



# GOD MADE ME.



**Editor in Chief:** Kathy Hill

**Copy Editor:** Dana Wilkerson

**Curriculum Writer:** Emily Meredith, Donna High

**Illustrator:** Jodi Blackwell

**Graphic Designers:** Sharon van Rossum, David Hill

**FL Creative Team:** Brittany Compton-Robertson, Kathy Hill, Autumn Ward, Ashley Hiers, Donna High, Danielle Schneller, Mary Beth Brannan

**Chief Executive Officer:** Reggie Joiner

**Chief Operating Officer:** Reggie Goodin

**Executive Director:** Brittany Compton-Robertson

**Technical and Web Support:** Hadley Brandt

**Partner Support:** Deb Springer

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### BASIC TRUTH

**GOD MADE ME.**

### KEY QUESTION

WHO ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

### BOTTOM LINE

I AM THANKFUL FOR PEOPLE  
WHO HELP ME.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Always give thanks to God."  
Ephesians 5:20, NIV

### BIBLE STORY FOCUS

I am thankful for my family.  
Aaron Helps Moses  
• Exodus 17:8-13

## MAKE IT FUN

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

- Hands Up
- Family Plan
- Thankful Reading

## MAKE IT TRUE (LARGE GROUP)

- Worship
- Introductory Sketch
- Bible Story

## MAKE IT STICK

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 the kids to participate in each, then switch groups and repeat the activities.

- Memory Verse and Motions
- Helping Moses
- Up High
- Arms Up!
- Bendable Arms

## MAKE IT REAL

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
- Prayer



### MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



### MOVEMENT

An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn and grow.

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## HANDS UP

"Hands Up" is an activity that uses gross motor and listening skills to introduce today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

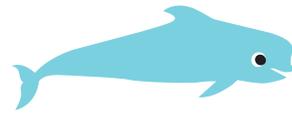
**During the Activity:** Gather the children in an open area of the room. Encourage them to follow your instructions using their hands only: hold your hands up, put your hands down, hands to the side, let's see who can hold their hands up the longest, pat your legs, pat your shoulders, etc.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Today we're going to play a super fun game called 'Hands Up.' I want you to listen as I give instructions and follow them with your hands only. Are you ready?"

**During the Activity:** "Okay, listen up, my friends, and follow along! Everyone put your hands up. (Pause.) Great job. Now, hands down. (Pause.) Awesome. Now hands to the side." (Continue giving instructions as the children follow you.)

**After the Activity:** "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who had to hold his hands up for a VERY long time. We'll find out what happens when his arms start to get tired!"



## MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



## GAME

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

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## MEMORY VERSE

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## FAMILY PLAN

"Family Plan" is an activity that encourages the children to talk and share about their families.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several Little People® toy figures. (Try to make sure you include a variety of figures to accommodate all family types. You should have several male and female figures. If possible, include older figures and pets.)

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Lay all of the Little People toy figures in the activity area of the room.

**During the Activity:** Invite the children to use the figures to represent their families. Ask the child who each figure is and try to engage them in conversation about their families.

**After the Activity:** Make sure every child has a turn to share.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "God made our families! There are many different kinds of families. I want to learn about your family!"

**During the Activity:** "There are many different people here. (Point to figures.) Can you use the figures to show me your family? (Allow the children to work.) WOW! It looks like you have an awesome family! Who is that? (Continue by engaging the children to talk about their families.)

**After the Activity:** "You all have such great families! I am so thankful for my family! I know you are thankful your family too! Our story today is about someone else who is thankful for his family. I wonder who it is!"



### MAKE IT FUN

Activities designed to draw children into the classroom and introduce vocabulary and concepts needed for the Bible story.



### INVESTIGATION/ROLE PLAY

An activity that channels either a preschooler's innate curiosity or desire to play dress up into a discussion of concepts crucial to the lesson.

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## THANKFUL READING

"Thankful Reading" is an activity that uses listening skills and imagination to introduce this month's theme.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Several children's books about thankfulness, pillows, and blankets

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Put the children's books, pillows, and blankets in an open area of the room.

**During the Activity:** Gather the children in the reading area you've created and read the books about thankfulness together.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "Come over here with me, friends! Let's gather over here in our special reading area. I have some books to read with you about being thankful. Let's read together!"

**After the Activity:** "I love reading books with you! We have so much to be thankful for. Today in our Bible story we're going to hear about a guy who was thankful for someone who helped him!"



### MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

An activity that encourages preschoolers to learn the monthly memory verse.

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### KEY QUESTION

WHO ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

### BOTTOM LINE

I AM THANKFUL FOR PEOPLE WHO HELP ME.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Always give thanks to God."  
Ephesians 5:20, NIV

### BIBLE STORY FOCUS

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• Exodus 17:8-13

## MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

"Memory Verse with Motions" is an activity that teaches the memory verse through repetition and movement.

