

GOD LOVES ME

WEEK

ONE

JANUARY 2018

SMALL GROUP

3-5

YEAR-OLDS



first look™

TEAM

CEO

Reggie Joiner

DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL STRATEGY

Brittany Compton Robertson

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Kathy Hill

DESIGN AND BRAND MANAGER

Sharon van Rossum

CREATIVE TEAM

Brittany Compton Robertson

Kathy Hill

Autumn Ward

Ashley Hiers

Donna High

Sharon van Rossum

Deb Springer

McKenzie Causey

WRITERS

Donna High

Emily Meredith

Autumn Ward

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Monthly Overview
Create the Environment

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.
Catch the Ball
How Many?
Catching Paperclips

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Amazing Things
Special Delivery

10
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Introductory Sketch
Bible Story
Prayer

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.
Memory Verse with Motions
Watch This
Order by Number
Watch What I Can Do
In the Net
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move
to help them learn

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are
possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

1. CATCH THE BALL

WHAT YOU NEED: 3 small soft balls or beanbags, and a large plastic bowl or scoop (OR a clean, dry milk jug, X-ACTO® knife, and masking or gaff tape)

(NOTE: Instead of purchasing a scoop/bowl, you can make one from a milk jug. Wash it out and dry it. Then take a pair of scissors or an X-ACTO knife and carefully cut off the bottom third of the jug, leaving most of the jug and the handle intact. Then cover the cut edge with tape so there are no sharp edges.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather your scoop/bowl and 3 soft balls.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Line up the children shoulder to shoulder. Give the first child in line a scoop and show him how to hold it. Back up from the line of children about four feet and toss the balls, one at a time, to the child so he can practice catching. Ask the children to pass the scoop/bowl down the line so that each child has the chance to catch all three balls. Repeat until all children in line have had a turn.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Do you ever play 'catch' with your mom or dad or your brother and sister? Today I thought it would be fun to play catch in our classroom."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's line up right here (*point*), shoulder to shoulder, one friend next to the other. Don't worry. Everyone will get a turn. I want you to hold up the scoop like this. (*Demonstrate.*) I'm going to toss each of these soft balls to you one at a time and I want you to try to catch them in the scoop/bowl. Let's get catching!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Boy, we have some talented catchers in this crew! Great job, everyone. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about some men who were busy trying catch something, but it wasn't a ball. Let's head to Large Group to find out what it was."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to toss and catch a ball.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7



PLAY

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

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

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2. HOW MANY?

WHAT YOU NEED: 1 foam die, a cup or bowl, and a large bag of medium-sized pom-poms

(NOTE: If you do not have access to a foam die, you may use smaller plastic die, but be sure that there is adult supervision at all times while using it. Dice can be a choking hazard.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place all of the pom-poms loose on the table or floor in the activity area. Place the cup or bowl in the center.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask one child to roll the die and identify the number of dots shown. Then ask the child to place that number of pom-poms in the cup.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Repeat the activity until the cup is full and every child has had a turn.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's see how many pom-poms we can fit into this cup!" (Point.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First we need roll the die. (Hold up) It will tell us how many pom-poms to place in the cup. (Choose child to roll first.) Okay, now roll the die. (Pause.) Awesome! Let's count how many dots are on it!" (Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "WOW! Our cup is SO FULL. You did a great job! There are A LOT of pom-poms in the cup now. Today we are going to talk about A LOT of fish. I cannot wait for you to hear our Bible story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by telling the children that they will walk A LOT of steps to the Bible story area. Count each step as you walk.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
REVIEW



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move
to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are
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MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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friend forever.

1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

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:**

With God (*point both hands up*)
all things (*spread your arms out in a moving circle in front of your body*)
are possible. (*two thumbs up*)
Matthew 19:26 (*Open your 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. With God (*point both hands up*) all things (*spread your
arms out in a moving circle in front of your body*) are possible (*two thumbs up*),
Matthew 19:26." (*Open your hands like a book.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's do it all together. Are you ready? (*Pause.*)
With God (*point both hands up*) all things (*spread your arms out in a moving
circle in front of your body*) are possible (*two thumbs up*), Matthew 19:26."
(*Open your hands like a book.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! Our memory verse tells us that Jesus can
do things that we can't. He can do ANYTHING. **Who can do anything? Jesus
can do anything!**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



