



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' teaching is amazing.
JESUS TEACHES AT THE TEMPLE
LUKE 2:41-50

MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone who heard him was amazed."
LUKE 2:47, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who is amazing?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is amazing.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.
Out-of-This-World Search
Growing Up
Learning Fun

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

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

"He Is Amazing" and "Jesus Is"
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.
Memory Verse with Motions
Story Bag
Out-of-This-World Tracing
Jesus Is Amazing
Temple Teaching
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



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. OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD SEARCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Black felt, wall tape, VELCRO®, glue, "Out-of-This-World Art" Activity Page, cardstock, ball pit balls, a plastic or blow-up baby pool

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Out-of-This-World Art" onto cardstock and cut out, one image per child, if possible. Attach each art item onto a separate ball pit ball with VELCRO® and glue, but leave some balls without art. Place all of the balls in the baby pool. Tape the black felt on the wall at preschooler level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to take turns sifting through the balls in the pool to find one with theme art. Ask the child to pull the picture off, stick it to the black felt, then return the ball to the pool.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pull the pool off to the side, out of the way for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come here with me! Do you see these colorful balls? Some of them have pictures. Let's take turns searching through the pool to find some things that are out-of-this-world! When you find a picture of something amazing, pull it off and stick it here, on the wall." (*Demonstrate.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Whoa! This is REALLY out-of-this-world. Look at all these amazing things! We'll hear about someone even more AMAZING in our Bible story today."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story with excitement, as if you're about to hear something amazing! How would you walk if you couldn't wait? What would your face look like if you heard something amazing?

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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. GROWING UP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Growing Up" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Growing Up" on cardstock and cut on dotted lines, one set per small group.

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DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the cards in random order on the floor or table. Introduce the cards to the children by pointing out that some cards are babies, some cards are children, and some cards are adults or grown-ups. Ask the children to work together to match the baby, child, and adult of the same person together. Hint: The three cards that match will not only look alike with hair color, ethnicity, and facial features, they will also wear the same shirt on each card.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Continue the activity until all of the cards are matched. Each match will consist of three cards: baby, child, and adult.

MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone who heard him was amazed."
LUKE 2:47, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's work together to make matches. (Point to the cards.) There are pictures of people when they were babies, children, and a grown-ups."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's look at a baby card. (Hold up.) Look at his hair and what his face looks like. We can also look at his shirt. Look for a card with a child who looks like this baby. (Do activity.) Great job! Now, let's look for a card with a grown-up who looks like the baby and the child. He will wear the same shirt, too! (Continue activity.) Way to go! We found the cards of the baby, child, and grown-up, all of the same person! Let's do another one!" (Finish activity.)

KEY QUESTION

Who is amazing?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! We found all of the matches! We all begin as babies then grow into children then become grown-ups. Last month, we heard awesome stories about when Jesus was a baby. Today, we'll hear a Bible story about Jesus as a CHILD."

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is amazing.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by taking baby steps then regular steps like a child then large steps like an adult.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
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



3. LEARNING FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Books and glasses without lenses

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set books and glasses in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to play school, taking turns playing the teacher or the students. Children can “read” to the class, wear the glasses, answer questions, etc.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather all books and glasses for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s play school! Who would like to be the teacher? Don’t worry, we’ll take turns.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “That was fun! School is a place to learn. In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about a temple where people went to learn about God. Pay close attention to find out who was teaching at the temple.”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story with children walking with a bubble in their mouth and hands behind their backs just like they might walk in the hall at school.

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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. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse and do the motions in front of the children.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' teaching is amazing.
JESUS TEACHES AT THE TEMPLE
LUKE 2:41-50

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone who heard him was amazed."
LUKE 2:47, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me!

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready?"

KEY QUESTION

Who is amazing?

