

April 14, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Jesus says to tell others about Him.
Great Commission • *Matthew 28:18-20*

Memory Verse: "Let your light shine." Matthew 5:16, NIV

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.

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.

During the Activity: Guide the children as they take turns "fishing" for the story pictures. After all the fish have been caught, sit with the children and put the story pictures in order as they happened. Put the fish back in the basket and play again!

Important Job

[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: "Important Job" and "Important Job Person" Activity Pages, cardstock, washable markers, scissors, metal brads, and permanent marker; *Optional: camera and glue sticks*

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Important Job" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Copy "Important Job Person" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child. Poke a hole in the middle of the world and at the end of the person cutout. *Option: Take each child's full body picture with the camera, print, and cut out.*

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their world with blue and green markers and decorate the person to look like themselves. *Option: Ask children to glue the picture of themselves to cover the gingerbread person.* Attach the person cutout to the back of the world with a brad. Demonstrate how the person cutout can move around the world telling everyone, everywhere that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit at the table with me. Let's make a craft to help us remember today's Bible Story."

During the Activity: "Jesus gave His friends, the disciples, a very important job to do. Jesus wanted them to go and tell everyone everywhere that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Decorate the person cutout to look like you. *(Pause.)* Amazing! Now look at the dots on the world. Where you see green dots, color green. Where you see blue dots, color blue. *(Pause.)* Great job coloring the world! Now let's add you to the world so YOU can go and tell everyone everywhere that Jesus wants to be

their friend forever!" (*Attach the person cutout to the back of the world cutout with the brad. Demonstrate how the "person" can move around the world.*)

After the Activity: "In our Bible Story today, Jesus gave His friends, the disciples, an important job to do. Jesus told His friends to go and tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus is alive and Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Jesus told them to GO and TELL. And we can do that important job, too, because we can do what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.**"

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 from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Matthew 5:16. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to skip as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people we can go and tell 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 skip like this (*demonstrate*) to our Small Group spot. Just do the best you can and follow me! (*Skip as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) That was a fun way to get to our Small Group spot! Now let's 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 said to go and tell everyone everywhere that Jesus is alive and Jesus wants to be their friend forever. You can skip to go and tell. You can run to go and tell. You can even hop to go and tell! The important thing is to do what Jesus says. And: **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** That's right!"

"And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light, which is what Jesus says for us to do in the Bible verse we are learning. It says: 'Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine,' (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Stand up and say Jesus' words with me! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine,' (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"Yay! (*Clap.*) Now it's time to write in our prayer journal and talk to God, so let's sit down. (*Open journal.*) Today, we're going to make a list of people we can go and tell about Jesus. When I say your name, tell me the name of one person, 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: “Look at all of these people! (*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, You are the BEST! Thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. Help us to go and tell (*read the list the children made*) that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever. We want to do what Jesus says and shine our light! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”