

3-5s | W1

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Where's Jesus?

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

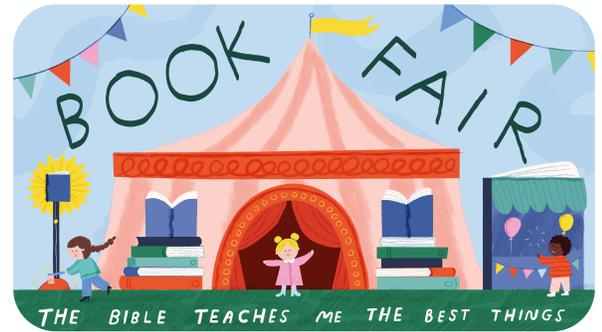
Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Memory Match

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Memory Verse Card



Bible Story

Young Jesus • Luke 2:41-52 | I can talk about God to others

Key Question

What does the Bible teach you?

Bottom Line

The Bible teaches me the best things.

Memory Verse

"Your word is truth" (John 17:17 NIV).

5 min

Social

5 min

Where's Jesus? | Made to Move

What You Need

 "Where's Jesus?" Activity Page	8
 Cardstock	8
 Painter's tape	1
 Scissors	1
 Circle stickers (Optional)	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Where's Jesus?" on cardstock and cut eight per Small Group. Hide the pictures of Jesus in various places in the room.

During the Activity: Encourage children to move around the room helping you find Jesus. When you find Jesus, clap and cheer. Repeat until you've found all the pictures of Jesus.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

- Mark the hiding spots with circle stickers for visual supports.
- Offer crawling, pointing, or wheelchair-friendly locations to explore.

15 min

Groups

5 min

Memory Verse with Motions | Made to Move

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We're going on a Jesus hunt! Let's see if we can find all the pictures of young Jesus in the room."

During the Activity: "Do you think Jesus is hiding by the animals? Or by the snacks? Or maybe over by the teachers? Let's look and find Jesus! *(Pause for children to look around the room.)* Wow! You found Jesus! Hooray! Say I found Jesus! *(With children.)* I found Jesus! Let's look around some more and see if we can find another picture of young Jesus. *(Pause for children to look around the room.)* You found Jesus! Hooray! Say I found Jesus! *(With children.)* I found Jesus! *(Continue until you find all the Jesus pictures.)* Great job looking for Jesus, you found all the pictures of young Jesus.

After the Activity: "Today we'll hear a Bible Story about when Jesus was only 12 years old and got separated from Mary and Joseph, but do you know where He was? Let's find out in our Bible Story."

What You Say:

"Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. 'Your *(point up)* word *(open hands like a book)* is truth,' *(move index finger forward from mouth)* John 17:17" *(open hands like a book)*.

During the Activity

"Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'Your. *(Point up.)* Point one finger up in the air like this *(pointer finger up to the sky)* and say, 'Your.' *(Repeat with children.)* Great job!"

What You Need

	"Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF (Optional)	1
	Cardstock (Optional)	1
	VELCRO® dots (Optional)	1
	Scissors (Optional)	1

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.

- Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.
- Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

5 min

Bible Memory Match | Made to Play**What You Need**

	"Bible Memory Match" Activity Page	2
	Cardstock	2
	Scissors	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Bible Memory Match" on cardstock and cut, two sets per Small Group. Place cards face down on the table.

During the Activity: Encourage children to help find the matching cards and talk about each picture. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

"The next part of our verse says: 'Word. (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book like this (*open hands like a book*) and say, 'word.' (*Pause.*) Now let's put that together. 'Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*). Great job!"

"The next part of our verse says: 'Is truth.' (*Move index finger forward from mouth.*) Put your pointer finger up to your mouth like you are saying shh like this (*pointer finger to lips*), then move your finger forward from your mouth (*move finger forward from mouth*) and say 'is truth.' (*Repeat with children.*) Nice job! Now let's put that together. Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth' (*move index finger forward from mouth*). Super!"

"Now the last part is: John 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book*) and say: John 17:17. (*Repeat with children.*) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? 'Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth,' (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17" (*open hands like a book*). Nice job. Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity

"The Bible teaches us so many wonderful things like how God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. **[Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit with me at the table and let's play a super fun matching game together."

During the Activity: "Let's take a look at some pictures. (*Hold up the picture of the Bible.*) This is a picture of the Bible. The Bible teaches us the best things! (*Hold up the picture of Jesus.*) This is a picture of Jesus. The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! (*Hold up the picture of the heart.*) This is a picture of a heart. The Bible teaches us that God loves us so much! (*Hold up the picture of the children.*) And this is a picture of children just like you because the Bible teaches us that God made every one of us! (*Put all the pictures back on the table face down.*) Okay, I'm going to turn over one card at a time, and we'll see if we can find the card that matches. (*Turn over the first card.*) Look, it's Jesus. Let's see if we can find the picture that matches this one. (*Turn over a second card. If it matches, celebrate. If it's not the match, say, 'Let's try again.' Repeat until all matches are found.*) Hooray! We did it! We found all the matching cards. Great job, friends!"

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us so many things, like we saw in the pictures in our game! Our true story from the Bible today taught us that when Jesus was young, He taught other people about God. Just like Jesus, even when you are young, YOU can talk about God too! **[Bottom**

- Reduce the number of cards you set out at one time. Add cards when appropriate.

5 min

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Journal	1
 Fun-shaped pen	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have a dance party as you walk with the children to your Small Group space. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Open your Bible to John 17:17. 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 talk about God with.

After the Activity: Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

***Line]* The Bible teaches me the best things! What does the Bible teach you? *[Bottom Line]* The Bible teaches me the best things."**

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're at a special party. Show me your best party dance moves. (*Dance as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Great dancing! Now we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Jesus was a child, like you! He went to a special party with His family. When the party was over, and Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, were walking home, they noticed Jesus was not with them! They looked and looked for Jesus. Do you remember where they found young Jesus? (*Pause.*) That's right! Jesus was talking to some very important teachers. Jesus was telling them all about God. We can talk about God to other people, too! Let's make a list together. When I say your name, I want you to tell me someone that you can talk to about God. Then, I will write their name down in our special journal."

"We're learning a Bible verse to help us remember that the Bible is true and the Bible teaches us the best things! It says: 'Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth' (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17 (*open hands like a book*). Let's stand up and say that together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth' (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17 (*open hands like a book*). I'm so glad we have the Bible to teach us the best things! **What does the Bible teach you? *[Bottom Line]* The Bible teaches me the best things."**

After the Activity: "This is a great list of people! (*Hold up the journal.*) Thank you for making it with me. There are so many people we can talk to about God. 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 giving us the Bible so we can learn all about You. Thank You that we can talk to (*read the names listed in the journal*) about You. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Where's Jesus? Made to Move		Quantity
1.	"Where's Jesus?" Activity Page	8
2.	Cardstock	8
3.	Painter's tape	1
4.	Scissors	1
5.	Circle stickers (Optional)	Several

Memory Verse with Motions Made to Move		Quantity
1.	"Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF (Optional)	1
2.	Cardstock (Optional)	1
3.	VELCRO® dots (Optional)	1
4.	Scissors (Optional)	1

Bible Memory Match Made to Play		Quantity
1.	"Bible Memory Match" Activity Page	2
2.	Cardstock	2
3.	Scissors	1

Journal and Prayer Made to Reflect		Quantity
1.	Bible	1
2.	Journal	1
3.	Fun-shaped pen	1