CREATE

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

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

2. WATCH THIS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Glasses 1" Activity Page, white cardstock, butcher paper, plastic wrap, pencil, wall tape, scissors, and preschool-safe sunglasses for each child

(NOTE: This activity will continue throughout the month of January. If possible, keep the sunglasses made from the butcher paper throughout the month. Each week, you will add a new picture to the sunglasses. Keep the sunglasses that the children will wear all month long and send them home with the children on the last week. Alternately, you can pretend to put on glasses weeks one through three and send glasses home on the last week.)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Glasses 1" Activity Page onto the white cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Set aside. Use the pencil to sketch a pair of sunglasses on the butcher paper. You will only need the front view of the glasses. Use the plastic wrap to make the lenses. Cut the glasses out and hang them on the wall at preschool level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children sit in front of the glasses on the wall. Give them each a pair of the preschool-safe glasses to wear. Retell the Bible story. Hang the cutout image from the Activity Page in the corner of one of the lenses of the glasses on the wall.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect all of the sunglasses from the children and save them for next week.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "WOW! Our Bible story was AMAZING today. We are going to talk about how amazing Jesus is. (Give each child a pair of sunglasses.) Now put on your sunglasses and WATCH THIS!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus did things that we cannot do. The fishermen in our story today were not catching ANY fish. They were sad. They really needed to catch fish. Jesus got into their boat and told them to lower their nets into the water. The fishermen had tried and tried before and hadn't caught any

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



CREATE

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

fish, but they loved Jesus and did what He said. They lowered the nets and when they brought them up, they were FULL of fish! WOW! Jesus is amazing. He helped the fishermen catch fish." (*Hang the cutout on the glasses.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus is AWESOME! He can do anything—even things we can't do. **Who can do anything? Jesus can do anything!**" (*Collect the sunglasses from the children.*)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are
possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.

3. ORDER BY NUMBER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Numbers" Activity Page, white cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the cards in random order. Encourage the children to count the fish on each card and put them in order from least to most. Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus helped the fishermen catch LOTS and LOTS of fish!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Point to cards.*) "There are fish on these cards. Some of the cards have small amounts of fish on them and some have LOTS of fish on them. Let's count them together and put them in order from the least fish to the most." (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! Our first card does not have any fish on it. The fishermen were not catching any fish, but Jesus helped them, and they caught A LOT of fish just like our last card. WOW! **Jesus can do anything. Who can do anything? Jesus can do anything!**"

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

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4. WATCH WHAT I CAN DO

WHAT YOU NEED: Hula-hoops, rhythm sticks or other musical instruments, an inflatable microphone, a soft play mat, and a box to hold the items

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place all the gathered items in a box for the children to choose from. The idea is to give the children suggestions for a "talent" they could perform for their group.

Hula-hoops: Children can create a hula-hoop routine.

Rhythm sticks/instruments: Children can perform a song for the class.

Microphone: Children can sing a song.

Soft play mat: Children can do a somersault or a silly dance routine.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather all the children and show them the items you've gathered. Let the children select an item and give them a few minutes to come up with an idea of something they can do to perform for the rest of the class. Once the children have had a few minutes to come up with a plan, then give them a chance to "perform" for their friends! You can make this fun by introducing each child and then saying, "WATCH THIS!"

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today I want to give you the opportunity to show us something super cool that you can do. You can hula-hoop. (*Hold up the hula-hoop.*) You can sing. (*Hold up the microphone.*) You can dance. (*Hold up the play mat.*) You can play instruments. (*Hold up the rhythm sticks/instruments.*) I have all kinds of different items here to choose from. So come and pick what you'd like to use. If someone else wants the same item, let's work on sharing it or maybe performing together. When it's your turn to show off your talent, I want you to say, 'Watch this!'"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow, this is one talented bunch! Great job, friends. You can do some pretty cool things. I loved it when you said, 'Watch this!' You know, Jesus did some AMAZING things too. Today we learned about how Jesus was able to catch all those fish even after Simon Peter and his friends tried ALL night long. Jesus can do things we can't. **Who can do anything? Jesus can do anything!**"

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



CREATE

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

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7

5. IN THE NET

WHAT YOU NEED: "Net" Activity Page, blue cardstock, fishnet material (1 5-inch square per child), scissors, large craft sticks, fish cutouts, and liquid glue

