



# 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 friends.  
Elijah and the Widow  
• 1 Kings 17:7-16



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.

## 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.

- Fill the Bucket
- Fill the Jars
- Get Cookin'

## 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.

-  • Play-Doh® Verse
- Tell and Stir
- Maze in a Jug
- Toss with Friends
- Friendship Tree

## 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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## FILL THE BUCKET

"Fill the Bucket" is an activity that teaches teamwork and patience to complete a task.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic ball-pit balls and a large bucket

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Have the children stand in two single-file lines right next to each other. Place the bucket 10 feet in front of both lines. Give each child a ball.

**During the Activity:** When you say, "GO," have the first child in each line step forward and hold hands. Encourage the two children holding hands to hop to the bucket. They should hold their ball in their free hand. Ask them to each drop their ball in the bucket and hop back to the line together. They should hold hands the entire time they are hopping. Repeat using the next two children in line.

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

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "I have a fun activity for us to do! We have to work together with our friends! Are you ready?"

**During the Activity:** (Divide the children into two lines.) "When I say, 'GO,' the first two people (*point*) will hold hands and hop to the bucket (*point*). I'm going to give each of you a ball to hold in your other hand. When you get to the bucket, you will drop your ball into the bucket. You have to hold hands the whole time! Are you ready?" (Do activity.)

**After the Activity:** "That was so much fun! You did a great job working together and you got the job done! Our bucket was empty, but now it is FULL! It's so much fun doing a job with a friend! Our Bible story today is about friends too! I can't wait for you to hear what happens!"



## 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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## BIBLE STORY FOCUS

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## FILL THE JARS

"Fill the Jars" is an activity that uses fine motor skills to introduce today's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 3 jars with lids, rice, and masking tape

### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Use the tape to mark a line on each jar at differing heights: one marked about three inches from the bottom, one marked half way, and one marked at the top. Fill each jar with rice up to the line marked on the jar and put the lids on to ensure the rice doesn't spill.

**During the Activity:** Show the children the three jars. Talk about how each jar has a different amount of rice. Encourage the children to arrange the jars in order from the least amount of rice to greatest.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "Do you see my jars? How many are there? Let's count! One, two, three! Awesome. We have three jars. Inside each of these jars, I have some rice. But as you can see, I have different amounts of rice in each jar. I want you all to work together to put these jars in order from the smallest amount of rice to the largest amount. Will you help me?"

**After the Activity:** "Way to go! You put these jars in order. In our Bible story today, we're going to hear about a woman who had a jar with just a little bit of oil and a little bit of flour. But God does something amazing even with that small amount. I can't wait for you to hear this TRUE Bible story today!"



### 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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## GET COOKIN'

"Get Cookin'" is an activity that allows the children to role-play a key concept of the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Play kitchen (or kitchen center) and play food

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Place the food in the kitchen center.

**During the Activity:** Encourage the children to pretend to cook and prepare a meal together.

**After the Activity:** Sit with the children and pretend to eat the meal.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Look at all of this play food. Let's pretend to cook today!"

**During the Activity:** (Point to kitchen.) "Can you work together and make us all a meal?" (Do activity.)

**After the Activity:** "WOW! This looks amazing! Let's all sit down and eat this meal that you made with your friends! (Pretend to eat.) Do you think that our Bible story today is about food too? I bet it is. We will soon find out!"



### 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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GOD MADE ME.

### KEY QUESTION

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### BOTTOM LINE

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## PLAY-DOH® VERSE

"Play-Doh Verse" is an activity that uses pretend play and fine motor skills to review this month's memory verse.

Be sure to list the foods you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," white cardstock, Play-Doh (enough for each child to have some), muffin tins, and small rolling pins

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on white cardstock and hang it on the door. Set out the Play-Doh (a little bit at each child's spot), muffin tins, and rolling pins.

**During the Activity:** Encourage the children to create food items with their dough. They can use the rolling pins to roll out the dough and the muffin tins to "bake" their bread or other items. Say the verse after each food item is made as a "blessing" and then pretend to eat it. Repeat with each child's food item.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "Today, I want you to create a food item with your Play-Doh. You can make a loaf of bread like the woman in our story today or anything else you like to eat. As you finish, we will hold up your item and say our memory verse together as we thank God for our food. Then we can pretend to eat it! Are you ready? (Pause.) Great. (Let children play.) Oh, look at this yummy loaf of bread you made. Let's thank God for it by saying our verse together: Always give thanks to God, Ephesians 5:20." (Repeat with the rest of the food items the children make.)

**After the Activity:** "You are so creative. Way to go, everyone! I'm so thankful that God gives us yummy food to eat. We should always thank God for the things He's given us. I am SO thankful for the way He provides for us! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.** Yes! God ALWAYS helps us. I am SO thankful!"



### 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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## TELL AND STIR

"Tell and Stir" is an activity that uses movement to keep the children's attention while the Bible story is being retold.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Small plastic mixing bowls and plastic spoons (*OPTION: If you do not have access to multiple bowls and spoons, you can do the activity while having the children pretend to be mixing with a bowl and spoon.*)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Have all the children sit around you. Give each child a bowl and a spoon.