**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: Always (*arms up around to side*) give thanks (ASL *thank you*) to God (*both hands pointing up*), Ephesians 5:20. (*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.

**After the Activity:** Say the Bottom Line together.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "I am going to say our new Memory Verse. Everyone watch me!" (*Demonstrate.*)

**During the Activity:** "Now let's do it all together! Are you ready? Always (*arms up around to side*) give thanks (ASL *thank you*) to God (*both hands pointing up*), Ephesians 5:20." (*Open your hands like a book.*) (*Repeat several times.*)

**After the Activity:** "Our Memory Verse tells us that we should always thank God for what we have! He gave us everything! We should always thank Him for all of our blessings. **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**"



### MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



### BIBLE STORY REVIEW

An activity that reviews the entire Bible story in a fun and interactive way allowing preschoolers that repetition they crave.

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## HELPING MOSES

"Helping Moses" is an activity that uses listening and gross motor skills to review today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**During the Activity:** Select three children to play the roles of Aaron, Hur, and Moses. Retell the story and lead the three children to re-enact the story. Let the rest of the children play God's army.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "I LOVED our story today. I thought it would be fun to tell the story again and have all of you help me act it out. Let's see, I need a Moses (*select a child*) and an Aaron (*select a child*) and a Hur (*select a child*). Now, all of my other friends will play God's army. Okay, let's go!"

**During the Activity:** "The Israelite army—that's all of you (*point*)—were fighting the enemy, but they got tired. Show me how tired you are, everyone. (*Pause.*) Great! Now, Moses was standing on the hill with his arms up like this (*show 'Moses' how to hold up his arms*) and when his arms were up, the Israelites were winning. But then Moses started to get tired and he couldn't keep his arms up any longer. (*Encourage Moses to lower his arms.*) And that meant the Israelites were getting tired again. Show me how tired you are, Israelite army. (*Pause.*) But remember, Aaron and Hur were there to help. Go ahead Aaron and Hur, help Moses by holding up his arms! (*Pause.*) Great! Now the Israelites are winning again. Yay! Great job, everyone!" (*Select three different children to play Aaron, Moses, and Hur, and repeat as time and interest allow.*)

**After the Activity:** "Great job, everyone! I'm so thankful for people who help me, aren't you? I know the Israelite army was thankful for Moses for helping them win and Moses was thankful for Aaron and Hur for helping him hold his arms up when he was tired. **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.**"



## MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



## JUST FOR FIVES

An activity that calls on older preschoolers' more developed cognitive and fine motor skills while reviewing the Bible story, bottom line or memory verse.

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## KEY QUESTION

WHO ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

## BOTTOM LINE

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WHO HELP ME.

## MEMORY VERSE

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## BIBLE STORY FOCUS

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## UP HIGH

"Up High" is an activity that allows the children to experience a key element of the Bible story by using their arms.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper towels

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Tear the paper towels into individual pieces. You will need one piece of paper towel per child.

**During the Activity:** Tell the children that you are going to have a contest. Ask all of the children to stand up. Give each child a paper towel and challenge them to hold it up over their heads. Tell them we're going to see who can hold their arms up the longest.

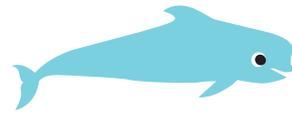
**After the Activity:** If a child puts his arms down, ask him to sit down. Congratulate the winner and then the other children for a job well done. Repeat as desired.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Let's have a contest! I have paper towels here. (*Hold up paper towels.*) Let's see who can hold one up high in the air the longest! Who do you think it will be?"

**During the Activity:** (*Pass out the paper towels.*) "Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Okay, here we go! Everyone hold the paper towel up high! Keep your arm up! If you have to put your arm down, it is okay! I am sure your arm will be tired. Just sit down and watch your friends. (*Continue with the contest.*) WOW! We have some strong arms here! (*Finish contest.*) Great job, [winner's name]. You have very strong arms! And great job, everyone else too! I know that was really tiring!"

**After the Activity:** "That was really hard! Our contest reminds me of the story we heard today. Moses had to hold his arms up for a REALLY long time. He even had a hard time doing it all by himself! But he had family and friends there to help him. I know he was so thankful for them, just like we are so thankful for people who help us! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**"



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## MOVEMENT

An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn and grow.

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## ARMS UP!

"Arms Up!" is an activity that uses gross motor and cooperation skills to review today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** A parachute

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Open the parachute and lay it flat on the floor in an open area of the room.

