



WEEK
FOUR
OCTOBER 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. THIS OR THAT

WHAT YOU NEED: Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place a line of tape on the floor in an open area of the room. Stand at one end of the line, and ask children to line up on the tape line facing you.

BIBLE STORY

God is with me wherever I go.

JONAH
JONAH 1-3:3

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children a this or that question, and show them how to move to one side of the tape line or the other to answer the question. Then, ask children to return to the tape line and ask another question. Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

Suggestions for this or that questions: pizza or spaghetti; blocks or cars; swings or slides; playing inside or outside; sunny or rainy; chocolate or vanilla; strawberries or bananas; climbing trees or climbing rocks; building pillow forts or building sandcastles; puzzles or games; etc. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

MEMORY VERSE

"God is with you wherever you go."

JOSHUA 1:9, NLT

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand on this tape line and turn to face me. (Pause.) I have a fun game for us to play today!"

KEY QUESTION

Who is always with you?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to ask you some this or that questions! You'll move to one side or the other of the tape line you're standing on depending on your answer. Okay, the first this or that question is: pizza or spaghetti? If you like pizza more than spaghetti, move to this side of the line (*point to the left side of the tape line*) and if you like spaghetti more than pizza, move to this side of the line. (*Point to the right side of the tape line.*) Okay, everyone, back on the tape. Next question! Blocks (*point to the left side of the tape line*) or cars? (*Point to the right side of the tape line.*) Back on the tape. Next question! Swings (*point to the left side of the tape line*) or slides? (*Point to the right side of the tape line.*) Back on the tape. (*Continue as desired.*) Wow! That was really fun seeing you go this way or that way."

BOTTOM LINE

God is always with me.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about a man named Jonah and how God was with him when he went this way and that way. Let's go hear all about Jonah!"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing the game but asking children to raise either their right or left hand as you demonstrate with each question.



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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



5. JONAH AND THE BIG FISH
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jonah and the Big Fish," and "Big Fish Tail" Activity Pages; cardstock; light blue cardstock; craft tubes; stapler; washable markers; scissors; googly-eye stickers; clear tape; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Jonah and the Big Fish" on cardstock and cut, one Jonah cutout per child. Copy "Big Fish Tail" on light blue cardstock and cut, one tail cutout per child. Write each child's name on their tail. For each child, pinch one end of a craft tube together and staple shut. Pinch the other end of each craft tube in the opposite direction.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their tube with markers to look like a fish. Ask children to add a googly-eye sticker on either side of the open end. Help children tape their fish tail on the stapled end with the writing facing up. Show children how to put the Jonah cutout inside the fish's mouth and dump him out.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Use the big fish to review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit with me! Let's make a big fish like in our Bible Story today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This tube is going to be the body of your big fish. Use the markers to decorate the tube to look like a fish. (Pause.) Add one googly eye to each side of the open end of your tube. (Pause.) Now we can tape the tail on. (Pause.) Look how neat your fish look! Slide the Jonah cutout inside the fish's mouth. (Pause.) Now pick up your fish and dump Jonah out. (Pause.) Terrific! Let's use these to review our story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we learned about a man named Jonah. Hold up your Jonah. (Pause.) God told Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people to do what God says and love one another. But Jonah got on a boat and went the other way. While Jonah was on the boat, a big storm came. Jonah knew that the storm would stop if he got off the boat, so Jonah got off the boat and the storm stopped. When Jonah was in the water, God sent a big fish to swallow him up and keep him safe. Put Jonah in the big fish's mouth. (Pause.) Jonah prayed while he was in the big fish, and then God made the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land. Dump Jonah out of the fish. (Pause.) God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, again. Hold up your Jonah. (Pause.) This time, Jonah did what God said, and he went to Nineveh. God was always with Jonah, and God is always with you too! Wherever you go, God is always with you. **Who is always with you? God is always with me!"**

BIBLE STORY

God is with me wherever I go.

JONAH
JONAH 1-3:3

MEMORY VERSE

"God is with you
wherever you go."

JOSHUA 1:9, NLT

KEY QUESTION

Who is always with you?

BOTTOM LINE

God is always with me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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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, a fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or handstamp

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

God is with me wherever I go.

JONAH
JONAH 1-3:3

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 Joshua 1:9.

MEMORY VERSE

"God is with you wherever you go."

JOSHUA 1:9, NLT

Lead the children to pretend to swim like fish while you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story and the Memory Verse and Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of places they've been to.

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

KEY QUESTION

Who is always with you?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're fish swimming in the deep blue sea. Come on, little fishes! Swim with me this way! (*Pretend to swim like a fish as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Great swimming, little fishes! Now it's time to sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

BOTTOM LINE

God is always with me.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but he didn't go—he got on a boat and went the other way! A big storm came, and Jonah told the people on the boat to help him into the water so the storm would stop. When he was in the water, there was a fish, but it wasn't a little fish, it was a BIG fish! What did the big fish do? (*Pause.*) Yes! God sent the big fish to swallow Jonah and keep him safe. What did Jonah do inside the big fish? (*Pause.*) You're right! Jonah prayed to God and said he would do what God told him to."

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

"God was with Jonah everywhere he went because God is always with us. **God is always with me**, and God is always with you! So, tell me: **Who is always with you? God is always with me!** Yes! And the Bible verse we've been learning says, 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) is with you (*bring two fists together*) wherever you go,' (*march in place*) Joshua 1:9. (*Open hands like a book.*) Just like with Jonah! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) is with you (*bring two fists together*) wherever you go,' (*march in place*) Joshua 1:9. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"You sound awesome! (*Give high fives.*) You also sound like you're ready to try and say that verse by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we'll take turns saying our Bible verse. Who's ready to try and say it by yourself? I have my stickers/handstamp ready! Everyone, give [child's name] two thumbs-up! Here is a sticker/stamp for you! (*Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*) I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/stamp. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Yay! (*Clap.*)

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we're going to make a list of places you have been to. It can be anywhere! So, when I say your name, tell me one place you've been to, and I will write it by your name. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! Look at all of the places you've been to! (*Hold up journal.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, You have the power to do anything. That's why You are with us wherever we go! You are with us when we go to (*read the list the children made*). Thank You, God, for loving us and always being with us. You're the best! In Jesus' name. Amen."