! Okay, what are the lights doing now? They're shining! (Change the setting.) What are the lights doing now? (Pause.) They're [blinking]. Great job! It's so fun to see these lights shine! Let's see what other ways we can make them shine." (Cycle through the settings, and repeat as desired.)*

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear how WE can shine our lights! Let's go find out how we can do that!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by carrying the lights with you. When you turn the light strand on, lead the children to make "lights" with their hands by flicking their fingers *(like you would when singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")*. As you change the settings, encourage children to change the way they flicker their hands to match. When you turn the lights off, children should stop and put their hands by their sides.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH  
ACTS 2:42-47;  
JOHN 15:12,  
HEBREWS 10:24**

### 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.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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



**1. SHINE BRIGHT MEMORY VERSE**  
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** Sheet(s) of star stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** To make it easier for children to remove stickers from sticker sheets, peel off the top layer and discard, leaving the stickers intact on the backing paper.

Stand with the children in a large circle. Review the Memory Verse and motions together.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Say the verse without the motions. Then, hand the sheet of stickers to the child on your left. Encourage that child to repeat the Memory Verse with your help, take a sticker from the sheet, stick it to their shirt, and then pass the sticker sheet to the child to their left. Repeat in the same way until each child has a chance to say the Memory Verse.

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

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come stand here with me in a big circle. (Pause.) Great. Let's do the motions as we say our verse together. Ready? '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.) Great job!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "This time, let's only say the words of our verse. Ready? 'Let your light shine,' Matthew 5:16. I'm going to pass this sticker sheet of stars to my friend, [child's name to the left]. Take one sticker and put it on you. (Pause.) Everyone, say the verse with me again. 'Let your light shine,' Matthew 5:16. [Child's name], pass the stickers to [child's name] right next to you so they can get a sticker too. (Continue until everyone has a sticker.) Great job! Look, EVERYONE has a star sticker and is shining bright!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our Memory Verse reminds us to, 'Let your light shine!' How? By doing what Jesus says. Tell me: **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!**"

### 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.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

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

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO IMAGINE**  
an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



**2. ALL TOGETHER**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "All Together" Activity Page; cardstock; painter's tape; toy kitchen; toy utensils; paper plates; toy food items; puzzles; blocks; Bible storybooks; toddler Bible; dress-up clothes; tall, standing preschool-safe floor mirror; and large flashlight

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "All Together" on cardstock, four per Small Group. Divide your space into four separate centers, and tape "All Together" Activity Page arrows on the floor pointing from one center to the next in a continuous loop. Set up the following four centers:

- Home Living Center (*Eat Together*)—toy kitchen, toy utensils, paper plates, and toy food items
- Block Center (*Help Each Other*)—puzzles and blocks
- Book Center (*Learn and Pray Together*)—a variety of Bible storybooks/ toddler Bible
- Dramatic Play Center (*Share with One Another*)—an assortment of dress-up clothes and a preschool-safe full-length mirror

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Let your light shine."

**MATTHEW 5:16, NIV**

Divide the children into four groups, one group per center. Tell them to follow the arrow to the next center when they see you flash the big flashlight.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to play in the center together. As the children play, go to each center and talk about how we can do what Jesus says.

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can do what Jesus says?

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Hold up one item from each center. Review the Bible Story and the Bottom Line.

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can do what Jesus says.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We have four special centers today! We have the kitchen center (*point*), a block and puzzle center (*point*), a book center (*point*), and a dress-up center (*point*). Listen for your name so you will know where to begin. Everyone will get to play in all of the centers. When you see me shine my big flashlight, it will be time for you to follow the arrows to the next center."

(*Call children to the different centers.*) "Go and play at the centers I called you to. When I shine my big flashlight, you get to move to the next station!"

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:**

(*At the Home Living Center*) "What yummy food can you make for each other?"

(*At the Block/Puzzle Center*) "Can you build a tower together or help each other put the puzzle together?"



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

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

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

(At the Book Center) "Let's look at the Bible storybooks to learn more about Jesus, and then we can pray to God and say thank-you for Jesus."