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

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is amazing.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse tells us that everyone who heard Jesus was AMAZED! **Who is amazing? Jesus is amazing!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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



2. STORY BAG

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Story People" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, a cloth or paper bag, a small toy suitcase or child-size suitcase, binoculars, and one small plush heart or paper heart cutout

Note: The size of your cloth or paper bag is determined by the size of your story props.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cop "Story People" on cardstock and cut apart, one set per small group. Place the suitcase, binoculars, and heart in the bag to make a story bag. Place all of the "Story People" except Jesus in the story bag. The Jesus cutout will be hidden behind you when you do the activity.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Allow the children to take turns reaching into the story bag and pulling one item out for everyone to see. Each time an item is pulled out, review that part of the story, then lay the item on the floor in front of the children. As you lay the items on the floor, put them in story order. When all of the items are out of the bag, reach behind you and pull out Jesus. Then, go back to the beginning of the story and point to each object, in the order that they happened, to tell the story again.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how teaching people about God as a child is one of the things that makes Jesus so amazing.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today. We heard an amazing story from the Bible about Jesus, and I have a fun way for us to talk about it!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This is called a story bag. (Hold up the story bag.) It has things inside it that will help us tell today's Bible story. [Child's name], I want you to reach in the bag and pull something out. (Give each child a turn to reach into the story bag. As the children pull the items out of the story bag, say the words that correspond with the object.)

"A suitcase! Mary, Joseph, and Jesus traveled all the way to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. It was a very special time for Jesus' family, and lots of people went.

"Those are binoculars! When the Passover Feast was over, Jesus' family left Jerusalem to go back home. While they traveled, Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus. They looked and looked then decided to go back to Jerusalem to find Him. When they got to Jerusalem, they looked and looked some more

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3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

then they finally found Jesus!

“A heart! Mary and Joseph found Jesus at the temple. He was teaching all of the grown-ups about God.

“Did Mary and Joseph find a [doctor/handyman/baker] at the temple? No, they found Jesus at the Temple. *(Repeat each time the doctor, handyman, or baker are pulled out of the bag.)*

“When Mary and Joseph went to the temple, guess who they found! *(Pull the picture of Jesus from behind your back.)* Jesus! Jesus was teaching the grown-ups about God, even though He was just a child! **Jesus is amazing!**”
(Use the same words to retell the story as you point to the story bag items in order.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Jesus taught the grown-ups about God, even though he was only a child. Jesus could do that because **Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? Jesus is amazing!**”



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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. OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD TRACING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Star and Planet Tracing" Activity Page, cardstock, and crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Star and Planet Tracing" Activity Page on cardstock, one per child. Set the crayons on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Pass out the Activity Pages and encourage the children to trace the dotted lines on the page with crayons to reveal the stars and planets.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Make sure each child's name is on their paper and set aside for pick up. Set crayons out of reach of children for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's do some tracing! Use these crayons to trace the dotted lines and some out-of-this-world shapes on your page!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's write your name at the top of your page! You did a great job tracing these planets and stars! Aren't they amazing? They're out-of-this-world! Jesus is out-of-this-world amazing for sure! When I ask, 'Who is amazing?', I want you to say, 'Jesus is amazing.' Who is amazing? Jesus is amazing."

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



4. JESUS IS AMAZING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Music player and the monthly song, "He Is Amazing"

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand in front of you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Turn on the music and ask the children to sing and do the hands motions to the new monthly song.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We have a FUN new song this month called 'He Is Amazing!' **Who is amazing? Jesus is amazing!** Sing with me."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! Jesus is the best, and I'm SO glad He wants to be my friend forever. One more time, **who is amazing? Jesus is amazing!**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



