



WEEK
ONE
JULY 2025

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Forgive one another.

JESUS FORGIVES PETER
MATTHEW 26:31-35, 69-75;
JOHN 21:15-17;
COLOSSIANS 3:13

MEMORY VERSE

"Be kind and loving
to each other."

EPHESIANS 4:32, NCV

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

Musical Hearts
Draw It and Erase It
Missing Fireworks 

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Love Like Jesus" and "Live It Out"
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Memory Verse with Motions
Peter's Story
A Do-Over 
Horseshoes
Do-Over Game
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



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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. DRAW IT AND ERASE IT

WHAT YOU NEED: Small whiteboards, dry-erase markers, and paper towels

BIBLE STORY

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MATTHEW 26:31-35, 69-75;
JOHN 21:15-17;
COLOSSIANS 3:13

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a whiteboard, a dry-erase marker, and a paper towel.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to draw a big circle on their whiteboard. Then, ask children to draw the face inside the circle that matches the emotion that you call out. Let children show the emotion they drew. Then, ask them to wipe that emotion away and listen for the next one.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be kind and loving
to each other."

EPHESIANS 4:32, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today you each have a whiteboard and a special marker. We'll draw different emotions on the board."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Draw a big circle on your board. *(Pause.)* That's going to be your face! Inside the circle, draw a scared face. *(Pause.)* Great job! Hold up your boards so that we can all see them. *(Pause.)* Nice work! Use your towel to wipe that scared face away! *(Pause.)* Yay! No more scared faces. The next emotion that we can draw is sad. Can you draw a sad face? *(Pause.)* Hold up your boards so that we can see! Let's wipe away those sad faces! *(Continue by asking children to draw angry, and surprised faces.)* Are you ready for our last emotion? Everyone, draw a happy face. *(Pause.)* Hold up your boards! *(Pause.)* I love to see all these happy faces!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We're going to hear about a lot of emotions in our Bible Story today. Let's go hear all about it!"

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out emotions and asking the children to make that face.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.



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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



1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW] WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

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

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WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be kind and loving to each other."

EPHESIANS 4:32, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 'Be kind and loving (cross hands over chest) to each other,' (spread arms out) Ephesians 4:32." (Open hands like a book.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Be kind and loving.' (Cross hands over chest.) Give yourself a hug, (hug yourself) and say: 'Be kind and loving.' (Repeat with children.) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'To each other.' (Spread arms out.) Put both arms out to your side like this (stretch arms out to your side) and say: 'To each other.' (Repeat with children.) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'Be kind and loving (cross hands over chest) to each other,' (spread arms out) Great job!

"Now the last part is: 'Ephesians 4:32.' (Open hands like a book.) Put your hands together in front of you, open them like you're opening a book, (open hands like a book) and say: 'Ephesians 4:32' (Repeat with children.) Great job! I think we're ready to do it all together! Ready, friends? 'Be kind and loving (cross hands over chest) to each other,' (spread arms out) Ephesians 4:32. (Open hands like a book.) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (Repeat several times.)

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves everyone, and we can too because we can do what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says."**

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. PETER'S STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Peter's Story Large," "Peter's Story Small," and "Peter's Story Fun at Home" Activity Pages; cardstock; scissors; sandwich-size resealable bags; and permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Peter's Story Large" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Copy "Peter's Story Small" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Copy "Peter's Story Fun at Home" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their bag.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a set of small story pictures, and ask them to put the story pictures in order, following the large set of story pictures. Once the activity is complete, help children place the cards in their bag along with a Fun at Home Note.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Come sit with me! I have a game for us to play today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I have a set of story cards for each of you. (Give each child a set of cards.) My large story pictures (hold up the large pictures) match the pictures on your cards. When I hold up one of my story pictures, I want you to look in your cards and find the one that matches. When you find the matching card, lay it down in front of you. Ready?"

(Hold up the number one picture—Peter and Jesus.) This is a picture of Peter and Jesus. Find your matching card, and lay it down in front of you. (Pause.) Peter loved and followed Jesus. They were good friends.

"One night, Jesus was taken away by some angry soldiers. Jesus' friends ran away because they were afraid, but Peter and one other disciple followed to see what would happen. Today, we'll talk about what happened to Peter.

(Hold up the number two picture—Peter and a girl talking.) This is a picture of a girl asking Peter if he was friends with Jesus. Peter said no because he was afraid. Find your matching card, and lay it down next to your first card.

(Hold up the number three picture—Peter and another girl talking.) This is a picture of when another person asked Peter if he was friends with Jesus, and again Peter said no. Find your matching card, and lay it next to your second card.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(Hold up the number four picture—Peter and group talking.) This is a picture of when a group of people asked Peter if he was friends with Jesus, and Peter said no again. Find your matching card, and lay it down next to your third card. *(Pause.)* Peter felt so badly that he went away and cried. Later, after Jesus died and came back, Jesus talked with Peter. Jesus forgave Peter and gave him an important job to do.

(Hold up the number five picture—Peter preaching to the crowd.) This is a picture of when Peter went and told everyone that Jesus loved them. Find your matching card, and lay it next to your fourth card. *(Pause.)* Jesus told Peter to go and tell others that Jesus loves them and to help them follow Jesus. And Peter did what Jesus said! Now you have the whole story in front of you!

“Great job sequencing the story! Let’s put your cards in your bag with this note and you can play at home.”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “I’m so glad we got to hear Peter’s story. Peter helped people follow Jesus, just like Jesus told him to do. Now we can follow Jesus and do what Jesus tells us to do! And when we don’t do what Jesus says, Jesus will forgive us and help us try again, because Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever. Peter did what Jesus says, and we can too. **I can do what Jesus says**, and you can do what Jesus says! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**”



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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: Bible, "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, 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

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WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 4:32. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

Lead the children to pretend they're paddling a boat to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be kind and loving to each other."

EPHESIANS 4:32, NCV

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 they can be kind and loving to.

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

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're paddling a boat, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Come on, everyone! Paddle with me! (*Pretend to paddle as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) We made it! Now we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Peter told people he was not friends with Jesus. How did Peter feel when he did that? (*Pause.*) Yes, Peter was very sad. Peter knew that saying he was not friends with Jesus was wrong. Do you remember what Jesus did when He saw Peter? (*Pause.*) Jesus forgave Peter and told Peter to tell everyone that Jesus loves them. And Peter did what Jesus said! Now it's our turn to do what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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"The new Bible verse we're going to learn will help us remember to do what Jesus says. It says: "Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,' (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*) When we're 'kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,' (*spread arms out*), we are doing what Jesus says, because Jesus says to love one another! Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! 'Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,' (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"You did it! (*Clap.*) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Jesus was kind and loving when Jesus forgave Peter. Forgiveness is loving someone like Jesus and giving them a chance to have a do-over. You love them like Jesus even if they make a mistake. We can do what Jesus says and be kind and loving to everyone. Let's make a list of people we can be kind and loving to. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one person you can be kind to, 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: "This is a very special list. (*Hold up the journal.*) Thank you for making it with me. 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 sending Jesus to show us how to be kind and loving to others. Please help us to do what Jesus says and be kind and loving to (*read the names listed in the journal*). Please help us to remember to love like You and give others a do-over when they make a mistake. We want to do what Jesus says and love like Him. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."