(At the Dramatic Play Center) "Can you share the dress-up clothes so everyone in your group can have something fun to wear?"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone, come stand with me. Today we learned that we can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus when we . . . (hold up food item) . . . EAT together and . . . (hold up block) . . . HELP each other . . . (hold up Bible) . . . LEARN about Jesus and PRAY together . . . (hold up clothing) . . . and SHARE with each other!"

"Friends, tell me: **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!** And when we do what Jesus says and love like Jesus, we shine our light!"



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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



**3. SPREAD THE LOVE**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper towels, washable markers in a variety of colors, permanent marker, scissors, plastic bowl, plastic tablecloth, and water

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** If using full-size paper towels, cut paper towels in half to make rectangles. Position the paper towel with the short edge at the bottom, and draw an outline of a heart in the middle of the paper towel with the permanent marker. Make several. Cover the table with the tablecloth. Fill the bowl with approximately half an inch of water.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to pick a washable marker and draw a heart or a dot on the paper towels, below the heart. Every child should have a mark on each prepared paper towel. Ask children what they think will happen to their hearts or dots when the bottom edge of the paper towel is put into the water. Hold the bottom of the paper towel in the water and watch as the paper towel soaks up the water, spreading the colors into the heart.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit at the table with me. I have a fun experiment for us to try out."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "What do you see on this paper towel? (Pause.) That's right—I drew an empty heart on the paper towel, and I want each of you to make a mark or draw a small heart on the paper towel below my heart. Use different colors to make your mark. (Pause.) Awesome! What do you think will happen if I dip the end of the paper towel into this bowl of water? (Pause.) Let's find out. (Pause.) What happened to the heart I drew? (Pause.) Yes! My empty heart filled with your colors! Let's do another one! (Repeat as desired.) Amazing!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible Story today, Jesus told His friends to love people the way He loves them. And they did! They loved like Jesus! If someone needed something, like a coat or food, or a place to stay, they shared and gave them what they needed. Jesus' friends did what Jesus said to do. They loved like Jesus. We can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus too! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

**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.





WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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



**4. POUR THE LIGHT**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Yellow ball pit ball and small Solo® cups

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children in a circle. Give them each a cup.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Put the yellow ball pit ball on your cup and demonstrate how to "pour" the ball from your cup to the next child's cup. Encourage them to keep going until the ball makes it around the circle. Continue as long as there is interest.

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, let's gather in a circle and play a game. Everyone needs one of these cups."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We've been talking about shining and being the light of Jesus. We can shine when we do what Jesus says. Let's take this light (*hold up ball*) and pour it into each other's cups. I'll show you how. (*Demonstrate.*) Keep it going around the circle. Great job keeping the light going around the circle!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "When we do what Jesus says and love others, we shine like a light for all our friends to see. We can love like Jesus by sharing when someone needs something. We can love like Jesus when we pray and praise God together with our friends. We can all do what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH  
ACTS 2:42-47;  
JOHN 15:12,  
HEBREWS 10:24**

**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.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
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. LIGHT THE LANTERN**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Light the Lantern" Activity Page, cardstock, washable yellow markers or dot markers, heart stickers, blunt-tip preschool scissors, adult scissors, stapler, and permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Light the Lantern" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color the back of their paper with the yellow marker. Help children fold their paper along the solid fold line, and then ask each child to cut along the dotted lines, help as needed. Help children unfold their paper and encourage them to add heart stickers to their lantern. Help roll each child's paper to connect the two edges, add the handle, and staple together to form a lantern.

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

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit at the table with me. Let's make a craft to help you remember to shine your light."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Turn your paper over to the blank side, and color it with a yellow marker. (Pause.) Awesome! Flip your paper back over and fold it in half like this. (Demonstrate and help as needed.) Take your scissors and cut on each of the dotted lines. (Help as needed.) Great job! (Unfold each child's paper.) Add some heart stickers to your paper. (Pause.) Now let's turn your paper into a lantern. (Roll to connect the edges, add the handle, and staple together.) Your lantern looks like it's shining!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "When you do what Jesus says, you shine your light! Jesus told His friends to love people the way He loves them. And they did! They were loving like Jesus and shining their light! When we love like Jesus, we are shining our light too. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.** We can all do what Jesus says and love like Jesus. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.**"

**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.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

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

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



**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

**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 5:16. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead the children to pretend they're carrying baskets of food 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 ways we can love like Jesus.

