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

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

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Any unauthorized reproduction of this material or incorporation into a new work is a direct violation of US copyright laws. © 2006 First Look. All rights reserved.

“STATEMENT OF FAITH” USER AGREEMENT
FamilyWise, Inc. gladly grants permission to churches, schools, and other licensees to tailor First Look™ materials to fit their unique leadership requirements, locale and format preferences, and physical environment needs. However, if you wish to edit the content substantively, including Bible stories, learning activities, scripts, and any other content in which biblical principles and concepts are presented, you are obligated to do so within the doctrinal guidelines we’ve expressed in our Statement of Faith.
May 28, 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)

• Trumpets of Praise
• Musical Praise
• Praise Band

Make It True

• Introductory Sketch
• Bible Story
• Worship

Make It Stick
(Choose as many of these activities as you like)

• Covered in Praise (Bible story review)
• Praise Sticks
• Praise Cube
• Go, God!
• Dancing in the Streets, Part Four

Make It Real

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

Key Question: How much does God love me?
Bottom Line: God loves everything about me.
Memory Verse: “I am wonderfully made.” Psalm 139:14, NIV
Bible Story Focus: God made me to praise Him. Psalm 9:1-2, 34:1, 119:171-175; 150
Key Question: How much does God love me?
Bottom Line: God loves everything about me.
Memory Verse: “I am wonderfully made.”
Psalm 139:14, NIV
Bible Story Focus: God made me to praise Him.
Psalm 9:1-2, 34:1, 119:171-175; 150

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.

TRUMPETS OF PRAISE

Whatcha Do: Give each child a piece of tubing, a funnel, and a piece of tape. Let kids slip the tubing over the end of the funnel and secure it with tape. Make sure the tubing is attached securely so it does not become a choking hazard. Then let kids blow into the tubing to see what kind of sounds this “praise instrument” makes.

Whatcha Say: “Raise your hand if you know what an instrument is. (Pause.) An instrument is something we use to make music. Let’s see how many instruments we can name. (Pause for responses. Take time to name several different kinds of instruments.) Our Bible story today teaches us that God made us to praise Him. Music is one way to do that. Let’s make our own instruments we can use to praise God.”

Whatcha Need
• A 1-inch piece of ⅛-inch plastic aquarium tubing for each child
• A small funnel for each child
• Clear packing tape
Musical Praise

**What cha Do:** Make a circle with the chairs facing outward. Explain that when you start the music, kids will march around the chairs. When the music stops, they are to find a chair and sit in it. One child will be left without a chair. Let that child join you in clapping with the music. Remove another chair and begin the music again. Play until only one child remains.

**What cha Say:**

*At the end of the activity:* “It’s fun to listen to music and play games. The music we listened to today is a special kind of music called praise music. The word ‘praise’ means to tell God how wonderful He is. Praise music is music that tells God how wonderful He is. Our Bible story today reminds us that God made us to praise Him.”

Praise Band

**What cha Do:** Give each child an instrument. Explain to them that everyone will take turns using all the instruments. Lead the children in a marching band parade around the classroom as the children play their instruments. Switch instruments and march again. *(Option: Play a praise song and try to sing the song and tap to the beat of the song as you sing.)*

**What cha Say:**

*At the end of the activity:* “Playing music with instruments has been a way to tell God how special He is for a very long time. Telling God He is special is called praise. Our Bible story today reminds us that God made us to praise Him.”

---

© 2006 First Look All Rights Reserved

Make It Fun: Introductory Activities
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 assorted percussion instruments and/or incorporating appropriate hand motions as described in the teaching instructions that follow.

**INTRODUCTORY SKETCH**

Use hand motions and sound effects to keep kids engaged as you describe the band and other aspects of the parade.

HOST: “Have you ever been to a parade? (Pause for responses.) One year my cousins came for a visit for the Fourth of July and we went to a parade.

“First we drove downtown and parked. Then, when we found a good spot to watch the parade, we sat down on the curb and waited. Finally
we heard some music from far away.

