



WEEK
ONE
JULY 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



3. THE NEWS

WHAT YOU NEED: Newspapers, Silly Putty®, and baby wipes

(Can do as a demonstration or groups)

Note: Be considerate of the content on the newspaper pages you use.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay the newspapers on a table. Pre-stretch each Silly Putty® to make sure it's easy for the children to pull.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to stretch the putty and lay it on the newspaper and pat it. Then ask children to peel the putty off the newspaper and explore what appears on their putty. Knead putty and repeat.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Look, friends! This is a table full of newspapers. Newspapers help people get the news—the important information they need."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's see what happens if we put the putty on these newspapers. First, stretch your putty. Now, lay it flat on the paper and pat it. *(Pause.)* Great! Now slowly pull up the putty. *(Pause.)* Do you see it? The news is now on your putty! That's so neat! Roll and squish your putty into a ball and we can do it again. *(Repeat as desired.)* Wow! That is so cool!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The news is so important. It was so fun to copy the news onto the putty. In our Bible Story, we'll hear about some shepherds who got some very important news—but not from a newspaper. I can't wait to hear our Bible Story."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to squish putty onto a surface and peel it up. Ask children to tell you what they think the news is on the putty each time.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

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

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the Memory Verse and teach the motions to the children.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Repeat the verse with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me over here. We have a brand-new Memory Verse and motions to learn! Everyone, listen and watch me. 'I bring you (move upward-facing palms to one side) good news (move flat hand from chin to palm) of great joy (brush flat hands upward twice) that will be for all the people; (arms out wide) Luke 2:10. (Open hands like a book.)"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's do it together! Are you ready? 'I bring you (move upward-facing palms to one side) good news (move flat hand from chin to palm) of great joy (brush flat hands upward twice) that will be for all the people; (arms out wide) Luke 2:10. (Open hands like a book.) Nice job. Let's do it again." (Repeat several times.)"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The Bible teaches us that an angel said that to some shepherds to let them know that Jesus was born. Jesus came to give the whole world joy. **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.** Let's say that one more time, friends. **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.**"



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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. START THE PARTY!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Start the Party Stickers" and "Party Parent Note" Activity Pages, Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent, cardstock, scissors, and paper party hats in solid colors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Start the Party Stickers" on label paper, one set of stickers per child. Copy "Party Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child three party hats. Review the Bible Story, pausing to give children the stickers for each party hat as you tell the story. Then, retell the story a second time and ask children to identify the corresponding story stickers on their party hats. Set aside each child's set of party hats with a parent note for pickup.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, come sit with me! We're going to get this party started with some party hats!" (*Hold up party hats.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, you'll need three party hats. (*Give each child three party hats.*) We're going to use our hats to talk about today's Bible Story.

"In our story today, God sent an angel to tell shepherds the good news that Jesus had been born! Put this shepherd sticker on one of your hats. (*Give each child a sticker and assist when needed.*) After the angel told the shepherds the good news about Jesus, the whole sky filled with angels, saying, 'Glory to God in the highest!' (*Luke 2:14 ESV*) Now you can put this sticker, with lots of angels, on one of your hats. (*Give each child a sticker and assist when needed.*) The shepherds had so much joy, they ran to see Jesus. They found Jesus right where the angel said He would be, lying in a manger. After they saw Jesus, the shepherds ran and told everyone the good news about Jesus! Here is a Baby Jesus sticker for you to put on your last hat. (*Give each child a sticker and assist as needed.*)

"Yay! We have all of our story hats! Now let's talk about the story again! Only this time, we get to wear our hats!

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

"God sent an angel to tell shepherds the good news that His Son, Jesus, had been born! Which hat has a picture of shepherds on it? (Pause.) After the angel told the shepherds the good news about Jesus, the sky filled with angels, saying, 'Glory to God in the highest!' (Luke 2:14 ESV) Which hat has a picture with lots of angels on it? (Pause.) The shepherds had so much joy, they ran to see Jesus! After the shepherds saw Jesus, they ran and told everyone the good news about Jesus so those people could have joy too! Which hat has a picture of Baby Jesus on it? (Pause.) Great job! You can take your party hats home and retell the story with your family."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus gave the shepherds joy, and Jesus gives you joy too! So when I ask you: **'Who gives you joy?'** I want you to say **'Jesus gives me joy!'** Are you ready? Tell me: **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!** Yay! **Jesus gives me joy!**"



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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



