



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 people who give
me what I need.
Elisha's Room
• 2 Kings 4:8-17

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.

- Thankful Dance
- Room or No Room
- Let's Build It!

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.

- Hands Above
- Create a Room
- Want or Need
- Find That Building
- Bouquet of Hands

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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THANKFUL DANCE

"Thankful Dance" is an activity that uses music, singing, and movement to introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: This month's song and a music player

WHAT YOU DO:

During the Activity: Gather the children in an open area of the room. Play this month's song and encourage the children to dance and sing along. Repeat as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

During the Activity: "We have SO much to be thankful for! Let's dance and sing about it today! Ready? Let's dance!"

After the Activity: "Wow, I saw some super cool dance moves. Awesome job! I'm thankful for so many people. Today in our story we're going to hear about someone who was VERY thankful too!"



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GAME

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

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ROOM OR NO ROOM

"Room or No Room" is an activity that teaches critical thinking and problem solving.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Room" from the Activity Pages on the Website and white paper

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Room" Activity Pages onto the white paper. You need one set.

During the Activity: Have the children sit in front of you in the activity area or at a table. Tell the children that you will show them some pictures and ask them to decide if the object in the picture would go into a bedroom or not. Show the pictures one at a time and have the children collectively say if it belongs in a bedroom or not.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "I'm trying to decide which of these objects would go in a bedroom. Can you help me?"

During the Activity: "I'm going to show you some pictures and you tell me if it should go in a bedroom or not. Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! Today, we're going to talk about someone who needed a bedroom. I cannot wait to find out if he got one!"



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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LET'S BUILD IT!

"Let's Build It!" is an activity that uses creativity play and imagination to introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: 2-3 play tool sets

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Place the play tool sets in an open area of the room.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to grab a tool and work together build a room. Give the children a few directions to get started if they need help.

WHAT YOU SAY:

During the Activity: "Do you see what I have with me today? What are these, friends? (Pause.) That's right! They're tools. Today I want you to use these tools to help build a room. Have you ever built a room before? (Pause.) Me neither, but I think if we work together, we can get it done. What do we need in our room? Maybe we should measure with this (*hold up the measuring tape*) or we could use a hammer to drive the nails into the wood like this (*hold up the hammer*). And we need to build some walls! Let's get started!"

After the Activity: "This room is AWESOME! Way to go, everyone. In our Bible story today, we're going to hear a true story about someone who built a very special room for their friend. I can't wait for you to hear it!"



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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HANDS ABOVE

"Hands Above" is an activity that teaches the children to follow directions while using repetition to teach the memory verse.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse" from the Activity Pages on the Website, yellow cardstock, and handprint stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Memory Verse" Activity Page onto the cardstock.

During the Activity: Say the memory verse with the children. Give each child an Activity Page and five handprint stickers. Encourage the children to place one sticker above each word of the verse.

(OPTION: Depending of the color of stickers you have, you may consider asking the children to do a color pattern over the words with the stickers, such as: green, blue, green, blue, green.)

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "Let's say our memory verse for this month! Always give thanks to God, Ephesians 5:20. Great job!"

During the Activity: *(Give each child an Activity Page and stickers.)* "I see five words on your page. They are the words from our Memory Verse. *(Point to the words as you say them out loud.)* Always give thanks to God. Place one sticker above each word. *(Demonstrate.)* Perfect!"

After the Activity: "We should always give thanks to God for everything that He has given us and the people who help us. **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**"



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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.

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CREATE A ROOM

"Create a Room" is an activity that uses imagination, creative thinking, and gross motor skills to review today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Room Pictures" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, and masking or painters tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Room Pictures" Activity Pages onto white cardstock. Provide one set of pictures per class. Use the tape to mark out a three-foot square on the floor in an open area to create a "room."

During the Activity: Gather the children around the taped "room." Talk about how Elisha's friends built a room for him in their home. Hand out the four pictures to four children in the class. Retell the story as the children "decorate" the room by placing the pictures inside the room on the floor. Collect the pictures, pass them out to four different children, and retell the story again. Repeat as time and interest allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

During the Activity: "In our Bible story today, we heard about how Elisha's friends built a special room just for him. Do you remember what they put inside his room? (Pause.) I have some pictures here to help us decorate. (Pass out the pictures to four children.) The Bible tells us that the couple put a bed in his room. Go ahead and place the bed in our room where you think it should go. (Pause as child with the bed picture places it in the room on the floor.) Great! And then they put in a table. (Pause as child with the table places it in the room on the floor.) Way to go. And of course, you need a chair to go with the table. (Pause as child with the chair places it in the room on the floor.) And finally, he needed light!" (Pause as child with the lamp places it in the room on the floor.)

(Collect the pictures and pass them out to four different children. Review the story again.)

After the Activity: "Great job, everyone! You are awesome decorators. You know, Elisha's friends built this room and provided everything he needed. I know he was SO thankful to them. And we have lots of people who provide what we need too. Aren't you thankful for people who give you what you need? (Pause.) Me too! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.**"



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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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MEMORY VERSE

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WANT OR NEED

"Want or Need" is an activity that teaches critical thinking and moral values.

