



# GOD MADE ME.



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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 community.  
Nehemiah Builds a Wall  
• Nehemiah 1-6

## 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.

- Build a Wall
- Community Helper Bingo
- Community Actions

## 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.

- Add a Friend Verse
- Build and Retell
- Sponge Tower
- Building Relay
- Thank You Cards

## 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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## BUILD A WALL

"Build a Wall" is an activity that teaches teamwork and patience while introducing the concept of the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Building blocks

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Set the blocks out in the activity area of the room.

**During the Activity:** Encourage the children to work together to build a wall with the blocks.

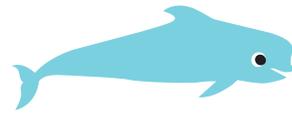
**After the Activity:** Introduce the Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Wow! Look at all of the blocks we have to play with today! I think we should build something."

**During the Activity:** "Let's work together as a team and see if we can build a super-duper tall wall. Are you ready to build?"

**After the Activity:** "Awesome job! Our wall is HUGE! Today in our story we're going to hear about someone else who built a wall. I hope he had good helpers like we did today!"



## MAKE IT FUN

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## GAME

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

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## COMMUNITY HELPER BINGO

"Community Helper Bingo" is an activity that uses listening and fine motor skills to introduce today's Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Community Helper Cards" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, and pom-poms in any color (*several per child*)

**NOTE:** You could also laminate the bingo cards and use non-toxic dry erase markers to cross out the spots instead of using pom-poms.

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy the "Community Helper Cards" onto white cardstock. You will need one card per child.

**During the Activity:** Pass out a card and a handful of pom-poms to each child. Explain that on their cards they will find pictures of different community helpers (*like police officers, firefighters, nurses, doctors, etc.*) along with the items they use to help (*like a stethoscope, a fire hose, etc.*) Explain that you will call out a community helper and if they have that helper on their card, they should cover that spot with a pom-pom. The goal is to cover their entire card. There is no need to declare a winner. Just keep going until everyone has filled their card.

**After the Activity:** Gather up the cards and pom-poms.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "Today we're going to play a super fun game called 'Community Helper Bingo'! Take a look at the card in front of you. On your card, you will see some community helpers like police officers, firefighters, librarians, and nurses. When I call out a community helper, I want you to look at your card and see if you have a match. If so, cover that one square with a pom-pom. We'll play until we fill our cards with pom-poms. Are you ready? Let's play!"

**After the Activity:** "That was SO fun. I'm so thankful for community helpers like firefighters, veterinarians, and mail carriers that help us. In our Bible story today, we're going to talk about a man named Nehemiah and the people in his community who helped him do something BIG!"



### MAKE IT FUN

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### 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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## COMMUNITY ACTIONS

"Community Actions" is an activity that teaches following directions and large motor skills while focusing on the main concept of the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Action Cards" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, and scissors

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy "Action Cards" onto the cardstock and cut out each card along the dotted lines.

**During the Activity:** Place the cards in a stack and have the children stand in the activity area. Allow one child to draw a card from the stack and hand it to you. Whisper the action written on the card to the child. Encourage that child to act out the action and have the other children guess which community helper they are.

**After the Activity:** Repeat until every child has a turn.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "There are many people in our community who help us!"

**During the Activity:** "I have some community helpers on these cards. (*Hold up cards.*) When it's your turn, you will come and draw a card. I will whisper the action for you to do and you can act just like the community helper on the card. Then all of your friends can try to guess which helper you are! Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

**After the Activity:** "Great job! You all did such a great job acting and guessing! I love that God gives us people to help us. In our story today, someone is doing something REALLY hard and God gives people to help him. Let's get ready to hear our Bible story and find out what it's about!"



### 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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## ADD A FRIEND VERSE

"Add a Friend Verse" is an activity that uses listening and memory skills to review this month's memory verse.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Gather the children in an open area of the room.

