

FIRST IMPRESSION OF A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER

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CURRICULUM FOR PRESCHOOLERS A

Editor in Chief
Kristi Lemoine

Creative Director
Kendra Fleming

Copy Editor
Wendi Zebell

Curriculum Writers
Jodi Blackwell
Emily Hill
Donna Taylor

Illustrators &
Graphic Designers
Jodi Blackwell
Jeff Gribble
Julie Shefchunas

We want preschoolers to take a **first look** at who God is and understand...

God made me • God loves me

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Chief Creative Officer
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John Estes
Howard Odom

Partner Support
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Leigha Montgomery

Jesus wants to be my friend for ever

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open my eyes so that i can see the **wonderful truths**...Psalm 119:18

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Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: How can I show God I love Him?

Bottom Line: *I can love God like Jesus did.*

Memory Verse: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37, NIV

Bible Story Focus: Jesus told everyone about God.
Teaching in Galilee • Luke 4:14-31,42-44



January 29, 2006

Here's an overview of what you'll be teaching 3s-5s this week.

Make It Fun

(Choose one or all of these activities)

- Hear Ye, Hear Ye
- Buried Treasure
- Message Relay

Make It True

- Introductory Sketch
- Bible Story
- Worship

Make It Stick

(Choose as many of these activities as you like)

- Make a Maze
- Hectic Heart
- Sending My Love (Bible story review)
- Hey, Everybody!
- All Your Heart

Make It Real

- Small Group Time
- Prayer
- Dismiss: Small Talk cards

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Make it fun

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

10 MINUTES

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. .

HEAR YE, HEAR YE

Whatcha Do: Give each child a copy of "Megaphone Template." Let kids color their megaphones and decorate them with stickers. When they're finished decorating, roll the megaphones and secure them with tape. Keep the megaphones for use during Make It Real and Make It Stick.

Whatcha Say: "These are called megaphones. People use megaphones to tell other people important news. You'll use your megaphones during today's Bible story to tell important news, too."

WHAT CHA NEED

- "Megaphone Template" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) copied onto brightly colored cardstock for each child and cut apart
- Crayons or markers
- A variety of stickers
- Transparent tape

BURIED TREASURE

Whatcha Do: Spread the plastic sheet on the floor. Set the tub of sand in the center of the sheet and bury the foam hearts in the sand. Lead the kids to dig through the sand to find a foam heart for themselves. Encourage them to help others find foam hearts, too. If you have strainers, kids can scoop the sand into the strainers and sift for the hearts. If you have time, the kids can bury their hearts and play again.

Whatcha Say:

As the activity begins: "God loves everyone. Hearts remind me of love. Let's dig through this sand to find foam hearts for everyone here."

As the activity ends: "Does everyone have a foam heart? Good! God loves everyone. In our Bible story today, Jesus told everyone about God."

WHAT CHA NEED

- One craft foam heart shape for each child
- A sandbox or a plastic tub filled with sand
- A plastic sheet
- Small strainers (optional)

MESSAGE RELAY

Whatcha Do: Guide kids to form two teams. If you have fewer than six kids, let the kids play the game as one team. Guide your teams to line up. Place the laundry baskets about 10 feet behind the last person in line on each team. Scatter the balls and other objects around the baskets. Whisper a message to the first child in line (such as, 'Put the blue ball in the basket'), and then guide that child to whisper the message to the child behind her. Guide the kids to repeat the message until it reaches the last child in line. When the last child hears the message, lead him to do what he hears. Play the game, rotating who's last in line, until each child has had a turn to place an object in the basket.

Whatcha Say: "You all did a good job telling the messages to your friends. In today's Bible story, Jesus had a message that He wanted everyone to hear."

WHAT CHA NEED

- A variety of soft foam balls, scarves, playground balls, or other objects kids can grab
- Two laundry baskets or large boxes

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Make it true

LARGE GROUP

15 MINUTES

After children have participated in Make It Fun, gather them for a large group time that includes an introductory sketch, a Bible story, and interactive worship.

Choose an adult who relates well to preschoolers to tell the Introductory Sketch. If possible, use the same adult all year. To add variety, consider videotaping the sketch and playing the video during Make It True.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended. Encourage children to be active during worship by providing suggested materials and/or incorporating appropriate hand motions as described in the teaching instructions that follow.

INTRODUCTORY SKETCH

HOST: "Hey, everyone. It's so good to see you here today. How many of you have baby brothers or sisters? I do, too. I have one baby brother (or change to fit your family).

• No supplies needed.

