



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. COLLECTING LOVE

WHAT YOU NEED: Buckets in four different colors and heart cutouts in colors matching the buckets; *Optional:* "Collecting Love" Activity Page, cardstock in colors that match the buckets, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the buckets in a line in the middle of your activity area. Scatter the hearts all around your area.

Option: Copy "Collecting Love" on colored cardstock and cut, two copies of each color per Small Group. Use the hearts from "Collecting Love" instead of heart cutouts.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to run, pick up a heart, and then place it in the matching bucket. Repeat until all the hearts have been collected. Scatter hearts and repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, everyone! Come join me over here with all these hearts! Hearts make me think of love."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's play a game and collect the love! When I say, 'go!' I want everyone to run and pick up one (*hold up one heart*) heart. Then, go to the bucket that matches the color of the heart you have, and put it inside. (*Demonstrate.*) Then, go and find another heart and do it again. We'll keep going until we've collected all the love. Are you ready to play? (*Pause.*) Let's GO! (*Pause.*) Hooray! You did it! You collected all the love! Let's play again! (*Scatter hearts and reset the buckets.*) That was so much fun getting all the hearts in the matching buckets! Thank you for helping collect all the love!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In today's Bible Story, we'll hear that when we love like Jesus, we shine bright, and everyone can see that Jesus loves them. I can't wait to hear our story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by holding up each color heart, one at a time, and asking children to look for things that are the same color as that heart.

BIBLE STORY

I am a light when
I love like Jesus.

WE ARE THE LIGHT
MATTHEW 5:14-16;
ACTS 8:26-35

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.



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



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2. PHILIP HELPS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Philip Helps” and “Philip” Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, craft sticks, glue sticks, and crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Philip Helps” on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy “Philip” on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a “Philip Helps” Activity Page, a Philip cutout, and a craft stick.

Option: If using the black-and-white version of “Philip,” encourage children to color him in.

Encourage children to glue their Philip cutout to the top of their craft stick. Show children how to push Philip up through the slit and move him across their paper to the man in the chariot while you review the Bible Story.

Option: If using the black-and-white version of “Philip Helps,” encourage children to color the Activity Page after you review the story, if time allows.

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 make that will help us retell the Bible Story.”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Look on your paper. It’s the man in the chariot from today’s Bible Story. He was reading God’s words, but he needed help understanding what he was reading. Do you remember who helped him? (Pause.) That’s right! Philip (*hold up Philip cutout*) helped the man understand God’s words. Let’s glue Philip to the top of your craft stick. (Pause.) Now push Philip through the slit on your picture, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) You can move Philip back and forth to the man in the chariot.

“Philip sat with the man and helped him understand God’s words about Jesus and how Jesus had come to be his friend forever. Philip told the man all about Jesus! Because Philip chose to shine his light and help the man in the chariot, he got to hear that Jesus wanted to be his friend forever.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Jesus told His friends, the disciples, ‘You are the light of the world’ (*Matthew 5:14, NIRV*). That’s our Memory Verse! When we love like Jesus, we shine bright like a light! Philip was a light for the man in the chariot. He helped the man learn about Jesus. Philip loved like Jesus, and we can too. **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!**”



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

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

I am a light when
I love like Jesus.

WE ARE THE LIGHT
MATTHEW 5:14-16;
ACTS 8:26-35

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.

Lead the children in opening and closing their hands, like blinking lights, as you walk to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

MEMORY VERSE

"You are the
light of the world."

MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV

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 people we can tell the good news about Jesus.

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

KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going make blinking lights with our hands, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Show me your blinking hand lights! Yay! Let's blink our lights while we walk to our Small Group spot. Follow me! (*Open and close your hands, like blinking lights, as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) That was fun! You can stop blinking your lights and sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Philip let his light shine bright just like Jesus said. Do you remember what Philip did? (*Pause.*) Yes! Philip sat with the man and helped him understand God's words about Jesus. Philip shined his light and helped the man. Philip loved like Jesus!"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

"We are learning a Bible verse to help us remember that when we love like Jesus, we are the light of the world too. It says, '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.*) Jesus said those words! Jesus is saying, 'You are the light of the world' (*Matthew 5:14, NIV*). Let's stand up and say that 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.*) I want to love like Jesus and be the light of the world. And you can too! You can love like Jesus! **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!** Yay! We can love like Jesus!

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Since Philip loved like Jesus by helping the man in the chariot, we are going to make a list of people we can help. When I say your name, tell me one person you can help, and I will write their name beside your name." (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "This is a great list of people! (*Hold up journal.*) When we help others, we are loving like Jesus! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, we want to be a light and love like Jesus. Help us love like Jesus by helping (*read the list the children made*). We want everyone to know that Jesus loves them and that Jesus wants to be their friend forever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."