4. JOYFUL NEWS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to stand on one side of your activity area as you stand on the other.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to play a version of the game Red Light, Green Light to get to you on the opposite side of the group space. Explain that when you say, 'Good News,' they may start walking. When you say, 'Stop,' the children must stop where they are and say the Bottom Line together. Repeat until all the children make it to you. Once they do, have them stay where they are as you move to the opposite side of the room. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, we're going to play a game today! Come stand on this side of the activity area and I'm going to stand over here."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Have you ever played the game Red Light, Green Light? It's a fun game, but I want to change it up a bit! When I say, 'Good News!' I want you to start walking to me. When I say, 'Stop,' I want you to freeze right where you are, and we'll say: '**Jesus gives me joy.**' Ready? Good news! (Pause.) Stop! **Jesus gives me joy.** (Continue until each child has made it across.) That game was SO fun! You are great listeners."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We're learning that Jesus came to give us joy! **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!**"

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

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 CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



5. GOOD NEWS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Good News" and "Good News Label" Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent, paper cups, paper straws, cotton balls, glue sticks, scissors, washi tape, and permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Good News" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Copy "Good News Label" on label paper, one label per child. Punch a small hole in the bottom of each cup, big enough to slide the straw through. Write each child's name on their cup.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to turn their cup upside down and glue the picture of the shepherds to it and a few cotton balls on it for sheep. Turn the cup around and add their label. Help children tape the angel to the top of their paper straw. Ask children to put the straw into the hole in the cup.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit at the table with me. We learned that Jesus came to be everyone's friend forever. Let's celebrate and make something special to help us remember the good news."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Turn your cup upside down. Who is this a picture of? (Hold up the picture of the shepherds.) It's the shepherds from our Bible Story! Glue the shepherds to your cup. (Pause.) What do shepherds take care of? (Pause.) Sheep! That's right. We can use these cotton balls for sheep. Glue them to your cup. (Pause.) Turn your cup around and add this label. It tells you where you can look in the Bible to find today's story. Who told the shepherds the good news? (Pause.) An angel! Help me tape this angel to the top of your straw. (Pause.) Slide it into the hole in your cup. (Pause.) Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus came to give the whole world joy. **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.** One more time: **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

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KEY QUESTION

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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



BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

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 Luke 2:10. *Note:* Keep this card in your Bible all month long. Encourage the children to fly like angels as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Review the Memory Verse and hand motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people they can tell the good news about Jesus.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're flying like angels while we go to our Small Group spot. Follow me, little angels, and let's fly! (*Pretend to fly like an angel as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! Now let's sit down so we can 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, God sent an angel to tell the shepherds that His Son, Jesus, had been born. Then the sky filled with angels praising God! The shepherds had so much joy they ran to see baby Jesus! Then they ran to tell everyone in town about Jesus so those people could have joy too! Jesus came to give the world joy. That means **Jesus gives me joy**, and Jesus gives you joy! **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!**

"The Bible verse we're going to start learning today are the words the angel said to the shepherds. It says, 'I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,' (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*) So cool! Let's stand up and say that together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,' (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*)



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STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Wow! You sound like the angel who told the shepherds the good news about Jesus! Way to go! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we’re going to make a list of people we can tell the good news about Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one person you can tell about Jesus and I will write their name 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: “Look at all the people we can tell the good news about Jesus! (*Hold up journal.*) Let’s use our list when we pray. 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 give every person in the world joy. That is such good news! Help us tell (*read the list the children made*) that Jesus loves them, and He wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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SOCIAL

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STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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 preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

1. HALO LAUNCHERS

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Turkey basters, one for every two children
- Facial tissues, one or two per child
- Yellow circle stickers, one or two per child

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the facial tissues on a flat surface and place a yellow circle sticker in the center, one or two tissues per child.

2. GAZING AT THE STARS

Made to Play: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic glow-in-the-dark stars
- Dark butcher paper
- Double-sided tape
- Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Activate the stars as directed by the package.
- Adhere the stars to the dark butcher paper with double-sided tape.
- Attach the paper to the bottom of a table with painter's tape.

3. THE NEWS

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Newspapers
- Silly Putty®, one for every two children
- Baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay out all the newspapers on a table.
- Pre-stretch each Silly Putty® to make sure it's easy for the children to pull.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line 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 children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. MEMORY VERSE W/ MOTIONS

[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:

- No supplies needed.



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STORY

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GETTING READY

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

2. START THE PARTY!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Start the Party Stickers" Activity Page
- "Party Parent Note" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Solid-color paper party hats

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Start the Party Stickers" on label paper, one set per child.
- Copy "Party Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child.

3. FIND THE JOY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Find the Joy" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Star stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Find the Joy" on cardstock, one per child.
- Set the Activity Pages and star stickers on the table.

4. JOYFUL NEWS

[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:

- No supplies needed

5. GOOD NEWS

[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:

- "Good News" Activity Page
- "Good News Label" Activity Page

- Cardstock
- Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- Paper cups
- Paper straws
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Washi tape
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Good News" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
- Copy "Good News Label" on label paper, one label per child.
- Punch a small hole in the bottom of each cup, big enough to slide the straw through.
- Write each child's name on their cup.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
- Place one card in your Bible at Luke 2:10.



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SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it 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. bit.ly/FL_StartTheParty_July