

FIRST IMPRESSION OF A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER

FOR PRESCHOOLERS A

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

# FIRST LOOK™

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God made me • God loves me • Jesus wants to be my friend for ever

5

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:** Is anything too hard for Jesus?

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus can do anything.*

**Memory Verse:** "God can do anything."

Matthew 19:26, CEV

**Bible Story Focus:** Jesus can do things we can't.  
Catching Fish • Luke 5:1-11

### February 5, 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)

- Make It Sink
- Stuffed Trout
- Go Fish!

#### Make It True

- Introductory Sketch
- Bible Story
- Worship

#### Make It Stick

(Choose as many of these activities as you like)

- Catch Anything?
- Memory Verse Fishing
- Fill Your Net
- Fishing Contest
- Empty Net, Full Net (Bible story review)

#### Make It Real

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

If you are choosing to lead "Memory Verse Fishing" during Make It Stick, post the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site). Be sure to list the foods you will be serving today. As parents bring their children to your room, call their attention to the sign.

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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.

## MAKE IT SINK

**Whatcha Do:** Place the tub of water on a towel with a couple extra towels beside it to soak up any spills. Place the boat in the tub of water and the cargo items beside the tub. Allow the children to take turns placing items in the boat until the boat is overloaded and begins to sink.

**Whatcha Say:** "Sometimes boats are used to carry stuff from one place to another. If you put too much stuff in a boat, though, it gets heavy and starts to sink. Let's see how much stuff our boat can hold before it sinks. (*Sink the boat and let the children dry off the boat and the cargo items with the towels.*) Today in our Bible story, a boat got too full and started to sink. Let's make our boat sink again." (*Repeat as many times as you wish.*)

### WHAT CHA NEED

- A large tub of water
- A large toy plastic boat that's just an open shell, such as a toy rowboat or motorboat
- A number of small heavy objects, such as Lincoln Logs® or small wooden blocks
- Towels

## STUFFED TROUT

**Whatcha Do:** Fold a paper plate in half for each child. Cut a paper plate into quarters for every two children. Guide children to crumple art paper, paper towels, or newspaper and stuff it into their folded paper plates. Then staple the top of the folded paper plate together with a "fin" and "tail" stapled inside as directed on "Stuffed Trout." Allow children to draw an eye on each side of their "fish." They may also add scales if they like. Write the child's name somewhere on their fish so they can take them home. You'll also use these "fish" during Make It True.

**Whatcha Say:** "There are some fishermen in today's Bible story. Let's make some fish like fishermen catch."

### WHAT CHA NEED

- A copy of "Stuffed Trout" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site)
- Several different colors of paper plates
- Strips of art paper, paper towels, or newspaper
- Stapler
- Washable black or dark blue markers

## GO FISH

**Whatcha Do:** Play a game of "Go Fish" with three or four children. Shuffle the cards and deal four cards to each child. Place the remaining cards in a pile, face-down, in the middle of the group. The object of the game is to get all four words of the memory verse. The cards are also numbered 1 through 4 since children may not be able to read the words on the cards.

Explain that each child will ask another child for a card he does not have. If the other child has the card, he must give it to the child asking. The child asking will trade a card he does not need for the card he asked for. If the other child does not have the card, then the child who asked must "go fish" from the stack of cards in the middle of the group.

To make the game more challenging for 5-year olds, children should discard when they get a card from the deck, so they always have only four cards in their hand.

### WHAT CHA NEED

- "Go Fish Cards" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) copied onto two sheets each of red, yellow, blue, and green cardstock, and then cut apart
- You should have a total of 32 cards once they're cut apart.

When a child gets all four cards of the memory verse (or cards numbered 1 through 4), help him place the cards in order and read the memory verse to the children. Shuffle and play again.

**Whatcha Say:** "In today's Bible story, something amazing happened because of God. Our memory verse this month is 'God can do anything.' We're going to play a version of 'Go Fish' where we want to try to collect these four cards (*show cards 1 through 4 to the children*). See the numbers in this corner and the dots in the other corner? The cards are numbered 1 through 4. There are also words on the cards. When you have all the cards, you will have all the words of our memory verse. When it's your turn, you will ask one of the other children for one of the number cards you don't have. If they have it, you will trade them one of your cards for it. If they don't have it, they will say, 'Go fish.' Then you will pick a card from the pile in the middle. If you get cards numbered 1 through 4, say, 'I have all the fish!'"

God loves me

God made me

Jesus wants to be  
my friend  
forever

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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:** "Have you ever been fishing? Boy, I love to fish. It's one of my favorite things to do. In fact, when I was your age, my dad took me fishing for the first time.