“As the music got closer and louder, we started getting excited. First we saw a shiny, red car. The man and woman inside were waving. We didn’t know the man and woman, but we waved back anyway.

“Next came six white horses. We waved at the horses. They didn’t wave back. We waved at the people riding the horses, and they waved and smiled.

“Finally the band came. There were girls at the front of the band in sparkly dresses twirling batons. Then came the people playing instruments. They were noisy! They wore bright red suits and clean, white shoes. I knew the song they played. It was from my favorite movie. I clapped until my hands hurt. I cheered as loud as I could. When the song was over and the band was marching away, they did some fancy marching steps. My cousins and I tried to march like them.

“After the band passed, a float came along. It was beautiful and covered with flowers. It was shaped like a big balloon.

“My cousins and I sat on the curb a long time and watched. My favorite part of the parade was the bands. I liked the shiny trumpets and trombones. I liked the rows of drummers rat-a-tat-tatting on their drums. At the end of every song the cymbal player would raise those big, round cymbals and bring them together with a crash! I loved all the noises those bands made.

“Thinking about that parade makes me think of God. Did you know that there are noises God enjoys too? Listen closely to today’s Bible story so you can hear about the noises that are pleasing to God.

God made me and God made you. ☀️ God loves everything about me. He even likes my noise!”
STORYTELLER: (Holding up the Bible) “What is this? (Pause.) Yes, it’s a Bible. What can you tell me about the Bible? (Pause for responses.) The Bible is true. It tells us what God wants us to do. The Bible tells me that God wants me to praise Him.

“I am special to God and He loves me. How much does God love me? ☜ God loves everything about me. ☞ God made me. God made me to praise Him. God made you. God made you to praise Him. Today we’re going to hear all the different ways the Bible says we can praise God. Stand up and let’s get ready to praise God. I’m going to read a sentence from the Bible and do a motion. I want you to repeat what I say and do. Are you ready?”

Lead the kids in saying and doing what’s printed on the “Psalm Passage” Activity Page.

STORYTELLER: “Wow! ☜ God made me to praise Him! Why did God make me? (Pause.) ☞ God made me to praise Him. God loves my noise when it’s praising Him. Let’s think about the words we read from the Bible. Who can remember ways to praise God? (Pause for responses. Each time the kids come up with a correct answer, such as ‘dance,’ encourage everyone to stop and praise God with dancing. If children are unable to remember methods mentioned, give them hints, such as pretending to play a guitar, and let them guess what you’re doing. Then encourage everyone to praise God by pretending to play a guitar.)

“The Bible tells me that ☜ God made me. God made me to praise Him. I can praise Him with my words. I can praise God by dancing or playing an instrument. I can praise God by singing. God loves to hear my noise when my noise is praising Him. God loves everything about me, even my noise! How much does God love me? ☜ God loves everything about me. Let’s say that together.”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: ☞ God loves everything about me.

STORYTELLER: “You’re right! ☜ God loves everything about me. Let’s say a prayer and praise God for the things He does.”
PRAYER

STORYTELLER: “Close your eyes while I pray. (Pause as children close their eyes and bow their heads.) Dear God, the Bible tells me about You. You are great and strong and powerful. You love me, and You made me. Thank You, God, for making me so I can praise You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

“Open my eyes so that I can see the wonderful truths.” Psalm 119:18

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER: “I watched and listened to you during the Bible story, and I really enjoyed hearing those verses from the Bible and seeing the motions you did. Let’s do those again now to pray God. Remember to say what I say and do what I do. Ready? (Repeat the words and motions from the copy of ‘Psalm Passage.’)

“Good job! God loves your noise. God loves your praise. God made you to praise Him. God made me to praise Him. Who made me? (Pause.) Yes, God made me. Can you say that with me?”

KIDS and WORSHIP LEADER: “God made me.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “God made me. Who remembers what the Bible says about how I am made? (Pause for responses, and then open the Bible.) ‘I am wonderfully made,’ Psalm 139:14. Do you remember the motions we learned to go with our Bible verse? Can you do them with me?