"I remember when my baby brother was born. I was 4 years old (or however old you were when your younger sibling was born), and I was so excited to have a new baby brother. When I found out I had a new baby brother, I called my grandparents and told them. 'Guess what Grammy and Granddad. I have a new baby brother.'

"When I got home, I went to my neighbor's house and told them that I had a brand new baby brother. Then I went down the street to Tommy's house and told him that I had a new baby brother. When Dad got home, we got on the computer and sent a picture of my new baby brother to all of our friends.

"Not everybody had a computer, so I helped Dad put together a card to mail to everyone we knew to tell them that I had a new baby brother. When the mailman came that afternoon to deliver our mail, I ran outside to tell him that I had a new baby brother.

"I was so excited about my new baby brother. I wanted everyone to know the big news. If Dad had let me, I would have marched up and down the street yelling (*cup hands to mouth to show that you're yelling*), 'I have a new baby brother!'

"Did you know that Jesus wanted everyone to know about something wonderful? He wanted them to know about God, His Father. It's true."

BIBLE STORY

STORYTELLER: "You all did a great job on your megaphones. Everyone, hold up your megaphones for me to see. Wow! Those are awesome! Now I'd like for you to put your megaphones behind your backs because we're going to use them a little later.

(*Open the Bible to Luke 4:14-31,42-44.*) "Today's Bible story is about Jesus. The Bible is God's Word and is true.

"One day, Jesus traveled to his hometown of Nazareth and went to the temple. The temple is like our church. It's where people worshiped God. Jesus stood up and read from the scroll, which is like the Bible. When He read, the people were amazed that He knew so much about God's Word. The people said, 'Isn't this Joseph's son?' Joseph was a carpenter, so they didn't expect for a carpenter's son to understand God's Word so clearly.

WHAT CHA NEED

- A NIV Bible marked at Luke 4:14-31,42-44
- The megaphones kids made in "Hear Ye, Hear Ye" during Make It Fun



"Then Jesus traveled to Capernaum (*kuh-PERR-nay-uhm*). Guess what He did there. (*Pause for responses.*) Again He went to the temple, opened God's Word, and began to teach. And guess what. Again the people were amazed at all that He knew about God. You see, Jesus told everyone about God. He was willing to travel to all kinds of places so that people could hear the truth about who God is and why we worship Him.

"Later on, Jesus was off by Himself praying when the people of the town came to Him and asked Him to stay in their town. They didn't want Him to leave. But Jesus said, 'I must announce the good news of God's kingdom to the other towns also. That is why I was sent.' Then He continued to travel throughout Judea telling people about God.

"You know, there is a good lesson here for us, too. Jesus told everyone about God because Jesus loved God. When we tell others about God, we're also showing God we love Him. 🌟 I can love God like Jesus did.

"Let's practice. Grab your megaphones. I want you to say, 'Hey, everybody. God loves you!' right into your megaphones. Everyone put your megaphone to your mouth. Say it with me."

KIDS and STORYTELLER: "Hey, everybody. God loves you!"

Guide kids to repeat the phrase in several different ways. They can whisper it, yell it, say it on their tiptoes, bend down to say it, or say it to a neighbor. Let them repeat this phrase three or four different ways.

STORYTELLER: "You all did a great job! Jesus told everyone about God, and we can too. Should we tell tall people? (*Pause for responses.*) What about short people? What about people with brown eyes? What about people wearing yellow shirts? What about people who live far away? What about the people in your neighborhood? We should tell everyone-no matter who they are-that God loves them! It's important for us to tell others about God just like Jesus did. That's one way 🌟 I can love God like Jesus did."

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PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Let's pray and ask God to help us remember that. God, I am so glad to know that I can love You like Jesus did. Thank You for sending Jesus to tell everybody about You. I'm so glad that 🙋 **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Help us to tell everybody about how much You love them. In Jesus' name, Amen."

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."
MATTHEW 22:37

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER: "Jesus had good news to tell, and I've got good news, too. My good news is that 🙋 **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** Can you say that with me?"

KIDS and WORSHIP LEADER: 🙋 "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

WORSHIP LEADER: "You did a great job using your megaphones to tell everybody that God loves them. Let's use our megaphones to sing to God this morning. If you would rather do the motions instead, you don't have to use your megaphones."

Sing "Hey God," track 9, from the CD *UpStreet Kids: Hey God!* Lead the kids who don't want to use their megaphones in the following motions.

- "Hey"—Punch your fist in the sky with each 'hey.'
- "Love you"—Hug yourself.
- "Need you"—Nod your head 'yes.'
- "You can't do"—Shake your head 'no.'
- "See me through"—Hold your hand over your eyes like a visor.
- "Hey, God"—Punch your fist in the sky.