"One Saturday, Dad and I decided to go fishing. We had to get up really early. You have to go early if you want to catch any fish. Dad woke me up, but it wasn't hard to get me out of bed because I was so excited. I got dressed and grabbed my fishing pole and tackle box. Mom

WHAT CHA NEED

• A kid's fishing pole



packed a lunch for Dad and me, and we headed out to the creek.

"When we got there, Dad and I picked out a good fishing spot. No one else was out that morning, so I thought we would have a good shot at catching something. I pulled my pole out and started to cast my line out into the water. (*Demonstrate with the pole.*)

"Hang on there, Son,' my dad said. 'You have to put some bait on your hook first.' He opened this can with all these worms in it. I didn't like touching the worms, so my dad said, 'That's okay, Son. Give me your pole and I'll take care of the bait part.' He tied a hook on the end of my fishing line and then stuck the worm on the hook. Dad could do something that I couldn't. I was so glad he was there to help me bait my hook.

"I caught two small fish that day and proudly took them home to Mom. If Dad hadn't been there to do something I couldn't, fishing wouldn't have been nearly as much fun. Our Bible story today is also about someone who can do things we can't do. It's someone we talk about a lot. His name is Jesus. Jesus can do things we can't.  **Jesus can do anything.**"



BIBLE STORY



Before kids arrive, make a "boat" by wrapping the art paper around the table legs. Fill one net with the "Stuffed Trout" the kids made and place it on the floor behind the "boat" where the kids can't see it. Sit in the "boat" and place the empty net in the "boat" with you. Ask the kids to sit on the floor in front of you.

**STORYTELLER:** (*Open Bible to Luke 5.*) "The Bible tells us about God. We can always trust that the Bible is true.

"There's a story in the Bible about a group of fishermen. These fishermen lived in Jesus' day. One night they went out to fish in the Sea of Galilee. Instead of using a fishing pole to catch one fish at a time, they used big nets. They would throw them out into the water like this. (*Cast the empty net out into the 'water.'* Make sure you throw the net behind you.)

"Let's see if we caught anything. (*Pull in the net.*) Nope. No fish here. Let's try again. (*Cast the net into the water again.*) Let's see what we have. (*Pull in the net.*) Nope, still no fish. The Bible says the fishermen cast their nets into the water all night long, but every time they pulled in a net, it was empty.

"The next day, the fishermen parked their boats at the water's edge while they mended their nets. Jesus came along, and He was tired. Jesus had become very popular and many people wanted to talk to Him. Jesus walked up to Simon, one of the fishermen, and asked him to push his boat out into the water.

"Once they were out on the water, Jesus told Simon, 'Cast your nets out into the sea.' Simon said, 'We were out all night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, we'll try again.' So Simon Peter followed Jesus' instructions and cast the nets out into the water. (*Cast the empty net into the water right next to the full net that the children can't see.*)

"Can you guess what happened? Do you think the net was empty when they pulled it back in? (*Pause for responses.*) This time, when they pulled in the net, it was so heavy that it began to tear. (*Strain as you start to pull in the net.*) There were probably hundreds of fish in the net.

WHAT CHA NEED

- A Bible marked at Luke 5:1-11
- A table turned upside down
- A large piece of art paper cut in half lengthwise
- Clear packing tape
- Two fishing nets
- The "Stuffed Trout" the kids made during Make It Fun

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

# FIRST LOOK™



FEBRUARY / WEEK 1 / 3s-5s

There were so many fish that Simon Peter had to call for help to pull the net in. Can you help me pull in all these fish? (*Let the children help you pull the net with all the fish into the boat.*) Thank you. There are so many fish in this net, there's no way I could have pulled them all in by myself.

"When Simon Peter saw all the fish they had caught, he was amazed. Jesus had done something that he and his fishermen friends couldn't do. They had fished all night long and hadn't caught a thing. They learned that  **Jesus can do anything.** Can you say that with me?"

KIDS and STORYTELLER:  "Jesus can do anything."

## PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Let's talk to God now. Can you close your eyes and bow your heads? (*Pause as kids follow your instructions.*) Thank You, God, for showing us in the Bible that Jesus can do things we can't. Help us to remember that this week. In Jesus' name, Amen."

"God can do anything."

MATTHEW 19:26

## WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER: (*Open your Bible to Matthew 19:26.*) "Our memory verse this month says, 'God can do anything.' God can do anything, and He gives Jesus the power to do anything, too. Let's learn some motions to help us remember this verse."

"God"—Point to the sky.

"Anything"—Fan arms out away from your body.

"Matthew 19:26"—Open your hands as if reading a book.

