



WEEK  
**THREE**  
FEBRUARY 2021

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

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves me and  
wants to help me.  
**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."  
**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### 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.*

Walk This Way  
Puzzles  
Doctor, Doctor

### LARGE GROUP

**20**  
MIN

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

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

"Whole Lotta Bit" 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.*

Feelings  
Tell Me the Story  
Jesus Will Help  
Heart Search  
Finger Puppets  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



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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. WALK THIS WAY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Floor tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Tape a ten-foot line on the floor of your activity area.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead the children to move along the line in one of the ways listed below. Then lead the children back to the start of the line and call out a different way to travel. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Ways to Travel:

Hop  
March  
Walk  
Tip toe  
Walk sideways (*slide step*)

## MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."  
**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pull up the floor tape for clean-up.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, do you see this line of tape? I'll call out a way to walk along the line."

## KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "First, let's hop! Follow me and hop, hop, hop!"

"Whew that was a LONG way. Let's go back, and this time we'll MARCH on the line!" (*Repeat with different movements as long as desired.*)

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Great job, friends! That WAS a long way. Today's story is about a man who traveled a long way to get Jesus to help him. Let's go find out what happened."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by continuing to call out ways to travel. Ideas: Hop, skip, march, tip toe, high knees, elephant (*big*) steps, mouse (*baby*) steps, etc.

## BASIC TRUTH

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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. PUZZLES

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several preschool puzzles

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place all of the puzzles in the activity area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to help each other put the puzzles together.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We get to play with puzzles today."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Point to the puzzles.) "Let's help each other put all of the puzzles together." (Do activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Way to go! You did a great job! You are all fantastic helpers. Today in our Bible story, we'll hear how Jesus loves us, so much, and how He wants to help us!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by telling the children that you will help them find the story area.

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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. DOCTOR, DOCTOR

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plush animals, elastic bandages, and blankets

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Set the plush animals, ace bandages and blankets in your activity area.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to act as a doctor and "help" the animals feel better!

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Collect all plush animals, bandages and blankets for clean-up.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Oh, no! Our animals are hurt. They need a doctor. Can you help? I see some bandages and blankets. Let's help our animals feel better."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "I think they're feeling better. Thanks for helping take care of them. In today's story, we'll hear how Jesus helped someone who was sick."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by continuing to pretend to be a doctor taking care of a hurting animal.

### MEMORY VERSE

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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



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## 1. FEELINGS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Emoji" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, and floor tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Emoji" Activity Page and cut out, one set per four children. Tape the different emojis on the floor around the room. If you are using multiple pages, tape all of the happy emojis in the same area, all of the sad emojis in the same area, etc.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Call out one of the following feelings: happy, sad, angry, or scared. Have the children run to that emoji and stand on or by it. Say the memory verse with the children. Call out another feeling and repeat. Continue the activity by calling out all four feelings. Repeat as desired.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We have faces on the floor. (Point.) I see a happy face (point), a sad face (point), an angry face (point), and a scared face." (Point.)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "When I say a feeling like HAPPY, you run to the happy face. Are you ready? (Pause and do activity.) Great job! Let's say our memory verse together. (Continue activity.) You are so good at this! Let's do another feeling!" (Finish activity.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse tells us that Jesus loves us, all the time—even if we are happy, sad, angry, or scared! He is always there! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



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## MADE TO PLAY

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

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## 2. TELL ME THE STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Leader Story Cards" and "Child Story Cards" Activity Pages, cardstock, and scissors

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Leader Story Cards" on cardstock and cut apart, one set per small group. Copy

"Child Story Cards" on cardstock and cut apart, one set of three cards per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a set of story cards. The leader will hold up their story cards, one at a time, as they happened in the Bible story.

Each time you hold up a story card, ask the children to find their story card that matches and hold it up. After they find their match, read the story text at the bottom of your story card. Then, everyone will lay their story cards down, on the floor or table, in front of them.

When you have reviewed all three story cards, everyone should have the three story cards in front of them in the order they happened.

Next, ask the children if they want to take turns telling the story using the leader story cards. Make sure every child who wants to tell the story gets a turn. The other children will use their story cards again to follow along with the story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how the Centurion believed Jesus had the power to help him AND that Jesus wanted to help him. That's why the Centurion went to Jesus for help, and we can, too!

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hi, friends! It's so good to see you today. We heard a wonderful story about how Jesus wants to help us, and I have a fun way for us to tell the story together."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "First, I will give each of you your very own set of story cards. *(Pass out the cards.)* Now, when I hold up a story card, I want you to find the match in your cards. Ready?"