WORSHIP LEADER: "That was some great worship! Now I have a ques-

- A NIV Bible marked at Matthew 22:37
- CD player
- The CDs *KidStuf Classics: Get Down* and *UpStreet Kids: Hey God!*
- A guitar (optional)
- The megaphones kids made in "Hear Ye, Hear Ye" during Make It Fun
- Also, use this month's original worship song, which you can download from the Web site, during this segment or whenever you like this month.

WHAT CHA NEED



tion for you. Who remembers our memory verse this month? Anybody? (If kids don't seem to remember, show the motion for the word 'love.')

Can anyone tell me the first word?" (Pause for responses, then open the Bible and read the verse. Lead the kids in saying the verse and doing the motions together.)

"Love"—Cross your arms and give yourself a hug.

"God"—Point to the sky.

"Heart"—Draw a heart on your chest using your two index fingers.

"Matthew 22:37"—Put your palms together in front of you, and then open them as if opening a book.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job, everyone. We can love the Lord with all our hearts. You know, I love to listen to you worship God each week. This is your time to tell God how much you love Him, so let's sing this song to Him."

Lead the kids to sing "WannaBe," track 3, from the CD *KidStuf Classics: Get Down*. If possible, have someone play guitar as you sing. If you use the CD, let the kids sing the entire song. Use the following motions:

"Heart that beats for you"—Put both your hands over your heart like it's beating.

"Mouth speakin' truth"—Put your hands beside your mouth and make them open and close like a mouth.

"Eyes that look always to you"—Point to your eyes, and then to the sky.

"Ears that hear your word"—Cup your hands behind your ears.

"Hands that hold your sword"—Put your hands together in front of you, and then open them like a book.

"Feet that walk only with you"—Walk in place.

"Yeah, yeah"—Punch your hand in the air twice.

"Part of you"—Point to the sky.

WORSHIP LEADER: "You were really worshipping. Thank you! Let's listen to find out from (say teacher's name) what we get to do next!"

God
Loves
me

God made me

Jesus wants to be
my friend
forever



Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: How can I show God I love Him?

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Memory Verse: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37, NIV

Bible Story Focus: Jesus told everyone about God.
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Make it stick

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

35 MINUTES

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today's Bible story and Bottom Line. 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 of the kids to participate in each, then switch groups and repeat the activities.

Make a Maze

Whatcha Do: Give each child a maze and let him choose a marker. Guide him to start at the top of the maze and try to draw a path that touches each person in the maze. Every time he reaches a person, guide him to say, "God loves everyone."

Whatcha Say: "In our Bible story today, how did Jesus show God He loved Him? (Pause.) That's right. Jesus showed God He loved Him by telling everyone about Him. **How can I show God I love Him?**

★ **I can love God like Jesus did.** Just like Jesus told everyone about God, we can tell everyone about God, too. Who is one person you can tell about God this week?"

WHAT CHA NEED

- A copy of "Make a Maze" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) for each child
- Water-based markers

Hectic Heart

Whatcha Do: Guide kids to sit in a circle. Lead the kids to pass the beanbag around the circle by using only their elbows. As each child passes the beanbag, lead her to say, "God loves everyone, and God loves you." Repeat the game, guiding the kids to pass the beanbag a different way each time it goes around the circle. They can pass it with their toes, their knees, their wrists, their arms, or with two fingers.

Whatcha Say: "Who does God love? (God loves everyone.) That's right. God loves everyone, and He wants us to tell everyone about Him. In today's Bible story, who told everyone about God? (Jesus.) That's right. Jesus told everyone about God. When Jesus told others about God, He was showing God love. **How can I show God I love Him?** ★ **I can love God like Jesus did."**

WHAT CHA
NEED

- The heart beanbag you made for "Beanbag Toss" during Week 1

Sending My Love

Whatcha Do: Give each child a copy of "Postcard" and invite her to decorate the back of it as she chooses. As she works, point out the memory verse printed on the other side of the card. Encourage her to think of someone who lives far away to whom she would like to send her card. Before she leaves, be sure to affix a postage stamp to her postcard and send home a copy of "A Note For Parents."

Whatcha Say: "In our Bible story today, Jesus told people in many towns about God. When you send your card to someone who lives in another town, you'll be telling them about God, too. You'll be loving God like Jesus did. **How can I show God I love Him?** ★ **I can love God like Jesus did."**

WHAT CHA
NEED

- "Postcard" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) copied onto cardstock and cut apart for each child
- A copy of "A Note for Parents" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) for each child
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- A 23-cent stamp for each child



Hey, Everybody!