WHAT YOU NEED: Large piece of butcher paper, wall tape, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Tape the butcher paper vertically to a wall in the activity area. At the top of the paper, write the word "NEED" on the left side and "WANT" on the right side.

During the Activity: Have the children sit in front of you and ask them what things God gives them that they NEED. Write these items under the word "NEED." Then ask them to list things that they WANT. Write these things under the word "WANT." NEED items include: God, house, food, water, clothes, coat, bed, family, friends, and shoes. WANT items include: a new toy, ice cream, to go on a trip, etc.

After the Activity: Read each list out loud to the children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "God gives us everything that we need and even some things that we want. Do you know the difference between things that we NEED and things that we WANT?"

During the Activity: "What are things that we NEED? (Write down responses.) Great job! Now, what are things that we WANT? (Write down responses.) Great job! God always gives us what we need. The thing we need most is HIM! We NEED God!" (Write "God" and any other need on the NEED list if it is not already there.)

After the Activity: (Read both lists out loud.) "God is so good! He gives us what we need. He gives us people who love and help us too! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**"



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MOVEMENT

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FIND THAT BUILDING

"Find That Building" is an activity that uses listening, problem solving, and gross motor skills to review today's Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Building Pictures" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Building Pictures" from the Activity Pages onto white cardstock. Tape each building at the children's eye level on the walls. Spread them out around the room.

NOTE: You do not need to print all the pictures if you have limited space in your classroom. Just print the ones you would like to use.

During the Activity: Point out the different buildings on the wall. Call out an item and encourage children to walk to the picture/building where they would find that item. Continue calling out items and encouraging the children to walk to the correct building as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

During the Activity: "Hello, friends! Do you see the pictures I've placed on the walls around our room? I see a (*name the buildings you've chosen*). I'm going to call out an item you would find in one of these buildings. When you think you know where to find this item, I want you to walk over and stand by that building. Are you ready? Let's play!

"When I need grapes, I go where? (*Pause for children to walk to the correct building.*) The grocery store! That's right! Great job." (*Continue activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job, everyone! I'm so thankful for each of these places in our community where we can find what we need. And I'm so thankful for people who work at these places. **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.**"



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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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• 2 Kings 4:8-17

BOUQUET OF HANDS

"Bouquet of Hands" is an activity that gives the children a keepsake to take home.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Hand Label" from the Activity Pages on the Website, Avery® labels #5160 or equivalent, 4 different colors of cardstock, scissors, large Styrofoam cups, green craft sticks, green shredded paper, and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Hand Label" Activity Page onto the labels so each child will have one label.

During the Activity: Trace the child's hand on each of the four colors of construction paper. Cut out each hand. You should have four hands per child. Tape each of the hands to a green craft stick. Place the "flowers" into the cup and tape them to the inside of the cup for stability. Fill the cup with the shredded paper.

After the Activity: Place the label onto the outside of the cup.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Before the Activity: "We have been talking about people who help us, and we can use our hands to help people. Today, we're going to make a cool craft that shows everyone that God gave us helping hands!"

During the Activity: "First, we need to trace our hands. (*Trace hands.*) Great job! Now we're going to cut them out to make our handprints look like flowers. Then we're going to make a flower pot for them to take home!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "These helping hand flowers are BEAUTIFUL! You get to take them home to remind you to thank God for giving us people who help us. **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): "If you had a friend who needed a place to stay, would you let them stay at your house? (Pause.) Would you build your friend their very own room like the woman in our Bible story did? (Pause.) You probably would! I love hearing stories about people helping each other. The woman in our Bible story today really helped Elisha. He needed a room to sleep in when he traveled and that's exactly what the woman and her husband made for him. I'm sure Elisha was so thankful!

"We have lots of people to be thankful for that give us what we need too. We have the people in our family who give us what we need like food, clothes, and a place to live. We have doctors who give us medicine, teachers who give us what we need to learn, and friends who give us what everyone needs—a good friend! It helps us when people give us what we need, right? Right! That's why we're SO thankful for all of the people who help us. **Who are you thankful for?**"

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

SGL: "One more time! **Who are you thankful for?**"

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

(Open Bible to memory verse card.)

SGL: "And being thankful is an awesome thing, because God wants us to always be thankful. That's why the verse we're learning says: 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)



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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: "One of the ways we can always give thanks to God is by telling God thank you for the people who give us what we need. Let's do that in our journal today."

(Open prayer journal and hold your fun pen.)

SGL: "We can make a list of the people who give us what we need, and when we pray we can tell God thank for all of the people! When I say your name, tell me one person who gives you what you need."

(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: "Look at all of the people who give us what we need. Wow! We definitely need to tell God thank You. Would anyone like to pray and tell God thank You 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 all of the people who help us by giving us what we need. Thank You for people like [name of person listed] who gives [childs name] what he needs and thank You for ... *(repeat with each person/child listed)*. Please help us to always remember to tell You thank You and to tell the people who help us thank You. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."