"Our first story card has a picture of the Centurion and his sick servant. When you find the match, hold it up. *(Pause.)* Good job! In this picture . . . *(read the bottom of the story card)*. Now, lay the picture down in front of you.

"The second story picture has the Centurion talking to Jesus. When you find the match, hold it up. *(Pause.)* You got it! In this picture . . . *(read the bottom of the story card)*. Now, lay the picture beside your first picture.



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"The last story picture has the Centurion talking with his servant. When you find the match, hold it up. (Pause.) Awesome! In this picture . . . (read along the bottom of the story card). Now, you can lay this picture beside your second picture.

"Yay! You have all three story cards in order! Now, who wants to tell the story with my story cards? We can all take turns!" (Allow each child the opportunity to retell the story with the leader story cards.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus wants to help you and you and you and you . . . (point to each child). Do you know why Jesus wants to help you? Because Jesus loves you! **Who loves you? Jesus loves me!**"



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## MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically  
designed for older preschoolers



## 3. JESUS WILL HELP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Heart Emoji" and "Emoji Circle Stickers" Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® #22807 labels or equivalent

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Heart Emoji" Activity Page on cardstock, one page per child. Copy the "Emoji Circle Stickers" onto label paper and cut page in half horizontally, one set of six stickers/labels per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a "Heart Emoji" page and a set of "Emoji Circle Stickers." Use the dialogue below to lead children to place the stickers on their heart emoji page.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Set pages aside for pick up.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "In our story today, the Centurion asked Jesus for help. When can we ask Jesus for help?"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (Hold up the sad sticker.) "Can we ask Jesus for help when we're sad? (Pause.) Yes! Remember **Jesus loves me!** Let's put our sad face sticker here on the heart because we can always ask Jesus for help when we're sad.

(Hold up the happy sticker.) "What about when we're happy? (Pause.) Yes! Remember, **Jesus loves me!** He loves us when we're sad and when we're happy. Let's add that to our heart.

(Hold up the silly sticker.) "What about when we're feeling silly? Does Jesus help us when we're silly? (Pause.) Sure, He does. **Jesus loves me.** Put that sticker on your heart.

(Hold up the scared sticker.) "What about when we're scared? Does Jesus help us when we're scared? (Pause.) Always. I know that **Jesus loves me!** Let's put our scared face sticker right here on the heart.

(Hold up the angry sticker.) "Oh, what about when we're SO MAD? Does Jesus love us when we're angry? Yes! **Jesus loves me!** Let's put our angry face sticker right here.

(Hold up the sick sticker.) "What about when we're sick? Does Jesus love us when we don't feel good? He sure does! He wants to help us because He loves us. Remember, **Jesus loves me.** Last one, let's find a spot for it on our heart."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "I'm SO glad to know that Jesus loves us when we're scared, angry, happy, sad, tired, or sick. Jesus loves us ALL the time, and He is always ready to help. Tell me, **who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"

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Jesus loves me and  
wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION**  
**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

### MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times."  
**PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
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## MADE TO MOVE

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



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### BASIC TRUTH

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## 4. HEART SEARCH

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus Loves Me Hearts" and "Plain Hearts" Activity Pages, cardstock, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jesus Loves Me Hearts" Activity Page on cardstock, six per small group. Copy "Plain Hearts" Activity Page on cardstock, four per small group. Cut out all of the hearts and hide them in obvious places around the classroom.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to go on a heart search to find the hidden hearts. When you find a heart that says, "Jesus Loves Me" lead the children to say the Bottom Line. Search until all ten hearts are found.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to go on a heart search to find the hidden hearts. When you find a heart that says, "Jesus Loves Me" lead the children to say the Bottom Line. Search until all ten hearts are found.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Collect all ten hearts and set aside for clean-up.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, there are some hearts hidden around the room. Some of these hearts have a very special message on them! Let's search to find the hearts."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Oh, here's one with a very special message. It says, 'Jesus loves me.' Who loves you? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus loves me! Okay, let's find another heart. One, two, three, go!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "You did an awesome job of searching, friends! These hearts remind us that Jesus LOVES us and wants to help us! Who loves you? Jesus loves me."



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## 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

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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wants to help me.

**THE CENTURION  
MATTHEW 8:5-13**

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## 5. FINGER PUPPETS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus Puppet," "Centurion Puppet," and "Parent Note" Activity Pages; cardstock; crayons; clear tape; scissors; zip-top bags; and a permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jesus Puppet" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Centurion Puppet" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Parent Note" on cardstock and cut apart, one per child. Write child's name on their bag.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color their puppets then fold and tape the sides together for each puppet. Put them on and re-enact the story. Put "Parent Note" and puppets in their bag.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "I love when you help me retell our Bible story. Today, we'll make finger puppets and use them to act-out the story."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone has a Jesus puppet and a Centurion puppet to color. (Pause.) Now that you've colored them, we can fold them and tape the sides together. (Help children as needed.) Okay, Slide one puppet on a finger on one hand and the other puppet on a finger on the other hand. (Pause.) Great."

