

October 1, 2017

Bible Story Focus: God can help me anywhere.

David Protects the Sheep • 1 Samuel 17:34-37

Memory Verse: “We have the LORD our God to help us.” 2 Chronicles 32:8, NLT

Key Question: Who can help you?

Bottom Line: God can help me.

Basic Truth: God loves me.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 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 your 2-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. Lion and Sheep

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Guide the children to stand in front of you.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to pretend to be sheep by getting on all fours and saying “baa baa.” Then encourage the children to pretend to be lions by getting on all fours and making roaring sounds. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It is so much fun to pretend!”

During the Activity: “Let’s pretend to be sheep. Everyone get on your hands and knees and say ‘baa baa.’ (*Demonstrate.*) Great job! Now let’s all be lions!” (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: “You are all awesome sheep and lions! Today we are going to hear about sheep and a lion in our Bible story.”

Transition: Move to Bible story time by encouraging the children to be sheep as you move to the story area. Say, “Come on, little sheep, let’s go hear today’s Bible story!”

2. Find the Lion

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

What You Need: Medium-sized tub, cotton balls, and a plastic lion

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Fill the tub with cotton balls and hide the lion inside the cotton balls.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to place their hands into the tub of cotton balls to try and find the lion. Be sure each child has a turn to try to find the lion. Once a child finds the lion, simply place it back into the tub for the next child to find.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I need your help!”

During the Activity: “There is a lion hidden in this tub! (*Point.*) Can you help me find it?” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Great job! You found it! Thank you so much for helping! The cotton balls (*hold up a cotton ball*) look like sheep and you found a lion (*hold up lion*). Hmm, I bet there are sheep and a lion in our TRUE Bible story today!”

Transition: Move to Bible story time by saying, “I am so excited for our story today! Let’s go to the story area to hear a TRUE story from the Bible. I think we should roar on our way there!”

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the bottom line that was 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.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities after the Bible Story. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. Memory Verse with 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

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children:

*We have (cross arms in front of you with hands in fists)
the Lord our God (one hand on hip; the other pointing to the sky)
to help us. (both hands on hips)
2 Chronicles 32:8 (open hands like a book)*

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I am going to say our new Memory Verse today. Everyone watch me! *We have (cross arms in front of you with hands in fists) the Lord our God (one hand on hip; the other pointing to the sky) to help us (both hands on hips), 2 Chronicles 32:8 (open hands like a book).*”

During the Activity: “Now let’s do it all together! Are you ready?” (*Say the verse with motions several times.*)

After the Activity: “Good job! Our memory verse tells us that God will always help us! He will help us anytime, anywhere. **Who can help you? [Bottom Line] God can help me!**”

2. Picture Retell

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Lion and Sheep” Activity Page, white cardstock, scissors, and a storyboard or butcher paper

(Note: If using a storyboard, you will need pins to attach the pictures. If you use the butcher paper, you will need wall tape and clear tape. If you choose, you can also use cotton balls instead of the sheep from the Activity Page.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Lion and Sheep” Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. If you are using the cotton balls you will not need the sheep from the Activity Page. If you are using the butcher paper, tape it to the wall at preschool level. If you are using the storyboard, set it up in the activity area.

During the Activity: Place the sheep or cotton balls onto the butcher paper or the storyboard. Start retelling the Bible story while referring to the sheep. Then add the lion when the story calls for it.

After the Activity: After you finish retelling the story, say the Bottom Line with the children.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We heard an amazing Bible story today!”

During the Activity: “David was taking care of his sheep. (*Point to the sheep or cotton balls.*) He fed them and always made sure that they were safe. One night he heard something and saw that one of his sheep was missing. (*Take a cotton ball or sheep and move it to the other side of the board/butcher paper and add the lion.*) It was a LION! A lion took the sheep! David knew he had to save his sheep. He needed help! Do you

remember who helped David? *(Pause.)* Yes! God helped David! David fought the lion and saved the sheep with God's help!" *(Place the one sheep back with the others.)*

After the Activity: "God helped David, just like God helps us! God can always help you. **Who can help you? [Bottom Line] God can help me!"**

3. Fill in the Sheep

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: "Sheep" Activity Page, green cardstock, scissors, white paint, small paper plates, and corks or sponges. *(Note: If you do not wish to use paint, you may consider using white stickers or dot markers instead.)*

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Sheep" Activity Page onto the green cardstock. Cut the page in fourths along the dotted lines. Each child will need one fourth of the page. Pour the paint onto the plates.

During the Activity: Give the children "Sheep" cards. Help the children dip the cork or the sponge into the paint. Use the cork or sponge to fill in the sheep on the Activity Page. If you are using stickers or dot markers, use them to fill in the sheep.

After the Activity: Lay the crafts in a safe place to dry.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today in our Bible story we heard how God helped David save his sheep."

During the Activity: "We have sheep on our projects today! *(Hold up.)* Use the corks to paint the sheep. *(Demonstrate.)* Be sure to fill in all of the sheep on your page."

After the Activity: "Great job! Your sheep look so white and fluffy! David needed help to take care of his sheep. God helped David and He helps us too! **Who can help you? [Bottom Line] God can help me!"**