**During the Activity:** Have the children spread out around the parachute and grab the edge with both hands. Give them different instructions for raising or lowering the parachute with their hands just like Moses did in our Bible story today.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "In our Bible story today, who raised his hands? *(Pause.)* Yes, Moses. But what happened when he got tired? Aaron and Hur helped him! I don't think just one person could raise this WHOLE parachute by himself. I think we need to help each other! Let's raise our arms like Moses. Hold them up! You can do it. *(Pause.)* Awesome. Now, my arms are getting tired. I bet yours are too. Let's lower our arms. *(Pause.)* Okay, my arms feel rested now. Let's raise them again!" *(Continue encouraging the children to raise and lower their arms as time and interest allow.)*

**After the Activity:** "Way to go, everyone! You were really listening. I'm so thankful Moses' friends were there and willing to help him just like you helped each other with our parachute today. **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.**"



## MAKE IT STICK

Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



## CRAFT

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

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## KEY QUESTION

WHO ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

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## BENDABLE ARMS

"Bendable Arms" is an activity that gives the children a visual aid to use to tell others about the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Moses" and "Arms" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, glue sticks, and scissors

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy the "Moses" Activity Page onto the white cardstock. Copy the "Arms" Activity Page onto the white cardstock and cut out a set of arms for each child. Cut additional white cardstock into 1" x 6" strips. Each child will need two strips.

**During the Activity:** Give each child a "Moses" Activity Page, two folded strips and all four arms. Help the children glue the folded strips onto the "Moses" Activity Page in the indicated areas. After the folded strips have been glued, encourage the children to glue arms on the inside of the folded strip and on the top of the folded strip. They can now put his arms in the air just like he did in the story today.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Our story today was about how God gives us our family to help us when we need it. Aaron helped Moses today by holding up his arms!"

**During the Activity:** (Give each child a "Moses" Activity Page, two paper strips, and a set of arms.) "We are going to make a picture to take home and remind us of the story today. On the page you will see Moses. (Hold up page.) There is a place for his arms. (Point.) Glue the strips to the page. (Demonstrate.) Great job! Now, glue the arms to the inside and top. (Demonstrate.) You can now put Moses' arms up and down. (Demonstrate.) It looks like he is raising his arms just like in the story!"

**After the Activity:** "Great job! Now we have a picture of Moses raising his hands just like he did in the story. His arms were getting really tired, but he had his family there to help him. Aaron helped him keep his arms in the air. God gives us our family to help us too! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**"



## MAKE IT REAL

A time for preschoolers to meet with a consistent small group leader, apply the lesson to their lives and pray together.

## lead small.

Investing in a few to encourage their authentic faith.

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## SMALL GROUP TIME

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" (from the Week One Activity Pages on the Website) in your Bible at Ephesians 5:20. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "Today's Bible story reminds me how special it is to have family. Moses and Aaron were brothers. They were each other's family. Aaron didn't have to help Moses keep his arms up when they got tired, but he did because that's what family does—they help each other! Aaron was being a great brother and a great friend! Do you think Moses was thankful his brother helped him? (Pause.) I do too! I think Moses was very thankful for his family!"

"We're going to talk a lot about being thankful for the people who help us this month. We all need help sometimes, right? (Pause.) Right! And we all have great people helping us, right? (Pause.) Right! That's why when I ask: 'Who are you thankful for?' I want you to say: 'I am thankful for people who help me.' Got it? Who are you thankful for?"

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "I am thankful for people who help me."**

**SGL:** "Good job! Let's say that again! Who are you thankful for?"

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "I am thankful for people who help me."**

**SGL:** "Wonderful! I'm giving you two thumbs up!" (Demonstrate.)

(Open Bible to memory verse card.)

**SGL:** "Guess what? We have a new Bible verse! This verse is in Ephesians 5:20. It says (read verse from the Bible): Always give thanks to God. Ooo, I like that! Always give thanks to God. This is another great verse for us to learn, and I have motions to go with it that will help us! Let me show you!"

(Lay Bible down.)

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "Always (arms up around to side) give thanks (ASL thank



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you)  
to God (*both hands pointing up*), Ephesians 5:20." (*Open your hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with the motions several times together.*)

**SGL:** "Wow! You are fast learners! I'm giving you two thumbs up again!  
(*Demonstrate.*) You're going to be able to help your family learn that verse too!

"Speaking of family, that's what I want us to write about in our prayer journal today.  
Come sit with me and we can get started."

(*Open prayer journal and hold your fun pen.*)

Note: Children may say things when talking about family that you will need to share  
with your church staff, so they can follow up with the family.

**SGL:** "Today I want us to make a list of people in our family who help us. It can be  
a big brother or sister, like how Aaron helped Moses, or it can be a grandparent or  
an aunt, uncle, mom, dad—anyone in our family! So, tell me, who in your family are  
you thankful for because they help you?"

(*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.*)

**SGL:** "This is such a great list! Family is awesome! Would anyone like to pray and  
tell God thank You for their family before I pray?"

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

**SGL:** "Now I will pray."

## PRAYER

**SGL:** "Dear God, thank You for giving us family to help us. It's feels good knowing  
we have people who will help us anytime we need it. Thank You for [child's name]'s  
[family member's relationship to child and/or name] and ... (*repeat for each child*).  
You are amazing, God! You know just who and what we need when we need it! We  
love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."