**During the Activity:** Say this month's memory verse together as a group with the motions you learned last week. Choose one child to say the verse aloud to the group. Then choose a second child to join the first child and repeat the verse aloud to the group. Continue adding one child at a time and repeating the verse each time until all the children are included. Explain that we need our friends to say the verse together!

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "Today I want to say our memory verse together that we learned last week. Do you remember our motions? Let's say it together: 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.*)

"Great! Now I want one friend to say the verse for all of us. (*Select one child and be prepared to help if needed.*) Way to go! Now I need another friend to help him repeat the verse. (*Select a second child to join the first child.*) Let's keep adding friends, one at a time, until we're all saying it together!"

**After the Activity:** "Great job, everyone! Did you notice how much louder we were when all our friends said the verse together and helped each other? Thanks for your help with the memory verse, friends! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.** And I am thankful for each one of you too!"



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### BIBLE STORY REVIEW

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

## BUILD AND RETELL

"Build and Retell" is an activity that allows the children to mimic the Bible story as it is being retold.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large piece of blue butcher paper, brown sticky notes, and wall tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Hang the butcher paper vertically on a wall in the activity area.

**During the Activity:** Give each child a sticky note, and start retelling the story. As you are retelling the story, have the children come and place their sticky notes on the butcher paper, like they are building a wall with blocks. Continue until the wall is as tall as the butcher paper.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Today in our story we heard about Nehemiah building a wall. While we talk about Nehemiah, we are going to build our own wall with these sticky notes!"

**During the Activity:** (Give each child a sticky note.) "We can build our wall on here. (Point to the butcher paper.) I will let you come up one at a time to put your 'bricks' (hold up sticky note) on here to make our wall. (Start allowing the children to place the sticky notes on the butcher paper.) Jerusalem was the city that Nehemiah lived in, and it had a wall around it to protect it. But there was a big hole in the wall! Nehemiah knew he needed to fix the hole, but it was a REALLY big job and he needed help, so he asked God for help. God always helps us when we need it! He sent people in the community to help Nehemiah build the wall. He sent so many people to help that it only took 52 days to fix the entire wall! WOW!" (Finish building the wall on the butcher paper.)

**After the Activity:** "WOW! Look at our wall. You did a really great job! I love how you worked together just like Nehemiah and the community worked together. God helps us when we need help. He gives us people to help us! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**"



### MAKE IT STICK

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### 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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## SPONGE TOWER

"Sponge Tower" is an activity that uses concentration and fine motor skills to challenge children to work together and build a tower to review today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Kitchen sponges (1 whole sponge per every 2 children) and scissors

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Cut the sponges into narrow rectangles.

**During the Activity:** Give at least two sponge pieces to each child. Instruct the children to work together to build a wall with their sponge pieces by alternating their direction on each level. Be prepared to help them build a base to get started.

You can see an inspiration for this activity on the November 2016 Pinterest board found on the First Look Curriculum's Pinterest page: <https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/>

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "In our Bible story today, we learned about a man named Nehemiah. Nehemiah had a BIG job. What did he rebuild? (Pause.) Yes! A BIG wall. Today I thought it would be fun for us to work together to build our own sponge wall. I want you to help your friends by using your sponge pieces to build a wall together on our table. Are you ready? (Pause.) Great, let's build!"

**After the Activity:** "I LOVE how you worked together today to build our sponge wall. You know, the wall Nehemiah rebuilt was a BIG project. He definitely needed help from the people in his community. I know he was super thankful for them helping him. And I am glad for friends like you who help too. **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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## BUILDING RELAY

"Building Relay" is an activity that teaches teamwork and concentration while reinforcing the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 2 sets of building blocks

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Divide the children into two teams. Have each team line up in a single-file line.

**During the Activity:** Give each child in both lines a block. Designate a place for each team to stack their blocks. When you say, "GO," send the first child in each line to their designated area and encourage them to place their block down to start their team's wall. Have the other children go down one at a time from each line to continue to stack the blocks.