Whatcha Do: Give each child his or her megaphone. Lead the kids to pretend to drive, walk, ride a bike, fly in an airplane, ride in a hot air balloon, or sail in a boat to many different places. (*Move around the room and do each type of travel.*) When they get to each location, they can use their megaphones to tell everyone there, "Hey, everybody. God loves you!"

Whatcha Say:

At the start of the activity: "Let's take some pretend trips to tell as many people as we can about Jesus. Where would you like to go first: the park or the grocery store? (Pause.) Good! Let's drive there. (Guide kids to pretend to get into cars and drive to the location they chose. Be sure to include as many details as possible, like putting on your seatbelt, making turns, and stopping at lights. Once you've 'arrived' at your location, guide kids to stop and say the following through their megaphones.) Hey, everybody. God loves you!" (Continue the game, pretending to ride a scooter to the post office, ride a motorcycle to the airport, take a plane to grandmother's house, ride a bike to a friend's house, or drive to church. Add to the fun by letting the kids think of where they'd like to go and how they'd like to get there.)

When the activity ends: "Jesus told everyone about God. When He did that, He was showing God that He loved Him. When you tell others about God, you're showing God you love Him, too. You're loving God just like Jesus did. How can I show God I love Him? ★ I can love God like Jesus did."

WHAT CHA NEED

- The megaphones kids made in "Hear Ye, Hear Ye" during Make It Fun





All Your Heart

Whatcha Do: Pour shallow layers of tempera paint into the pie pans. Help kids put on smocks, then let each child choose an "All your Heart" page. Show kids how they can press the cookie cutters and whisk into the paint and then onto their pages to create designs. When they finish, invite them to sprinkle glitter over the wet paint (*optional*). Be sure to shake off the excess glitter before the kids pick up their pages.

Whatcha Say: "Printed around your hearts is our verse for this month. Will you say it with me? 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart,' Matthew 22:37. Let's say it again. 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart,' Matthew 22:37. What are some things you can do to love God with all your heart? (*I can tell Him I love Him, I can talk to Him, I can thank Him for good things, I can ask Him to help me, I can do what He wants me to do, and I can tell others about Him.*) **How can I show God I love Him?** ★ **I can love God like Jesus did."**

WHAT CHA NEED

- "All Your Heart" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) copied onto red, white, or pink cardstock for each child
- Tempera paint
- Pie pans or shallow plastic dishes
- Smocks
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- A twist whisk (*the kind where the whisk part is a spiral*)
- *Optional:* glitter

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Make it real

SMALL GROUP

5 MINUTES

Make It Real is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests.



Divide kids into small groups of about five to eight children with each leader. Ideally, assign the same small group leader to the same group of preschoolers for the entire year.

small group time

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "Who has the postcard you made earlier?"

Hold them up for me. (Pause.) Wow, those look great! I'd like to go around the circle and let each one of you tell everybody who you're going to send your postcard to."

As the kids share who they will send their postcard to, record their answers in the journal. Make sure the kids know that you're writing down these names.

SGL: "When you mail your postcard, you're doing what Jesus did. You're telling someone God loves them. That's one way  **I can love God like Jesus did.** (Open the journal to the heart symbol.) That's what this symbol reminds me of. It reminds me that  **I can love God like Jesus did."**

WHAT CHA NEED

- Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group, the postcards the kids made in "Sending My Love" during Make It Stick, and a NIV Bible marked at Matthew 22:37.



Let kids take turns opening the Bible to the marked verse. Read the verse aloud each time a child finds it in the Bible. Remind kids that this verse tells us how to love God—with all our hearts. That's the same way Jesus loved God.

prayer

SGL: "Wow, I can't wait for you to mail these postcards this week! Won't it be exciting for all of these people to get a postcard with such an important message? Let's thank God that we can tell others about how much God loves them."

Ask kids to bow their heads and close their eyes. Instruct them to pray silently while you pray aloud.

get ready to dismiss

Set any take-home creations where you or parents can get them easily. Greet parents at the door and give them a copy of Small Talk. Encourage parents to use Small Talk throughout the week as they continue helping their child understand that **★ I can love God like Jesus did.**

If a parent has not received a magnet yet this month, explain that this month preschoolers are learning that **★ I can love God like Jesus did.** Point out this month's memory verse and the symbol. Encourage parents to put the magnet on their refrigerator so they can see it often and reinforce their child's learning at home during the month.

WHAT CHA NEED

- Copy this week's Small Talk onto cardstock and cut the cards apart.
- Make copies of "January Magnet" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) available for parents who did not receive one earlier this month.