"Our story starts when the Centurion—hold up the Centurion—walked up to Jesus. Hold up Jesus. (Pause.) The Centurion asked Jesus for His help. The Centurion said, 'Jesus, my servant at home is very sick. Can you help make him better?' Jesus was busy, but He said He could go. The Centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it and the servant would be better. And that's what Jesus did! Jesus told the Centurion to go home and the servant would be all better; and he was! Put your puppets and this card in your bag then zip it shut."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus heard that someone needed His help, and He helped them. Jesus loved the Centurion and his servant just like He loves you. That's why He wants to be your friend forever, because He loves you very much. **Who loves you? Jesus loves me.**"



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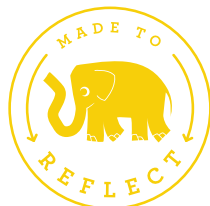
GROUPS

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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 Proverbs 17:17, journal, and fun-shaped pen

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend we are soldiers like the Centurion and march to our small group spot. March like this and follow

me! (March as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

"Halt! (Stop suddenly.) Halt means stop. We're here! 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 how Jesus wants to help people. The Centurion heard that Jesus has the power to help people and that He wants to help people. That's why he went to ask Jesus for help when his servant was so sick. What did Jesus do when the Centurion asked Him to help his servant? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus made the Centurion's servant all better!

"Jesus helps people because Jesus loves us. And we know that a friend loves at all times. That's what the Bible verse we have been learning says. (Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

"'A friend loves at all times.' Proverbs 17:17. (Close Bible and lay it down.)

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

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'A friend (hook your pointer fingers together) loves (hug yourself) at all times,' (stretch your arms out and turn in a circle) Proverbs 17:17." (Open hands like a book.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

**SGL:** "Jesus is a good friend, and He loves you all the time! **Who loves you?"**

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "**Jesus loves me!**"

**SGL:** (cheering) "He sure does! Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

"Since Jesus wants to help you and me, I think we should make a list of things we need help with. Then when we pray, we can use the list to ask Jesus to help us, just like the Centurion asked Jesus for help. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need help with, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

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## (6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

*(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.)*

"This is a great list! It's important to talk to Jesus when we need help. Let's use this list when we pray. 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 help us. Thank You that Jesus is always with us, listening, and ready to help. Please help [child's name] with [what they listed]. Please help [child's name] with [what they listed]. Please help . . . *(continue with each child)*. We believe Jesus can help us. 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 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. WALK THIS WAY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Floor tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Tape a ten-foot line on the floor of your activity area.

#### 2. PUZZLES

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Preschool puzzles

#### 3. DOCTOR, DOCTOR

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Plush animals
- Elastic bandages
- Blankets

### 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. FEELINGS

**[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:**

- "Emoji" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Floor tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Emoji" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one set per four children.
- Tape the emojis to the floor around the activity area. Group the same emojis in the same area.

#### 2. TELL ME THE STORY

**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Leader Story Cards" Activity Page
- "Child Story Cards" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Leader Story Cards" on cardstock, one set per small group.
- Copy "Child Story Cards" on cardstock and cut apart, one set per child.

#### 3. JESUS WILL HELP

**[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Heart Emoji" Activity Page
- "Emoji Circle Stickers" Activity Page
- Avery® #22807 labels or equivalent
- Cardstock
- Scissors



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GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

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

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Heart Emoji" Activity Page on cardstock, one per child.
- Copy "Emoji Circle Stickers" on the label paper and cut in half horizontally, one set of six per child.

## 4. HEART SEARCH

[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:

- "Plain Hearts" Activity Page
- "Jesus Loves Me Hearts" Activity Page
- Cardstock

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Plain Hearts" on cardstock and cut out, four per small group.
- Copy "Jesus Loves Me Hearts" on cardstock and cut out, six per small group.

## 5. FINGER PUPPETS

[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:

- "Jesus Puppet" Activity Page
- "Centurion Puppet" Activity Page
- "Parent Note" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Crayons
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Zip-top bags, one per child
- Permanent marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Jesus Puppet" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Copy "Centurion Puppet" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Copy "Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one note per child.
- Write child's name on their bag.

## 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 Proverbs 17:17.
- 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>