**After the Activity:** If the wall should fall over before the activity is finished, you may start over, or stop the activity and repair it.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Let's see if we can build a wall like Nehemiah!"

**During the Activity:** (Divide the children into teams and give them blocks.) "Now, the first person in each line will go and lay their block down to start the wall. Then when it's your turn, you go and lay your block down to keep building the wall higher and higher! Are you ready?" (Pause.)

**After the Activity:** "You all did such a great job working together and building your wall! Things go much better and faster when you have help. I bet it would've taken Nehemiah a lot longer to build the wall if he didn't have any help. God gives us people to help us! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**"



### MAKE IT STICK

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### 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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## THANK YOU CARDS

"Thank You Cards" is an activity that encourages children to use creativity and fine motor skills to review today's Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Thank You Card" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, markers, and heart and flower stickers

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy the "Thank You Card" Activity Page onto white cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. You need one half-page per child. Fold into thirds to create an "envelope." Set out the markers, crayons, and stickers in the center of the table.

**During the Activity:** The children will create a thank-you card for someone in their community that helps them. You might want to hold up one of the "Community Helper Cards" from earlier to remind them of some of our community helpers to give them some ideas. They can draw that community helper and use the stickers to decorate their card any way they choose.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "There are so many people in our community that help us. And I think it's important to say thank you to them. So today we're going to make thank-you cards for our community helpers. I want you to decorate a card for the community helper you would like to thank. You can draw a picture of that helper and use the stickers to decorate too. Remember earlier when we played 'Community Helper Bingo'? You could pick anyone from that page to write your note to—like a firefighter or a nurse or someone else! Let's get busy decorating!"

**After the Activity:** "These cards are so special! Thanks for taking the time to create them. I am so thankful for people like doctors and police officers and teachers who help us every day. I know you are thankful for them 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):** "It makes God happy when we have a thankful heart. Today we're talking about being thankful for our community. Community is kind of a big word, isn't it? Community is another word for the place where we live. So, every time we say community, we're talking about the place where we live and the people who live there too.

"Our community is filled with all kinds of people who help us every day. The people at the grocery store help us with our groceries. The people at the library help us find great books. The people at the fire station help keep us safe. We have a lot of people to be thankful for right here in our community.

"Nehemiah needed a lot of help from his community in our Bible story today. He needed help rebuilding the broken wall around their city. Did his community help him? (Pause.) Yes, they did! They worked together and got the job done. Do you think Nehemiah was thankful for his community? (Pause.) I do too! If we asked Nehemiah, 'Who are you thankful for?' he would probably say, 'I am thankful for people who help me.'"

"What about you? Who are you thankful for?"

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

**SGL:** "Louder! Who are you thankful for?"

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

**SGL:** "YES! Great job!"

(Open Bible to memory verse card.)

**SGL:** "Now, let's read the Bible verse we're learning this month. It's in Ephesians



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5:20. It says, *(read verse from the Bible)*: Always give thanks to God. Let's say that together with the motions."

*(Lay Bible down.)*

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "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 the verse with the motions several times together.)*

**SGL:** "Perfect!"

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

**SGL:** "Now for one of my favorite things—writing in our prayer journal! I like writing down what we want to talk to God about. Today we're going to tell God thank You for some of the people in our community. Think about all the people you know in our community—football coaches, construction workers, doctors, teachers, even Small Group Leaders like me! When I say your name, I want you to tell me one person from our community you want to thank God for and I'll write it down."

*(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:** "Wow! I love the list we made. We have an awesome community to be thankful for. Would anyone like to pray and tell God thank You for our community 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 our community. We pray that the people in our community will love You and love each other. We pray we will help each other and be kind to each other. We just wanted to tell You thank you for some of the people in our community. [Child's name] thanks you for [community helper listed]. *(Repeat for each child.)* You are so good, God, and we love You. In Jesus' name, amen."