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto the blue cardstock. Cut the netting into five-inch squares. Each child will need one square.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Help the children to glue a craft stick on the each of the two lines on the Activity Page. Encourage the children to place the net on top of the sticks. Help them glue the sides of the net to the sticks. Press the net into the glue to make it stick better. Encourage the children to glue the fish cutouts into the net.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We are going to make a craft to remind us of the AMAZING Bible story we heard today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus put MANY fish in the fishermen's nets. We are going to make a picture of a net with LOTS of fish in it." (Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! Your nets look amazing. They remind us that Jesus can do ANYTHING, like how He helped the fishermen catch A LOT of fish. **Who can do anything? Jesus can do anything!**"

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

PRAY
TO GOD
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

BIBLE STORY

Jesus can do things we can't.

Catching Fish
LUKE 5:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:26, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do anything?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" paper clipped in your Bible at Matthew 19:26, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Since our Bible story today was about how Jesus helped His friends catch a lot of fish, let's pretend we're fish swimming to our Small Group spot. Do your mouth like this (*make a fish face*) and follow me!

(*"Swim" like a fish as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

"That was fun! You make great little fishies! Now let's sit down so we can talk about our story today. One, two, three, sit down with me!

"In our story today, Jesus helped His friend Peter catch a lot of fish. Peter was **AMAZED** because he had been fishing all day and didn't even catch one fish. Jesus caught so many fish it almost sunk the boat! That's a lot of fish! Peter learned Jesus can do things we can't. In fact, **Jesus can do anything! Who can do anything?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus can do ANYTHING!"

SGL: "Again! **Who can do anything?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus can do ANYTHING!"

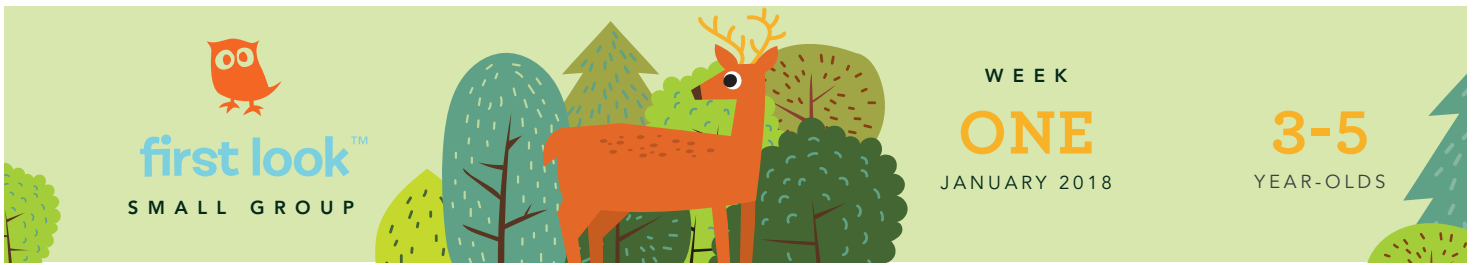
SGL: "He sure can! And our new Bible verse will help us remember that **Jesus can do anything.**

(*Open Bible to verse.*)

"It says: With God all things are possible, Matthew 19:26.

(*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say that verse together with the motions. I want us to



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

remember this one forever! Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "With God (*point both hands up*) all things (*spread your arms out in a moving circle in front of your body*) are possible (*two thumbs up*), Matthew 19:26." (*Open your hands like a book.*) (*Repeat several times.*)

SGL: "You sound awesome! (*Clap for the children.*) Good job! Now it's time to write in our journal and pray. Let's sit down together.

(*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"There are a lot of things we will never be able to do, like I will never be able to fly like a bird, jump to the moon, or have super powers. I want us to make a list of some of the things we can't do. When we pray, we can thank God for giving us a friend like Jesus who can do ANYTHING! So, when I say your name, tell me one thing you can't do."

(*Write each child's name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

"Thank you for helping make this list. Let's use it when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, You made us to be able to do a lot of things, like be a good friend, learn new things, and love our families. But there are some things we can't do, like (*read the list the children made*). It would be amazing if we could, but we are people, and people just don't do those things, but not Jesus. No way! Jesus is SO awesome, and He can do anything! Thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."