5. TEMPLE TEACHING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Temple Teaching Crowd" and "Temple Teaching Jesus" Activity Pages; cardstock; paper party cups (*non-waxy*); scissors; glue sticks; craft sticks; and marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Temple Teaching Crowd" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Temple Teaching Jesus" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Cut a slit the size of the craft stick in the bottom of each cup.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to glue the crowd to the cup and Jesus to the top of a craft stick. Have children push the stick through the inside of the cup until it comes out the bottom of the cup. Write child's name on the cup.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today, we heard about the time when Jesus was a boy and went to the temple with Mary and Joseph for a big celebration for God. But Jesus got separated from Mary and Joseph and they couldn't find him in the crowd."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "There were a lot of people at the temple. Glue this crowd of people on your cup. (*Pause.*) Great. Now, glue Jesus to your craft stick. (*Pause.*) Slide your stick down inside the cup and through the hole in the bottom. (*Pause.*) Mary and Joseph looked and looked for Jesus then they finally found Him. Pop Jesus up, out of the crowd. (*Pause.*) Jesus was teaching some grown-ups about God. They were amazed at how much Jesus knew about God."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Even as a child, Jesus was out-of-this-world amazing. Jesus is God's Son, and He is amazing. **Who is amazing? Jesus is amazing.**"

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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: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Luke 2:47, journal, and a fun-shaped

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Let's pretend to look for Jesus while we walk to our small group spot, like Mary and Joseph did in our story today.

Put your hand over your eyes like this and let's look! (*Demonstrate a flat hand over your eyes as you look around and walk.*)

"Do you see Jesus? Keep looking! Okay, we didn't find Jesus, but we did find our small group spot. Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

"Our Bible story, today, was about Jesus teaching the grown-ups at the temple about God when He was only a child. That's pretty amazing! Jesus was always doing amazing things when He lived on Earth. That's why we're learning this Bible verse. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"Everyone who heard him was amazed, Luke 2:47. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say that together with the motions."

CHILDREN AND SGL:

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

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

SGL: "And we're still amazed, because **Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing?"**

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

SGL: (*cheer*) "Yes! **Jesus is amazing!**"

"Okay, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Jesus still teaches us A LOT of things about God. Jesus teaches us that God loves us, God forgives us, God is patient with us, God is always with us, God cares about us, God made us, God can do anything, God is good, God knows

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

our name—whew! SO many amazing things! When I say your name, tell me one thing you know about God, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name so you can tell me one thing you know about God.

(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"Wow! You know a lot about God! Let's use the list we made when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to do amazing things like teach us about YOU! Jesus is Your Son, so we can trust what He says about You. Jesus teaches us that . . . *(read the list the children made)*. You are SO good, God! And we love You! In Jesus' name, amen."



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 Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

1. OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD SEARCH

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Two-foot piece of black felt
- Wall tape
- VELCRO® squares
- "Out-of-This-World Art" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Ball pit balls, enough for each piece of art plus extras
- Glue
- A plastic or blow up baby pool

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Out-of-This-World Art" on cardstock and cut out, one image per child, if possible.
- Glue the VELCRO® squares to each image and a ball pit ball so they can attach.
- Place all of the ball pit balls (*those with images and those without*) in the baby pool.
- Tape the black felt on the wall at preschooler level.

2. GROWING UP

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Growing Up" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Growing Up" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each small group.

3. LEARNING FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Books
- Glasses or frames without lenses

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

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[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

2. STORY BAG

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Story People" Activity Pages
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Cloth or paper bag big enough to hold the following items:
 - Small toy suitcase or real child-size suitcase
 - Binoculars
 - Small plush heart or paper heart cutout



GETTING READY

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

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Story People" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart.
- Place the suitcase, binoculars, and "Story People" (except Jesus) in the bag.

3. OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD TRACING

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Star and Planet Tracing" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Star and Planet Tracing" Activity Page on cardstock, one per child.

4. JESUS IS AMAZING

[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:

- Music player
- Monthly song, "He is Amazing," provided in the monthly files

5. TEMPLE TEACHING

[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:

- "Temple Teaching Crowd" Activity Page
- "Temple Teaching Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Paper party cups (non-wax), one per child
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Craft sticks, one per child
- Marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Temple Teaching Crowd" on cardstock and cut out, one per child.

- Copy "Temple Teaching Jesus" on cardstock and cut out, one per child.
- Cut a slit the size of the craft stick in the bottom of each cup.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Luke 2:47.
- Journal, one per small group
- Fun-shaped pen, one per small group

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang 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. <https://bit.ly/FirstLookPinterest>