Lead the kids to sing "I'm Gonna Walk," track 5, from the CD *KidStuf Classics: Get Down*. If possible, have someone play guitar as you sing. For all the applicable words, do the explained motions. Also use the following motions:

- A Contemporary English Version Bible marked at Matthew 19:26
- A CD player
- The CD *KidStuf Classics: Get Down*
- A guitar (optional)
- 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



"When the sun comes up"—Wave your arms overhead.  
"When the sun goes down"—Fold your hands under your head like you're sleeping.

WORSHIP LEADER: "The Bible tells us that Jesus can do anything. He was able to catch all those fish when the fishermen weren't able to. That's because Jesus can do anything. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS and WORSHIP LEADER: "Jesus can do anything."

WORSHIP LEADER: "I also know that Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Say that with me."

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "It's pretty cool to think about the fact that someone who can do anything wants to be your friend forever. Let's thank God for giving us a friend like Jesus."

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 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: "I just love to hear you worship God. If it makes me smile to hear you worship God, I know it really makes God smile. Remember, worship is just one way to show God how much we love Him. Let's listen to (insert teacher's name) to see what's next."

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Catching Fish • Luke 5:1-11

# 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.

## Catch Anything?

**Whatcha Do:** Place the tub of water on a towel and put the toy fish in the water. Place the fishing nets, slotted spoons, or small colanders beside the tub. Let one or two children at a time try to "catch" fish using the nets, spoons, or colanders. You may make it into a contest and set a time limit with the timer or have other children count to 10.

**Whatcha Say:** "Fishing can be hard to do. Sometimes people fish and don't catch anything, like in our Bible story today. But Jesus made it so they did catch fish, even when they thought they couldn't catch any. **Is anything too hard for Jesus?** 🌟 **Jesus can do anything.** Let's see if we can catch some fish. After we practice catching fish, we can have a contest to see who can catch the most fish the fastest."

WHAT CHA NEED

- A tub of water
- A towel
- Plastic toy fish
- Small fishing nets (such as for fish tanks)
- Slotted spoons
- Small colanders
- Timer (optional)

Be sure to list the foods you will be serving today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) and post it at the door to your room.



## Memory Verse Fishing

**Whatcha Do:** Help kids wash their hands. Give each child a copy of "Memory Verse Fishing." Show the kids the container of Goldfish® and ask them how many fish they think are in the container. Talk about how many fish it might have taken to sink the boat in the story. Guide children to glue Goldfish® onto the empty nets on their activity pages, and then say the memory verse together. Serve Goldfish® and blue Kool-Aid® as a snack.

**Whatcha Say:** "Look at all these fish. How many do you think there are? (Pause for responses.) Do you think Jesus' friends caught that many fish? They couldn't catch any at first, but then Jesus made it possible for them to catch a lot. **Is anything too hard for Jesus?** No.

★ **Jesus can do anything.** Let's glue some of these fish on the nets on your memory verse pages. (Give children some fish and some glue.) Our memory verse is written on our pages. I'll say it, and then let's say it together. 'God can do anything,' Matthew 19:26. Say that with me. (Repeat the verse.) Now let's have a fun snack of fish and seawater." (Serve Goldfish® and Kool-Aid®.)

WHAT CHA NEED

- A copy of "Memory Verse Fishing" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) for each child
- A large clear container filled with Goldfish® crackers
- Glue
- Napkins
- Clear plastic cups
- Blue Kool-Aid®

## Fill Your Net

**Whatcha Do:** Give each child a paper plate, a cookie cutter, and some dough. Let kids work to see how many fish shapes they can cut out.

**Whatcha Say:** "Jesus' friends caught so many fish when He helped them. It was probably more than they had ever caught before. They caught so many fish that their boat started to sink! Even though the fishermen had fished for hours, they couldn't catch any fish until Jesus helped them. ★ **Jesus can do anything.** Is

WHAT CHA NEED

- A paper plate for each child
- A fish-shaped cookie cutter for each child
- An equal amount of Play-Doh® for each child



anything too hard for Jesus? No. ✨ Jesus can do anything. Let's work to see how many fish shapes we can cut out and 'catch' them on our paper plate 'nets.' To make a fish, roll out your dough and cut it with your cookie cutter. Then put the fish on your plate. We'll see how many fish we can catch. Okay, let's go!"

## Fishing Contest

**Whatcha Do:** Explain to kids that they are going to play a variation of "Red Rover." Group children into two teams. Instruct each team to stand in a line, hold hands, and face the other team. Teams should be about 6 feet apart from each other. Appoint one child on each team to be the "Fisherman," or captain. Explain that the other kids are the fish. Tell kids that teams will take turns calling out the rhyme below and then letting the "Fisherman" choose one of the "fish" on the other team to join his nets. If that "fish" breaks through the other team's "net," he takes a "fish" back to his team's net. If that "fish" doesn't break through the other team's "net," he is caught by that team and must join their team. The team with the most "fish" at the end of the game wins. You may either play until one team has all the fish or set a time limit. Play a few times, letting other children have a turn as "Fisherman."