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

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus says to love like Him.

**EARLY CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:42-47;**  
**JOHN 15:12,**  
**HEBREWS 10:24**

**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:** "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're carrying baskets of food to our Small Group spot. Okay, everyone, pretend to fill your basket with food! (*Demonstrate.*) Now that our baskets are filled with food, follow me! (*Pretend you're carrying a basket of food as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Yay! We made it! You can put your baskets of food down. We're going to sit 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, people did what Jesus said and loved like Jesus by eating together, helping each other, sharing with each other, and praying together, because they wanted to do what Jesus says and love like Jesus. We can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus too! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"

"And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light! The Bible verse we've been learning will help us remember to shine our light. It 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.*) Jesus said those words! 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.*)"



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

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

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)**

“Way to go! (*Clap.*) 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 ways we can love like Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus, 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:** “These are wonderful ways we can love like Jesus. And when we love like Jesus, we SHINE! Let’s use our list 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, thank You for loving us so much You gave us Your Son, Jesus, to show us how to love and to be our friend forever. Please help us to do what Jesus says and love others the way Jesus loves us. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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)

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. SPREADING GOD'S LOVE

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pack of dominos
- Heart stickers
- Smiley-face stickers
- *Optional: permanent marker in place of the stickers*

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay out the dominos.
- On one domino, add a smiley-face sticker on both sides.
- On the other dominos, add a heart sticker to both sides.
- *Option: Instead of using stickers, use a permanent marker to draw a stick figure on one domino and hearts on the rest of the dominos.*

#### 2. JARS

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Jars" Activity Page
- "Jar Pictures" Activity Pages
- Copy paper
- Tap lights or flashlights
- Glue sticks and Scissors

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Jars" on copy paper, two sets per Small Group.
- Copy "Jar Pictures" on copy paper, one set per Small

Group.

- Glue "Jar Pictures" to the back of "Jars" pages and cut apart.
- Place the cutouts and the lights on the table.

#### 3. WATCH THE LIGHT

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Strand of battery-operated multi-function Christmas lights
- Batteries
- Duct tape

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Insert batteries in the battery compartment and tape shut, leaving the power button uncovered.
- Place the Christmas light strand out along the center of 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 children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

#### 1. SHINE BRIGHT MEMORY VERSE

[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:

- Sheet(s) of star stickers

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Peel off the outer edge of the sticker sheets and discard.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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

### 2. ALL TOGETHER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "All Together" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape
- Toy kitchen
- Toy utensils
- Paper plates
- Toy food items
- Puzzles
- Blocks
- Bible storybooks
- Toddler Bible
- Dress-up clothes
- Preschool-safe floor mirror
- Large flashlight

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "All Together" on cardstock, four per Small Group.
- Divide your space into four separate centers, and tape arrows from "All Together" on the floor, pointing from one center to the next in a continuous loop.
- Set up the following four centers:
- Home Living Center (*Eat Together*)—toy kitchen, toy utensils, paper plates, and toy food items
- Block Center (*Help Each Other*)—puzzles and blocks
- Book Center (*Learn and Pray Together*)—a variety of Bible storybooks/toddler Bible
- Dramatic Play Center (*Share with One Another*)—an assortment of dress-up clothes and mirror

### 3. SPREAD THE LOVE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Paper towels
- Washable markers in a variety of colors
- Permanent marker and Scissors
- Plastic bowl
- Plastic tablecloth
- Water

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- If using full-size paper towels, cut paper towels in half to make rectangles.
- Position the paper towel with the short edge at the bottom, and draw an outline of a heart in the middle of the paper towel with the permanent marker.
- Cover the table with the tablecloth.
- Fill the bowl with approximately half an inch of water.

### 4. POUR THE LIGHT

[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:**

- Yellow ball pit ball
- Small Solo® cups, one per child

### 5. LIGHT THE LANTERN

[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:**

- "Light the Lantern" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable yellow markers or dot markers
- Heart stickers
- Blunt-tip preschool scissors
- Adult scissors
- Stapler
- Permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Light the Lantern" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**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

### 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).)

#### 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)