“I (use both thumbs to point to chest) am wonderfully (hold both hands at chin-level, palms facing out, and push forward twice) made (place the right fist on top of the left fist and twist them against each other once),’ Psalm 119:18.”
139:14 (open hands like a book).

“God made me to praise Him. God made me, and He loves me. How much does God love me? God loves everything about me. How much does God love me?”

KIDS and WORSHIP LEADER: “God loves everything about me.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Let’s sing a fun song that reminds us that we are wonderfully made.”

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

“If God made you and He loves you, clap your hands (clap, clap).
If God made you and He loves you, clap your hands (clap, clap).
If God made you and He loves you, then you’re wonderfully made.
If God made you and He loves you, clap your hands (clap, clap).

(If interest allows, sing the song again substituting other actions, such as ‘turn around,’ ‘touch your toes,’ and ‘stomp your feet.’)

WORSHIP LEADER: “Thank you for praising God today. Does God enjoy our noise? (Pause.) He does! God made me to praise Him. God loves to hear my praise. I can praise Him with my words or with a song. I can praise Him with an instrument or by dancing. God loves everything about me.”
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.

Covered in Praise

**Whatcha Do:** Give each child a pair of scissors and two copies of “Celebration Hats.” Instruct kids to cut out the hats by cutting only on the short vertical lines. As each child finishes, go to her and wrap the paper strip around her head and tape it where it fits. If one piece of paper will not surround a child’s head, use both cut sheets and tape them together. Fold down the strips so they hang over like a jester’s hat.

**Whatcha Say:** “Our Bible story today taught us that God made us to praise Him. Praise is a way to celebrate who God is. One of the things we praise God for is His big love. How much does God love me? God loves everything about me. That is a great reason to praise God. We’re going to make celebration hats to help us remember to praise God.”
Praise Sticks

**Whatcha Do:** Help kids wash their hands. Give each child a pretzel rod. Instruct them to dip the top half of their pretzel in the frosting of their choice and then roll the pretzel in the sprinkles. When all the children are finished, lead them to raise their finished “praise sticks” in the air and say, “We love You, God.” Then let them eat their yummy snacks.

**Whatcha Say:**

**Before the activity:** “Two things that can be found at almost any celebration are music and food. Today we’re going to use both of those things to praise God for how great He is. Our Bible story today taught us that we were made to praise God. So let’s do what we were made to do!”

**After the activity:** “Raise your praise sticks in the air. When I say ‘three,’ we’re all going to say, ‘We love You, God.’ We love God because He loves us so much. How much does God love me? 😊 God loves everything about me. Here we go. One, two, three.”

Praise Cube

**Whatcha Do:**

**Before the activity:** Glue one of the six praise pictures to each side of one tissue cube. Glue one of the six praise actions to each side of another tissue cube.

**During the activity:** Let each child take turns rolling the cube of praise pictures and the cube of praise actions together. The cube of praise actions will tell the child what action to do. The cube of praise pictures will tell the child what to praise God for. For example, if a child rolls the two cubes and lands on clapping hands and sun, moon, and stars, then the child is to praise God for

**Whatcha Need**

- Vanilla and chocolate frosting
- Large pretzel rods
- Plastic bowls and plates
- An assortment of sprinkles

- “Praise Pictures” (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) copied onto white cardstock and cut apart
- “Praise Actions” (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) copied onto white cardstock and cut apart
- Glue
- Two empty cube-shaped tissue boxes
being the Creator by clapping his hands. Lead the child to say, “I praise God for being my Creator” while he is clapping his hands.

**Whatcha Say:**
At the start of the activity: “God made you and me to praise Him. Remember, praise is telling God how wonderful He is. God is wonderful for many different reasons. This cube I'm holding has six pictures showing six different reasons why God is so wonderful. (Look at the cube together and talk about each picture briefly.) This other cube I'm holding also has six pictures on it. These are pictures of some of the ways we can praise God. (Look at the cube and briefly talk about the pictures.) We're going to use these cubes to play a praise game.”