**Whatcha Say:** "In our Bible story, Jesus' friends weren't able to catch any fish until Jesus helped them. Is anything too hard for Jesus? No. ✨ Jesus can do anything. We're going to play a game like 'Red Rover.' (Explain the game according to the directions above and select a 'fisherman' for each team.) Here's the rhyme we'll say when we call one of the other team's fish. 'Our boat is dry; the water is wet. Let the fish (child's name) swim to our net.' Let's say that together. (Do so.) Now we're ready to play."

- No supplies needed.

Jesus wants to be  
my friend  
forever

## Empty Net, Full Net

### Whatcha Do:

**Before the activity:** Cut out the shapes on "Boats." Fold the paper plates in half and cut scalloped edges along the fold. Be sure not to cut all the way to the edges. See "Empty Net, Full Net." Staple one length of ribbon to each of the burlap "nets."

**During the activity:** Allow children to color one side of a folded paper plate so that it looks like water and waves. Let each child color a boat brown. Then let each child dot green "fish" onto a burlap "net." When a child finishes coloring, staple the bottom of his boat inside the scalloped edges of a paper plate. Then staple two lengths of ribbon to the back side of the bottom of the boat. One ribbon should have an empty "net" at the end of it, and one ribbon should have a full "net" on the end of it. Retell the Bible story, throwing out the empty net from behind the boat to the front, and then pulling it back and throwing out the full net.

### Whatcha Say:

**At the beginning of the activity:** "Let's make some boats and put them in some water. They will be like the boats from our Bible story today. Let's also make fishing nets. One will be empty because Jesus' friends couldn't catch any fish, and one will be full because Jesus helped them catch many fish." (Make boats and retell Bible story.)

**After kids have made the boats:** "Even though Jesus' friends had fished for hours, they didn't catch any fish. They decided there weren't any fish to catch. They had worked so hard, but they couldn't catch any fish. Then Jesus made it so they could catch many fish. **Is anything too hard for Jesus?** No. **Jesus can do anything.** He can even catch fish when there aren't any fish to catch. **Jesus can do anything.**"

- WHAT CHA NEEDED
- A copy of "Empty Net, Full Net" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site)
  - "Boats" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) copied onto white card-stock so there's one for each child
  - Scissors
  - Paper plate for each child
  - Two small pieces of burlap cut into net shapes for each child
  - Two 4- to 5-inch lengths of thin brown or black ribbon for each child
  - Brown, blue, and green washable markers
  - A stapler



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Catching Fish • Luke 5:1-11

# 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

Ask kids to name some things their parents can do, but they can't do (*such as drive a car, cook, go to a job*). As the children give you their answers, write them down in the journal. Make sure you repeat what they tell you as you write so they understand that you are recording their answers in the journal.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "There are a lot of things that your parents can do that you can't do. I'm so glad that God gives us our parents to help us do things. But there are some things only God can do. Nothing is too hard for God. Let's see what the Bible says."

Ask a child to open the marked Bible to the memory verse. Say the verse aloud as a group several times. Add the motions kids learned

- WHAT CHA NEED
- Use a bookmark or sticky note to mark Matthew 19:26 in a CEV Bible.
  - Highlight or underline the verse.
  - Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.
  - Make a copy of the month's symbol "Strong Kid" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) on white paper. Cut out the shape so it will fit in the journal.
  - Provide glue or tape.

in worship.

SGL: (Show the prayer journal and symbol.) "See the child in this picture? He's flexing his muscles as if to say, 'Look at me!' But there are things that we can't do, no matter how big we grow or how big our muscles get. This picture will remind us that  **Jesus can do anything.** Let's put this here to help us remember that this month." (Glue or tape the symbol in the prayer journal.)

## prayer

SGL:  "Jesus can do anything. Is anything too hard for Jesus? No.  **Jesus can do anything.**

Let's talk to God and thank Him for giving us the Bible so we can learn about what Jesus can do."

Lead the group in prayer.

## 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 and a "February Magnet." Tell parents that this month preschoolers are learning that  **Jesus can do anything.** Point out this month's memory verse and symbol on the magnet. Encourage parents to put it on their refrigerator so they can see it often and reinforce their child's learning at home during the month. Encourage parents to use Small Talk throughout the week as they continue helping their child understand that  **Jesus can do anything.**

### WHAT CHA NEED

- Copy this week's Small Talk onto cardstock and cut the cards apart.
- Prepare one copy of "February Magnet" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) for each child.
- Print the symbol on a magnet or copy the item on cardstock and attach a magnet to the back.