After the activity: “There are so many reasons to love God. A great reason is because of how much He loves us. How much does God love me? God loves everything about me. Remember to praise God every day for His great love.”

**Go, God!**

**Whatcha Do:** Give each child a copy of “Hand Mitt.” Allow the children to cut out the two hand shapes. Tape the two hands together with clear tape. Make sure the saying “Go, God” is on the outside of the hand. Leave the bottom of the hand open so the children can slip their hand into it, making a mitt. (Option: Allow the children to use markers to add their own decorations.)

**Whatcha Say:**
At the start of the activity: “Who has been to a football game? (Pause.) People do a lot of cheering for their favorite team. They may say, ‘Go, team! You're No. 1!’ They might even have one of these (hold up a foam hand...”
Dancing in the Streets, Part Four

**Whatcha Do:** Help kids practice this month's memory verse while dancing in a conga line. This activity has been building through the month of May, becoming more challenging each week. The progression of the skills in this activity can be found on “Conga Verse.” Begin this week by reviewing the first, second, and third weeks’ motions listed on “Conga Verse,” and then move on to the fourth week’s motions.

**Whatcha Say:**

At the start of the activity: “Today is our last day to learn our Bible verse, so I need you to give it everything you have. Our verse says, 'I am wonderfully made,' Psalm 139:14. Say that with me. 'I am wonderfully made,' Psalm 139:14. Wonderful! Now let’s say our verse while we learn the last move to our new dance. Come on! Everyone, conga!”

---

**Whatcha Need**

- A CD of conga music
- CD player
- The copy of “Conga Verse” you've used in previous weeks
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):** “Today I learned that God made me to praise Him. Tell me all the ways we can praise God. (Pause for responses, such as ‘singing,’ ‘playing instruments,’ and ‘dancing.’) Encourage children to act out playing the guitar or cymbals.) There are a lot of ways we can show God praise. When we praise God, it’s like we’re saying hip, hip, hooray for God. 🎵 God made me to praise Him. God made you to praise Him, too. Does God like to hear our noise? (Pause.) Yes! God loves to hear our noise when our noise is praising Him.

“Does anyone remember our Bible verse?” (Show kids the symbol you placed in the journal earlier this month and let them try to recite the verse. You may want to give a hint, if needed.)

**Key Question:** How much does God love me?

**Bottom Line:** God loves everything about me.

**Memory Verse:** “I am wonderfully made.”

Psalm 139:14, NIV

God made me to praise Him.

Psalm 9:1-2, 34:1, 119:171-175; 150

- Use a bookmark or sticky note to mark Psalm 139:14 in a NIV Bible.
- Highlight or underline the verse.
- Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.
Let children take turns opening the Bible at the bookmark, which you have placed at Psalm 139:14, and pointing to the marked verse. Say the memory verse as a group each time a child locates the verse. Encourage the children to do the motions they learned during worship.

SGL: “Now it’s journal time. I have a good idea. Today, let’s write down all the reasons we have to praise God. Let’s make a list of all the things about God that make Him so special. Then, during prayer time, we’ll use our list to help us remember all the reasons to praise Him. I’ll go first. God is special and deserves my praise because He made the world and everything in it. I’ll write ‘God made the world’ in our journal. (Do so.)

“Now it’s your turn to think of special things about God. (Give children a chance to respond. If necessary, give them hints to prompt them.) Those are all great reasons to praise God! 📝 God made me to praise Him. God made you to praise Him, too. God loves to hear our praise!”

SGL: “During prayer time today, let’s praise God. Remember, He loves to hear our praise! We have a lot of reasons to praise God. Listen while I read the reasons we thought of and wrote in our journal. (Do so.) Isn’t it great that we can talk to God? We can talk to God anytime and He is always listening. Today when we talk to God, let’s praise Him. Let’s praise Him for all the things that make Him special!”

Encourage one or two children to pray with you, and then close 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. Encourage parents to use Small Talk throughout the week as they continue helping their child understand that God loves everything about me.

If a parent did not receive a magnet yet this month, explain that this month preschoolers are learning that God loves everything about me. 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 YOU NEED

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