**During the Activity:** Retell the Bible story as you encourage the children to stir with their bowl and spoon.

**After the Activity:** Collect the bowls and spoons from the children.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "Our story today was about a very poor woman who did not have a lot of food. She only had flour and oil for one more loaf of bread."

**During the Activity:** (*Give each child a bowl and a spoon.*) "Can you pretend you are mixing the bread in your bowl? (*Pause.*) Great job! Elijah came to the woman's house one day and he was hungry! He asked for some bread. The woman only had enough flour and oil to make bread for her and her son. She was afraid they would go hungry! Keep mixing your bread! Elijah told the woman not to be afraid and that God would help her. Do you remember what she did next? (*Pause.*) That's right! She made the bread for Elijah with the last of her oil and flour. Then something AMAZING happened! The flour and the oil never ran out! God took care of the woman and her son. She had more food now! Elijah knew that she would never run out of flour and oil ever again!"

**After the Activity:** "Okay, you can stop stirring your bread now. You all did a great job! Elijah was a good friend to the woman. God knew she needed His help, and He sent Elijah to help her. God gives us friends to help us too! **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

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### BOTTOM LINE

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### MEMORY VERSE

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### BIBLE STORY FOCUS

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## MAZE IN A JUG

"Maze in a Jug" is an activity that uses fine motor skills and spatial reasoning to review this month's Bible story.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jug Maze" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, and crayons

#### WHAT YOU DO:

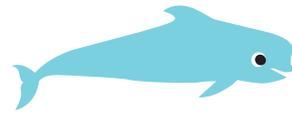
**Before the Activity:** Copy the "Jug Maze" onto white cardstock. Make one copy for each child.

**During the Activity:** Pass out the mazes to each child. Point out the "Start" and "Finish" points on the page. Encourage the children to use the crayons to complete the maze.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "I have a fun activity for us today! Take a look at the maze. Do you see right here where it says 'start?' (*Point to it on the page.*) And do you see right here at the top of the jug? It says 'finish.' (*Point to it on the page.*) We need to help get the oil out of the jug by following the maze. Use your crayon to help get the oil out of the jug."

**After the Activity:** "Great job, everyone! You helped get the oil out of the jug! I'm so thankful for the way God used Elijah to help the woman who really needed help in our story today. I am thankful for friends like Elijah and friends like you! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.**"



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Activities designed to reinforce the Bible story and bottom line.



### MOVEMENT

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

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## TOSS WITH FRIENDS

"Toss with Friends" is an activity that uses concentration, large motor skills, and teamwork.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** A small bucket, floor tape, and beanbags

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Place two pieces of floor tape about six feet apart from each other vertically.

**During the Activity:** Have one child stand on a piece of tape and give him the beanbag. Have another child stand on the other piece of tape and give him the bucket. Encourage the child with the beanbag to toss it and try to get it in the bucket. Encourage the child with the bucket to move the bucket and try to catch the beanbag. If the children master the toss quickly, have them take a step back from the tape and try again. After a few tries, have the children switch jobs so they can practice tossing and catching.

**After the Activity:** Repeat activity until all of the children get a turn to toss and catch.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**Before the Activity:** "I have a really fun game for us to play! You need a friend for this game!"

**During the Activity:** "One person stands on this piece of tape (*point*) and the other stands on this piece of tape (*point*). (*Hand out the bucket and beanbag.*) Now, work together to try to get the beanbag in the bucket. You can move the bucket wherever you need to in order to try to get it in. Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

**After the Activity:** "WOW! You worked together so well! It's so fun to do an activity with a friend! God gives us friends to help us. **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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## FRIENDSHIP TREE

"Friendship Tree" is an activity that uses fine motor skills and cooperation to review today's Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Friendship Tree" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, and washable stamp pads (3 or 4 different colors)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**Before the Activity:** Copy the "Friendship Tree" Activity Pages onto the white cardstock. You need one page per child.

**During the Activity:** Line up the Activity Pages down the table. Show the children how to place one index finger on a stamp pad and make a fingerprint on the tree to create a "leaf." Each child should make one fingerprint on each Activity Page. Make sure the children do not cover up each other's fingerprints. When finished, you should have a tree for each child with all of their friends' fingerprints on it as well as their own.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**During the Activity:** "Do you see the tree on these pages? What's missing? (Pause.) The leaves! We're going to stamp our fingerprints on these trees to give them leaves. I want you to put your finger on the stamp pad and then on each page. When you're finished, you'll each have a tree full of the fingerprints of all the friends that are here today! Isn't that special?"

**After the Activity:** "Look at our beautiful trees! Do you know why they're beautiful? Because each of your fingerprints are on each page! I'm so thankful God gave us friends. **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. You will also need stickers or a hand stamp.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "The woman in our Bible story today was such a good friend to Elijah. She gave him her very last bit of food because he was hungry. Then Elijah had a turn being a good friend to the woman. God helped him give the woman more food so she wouldn't run out. Friends that help you when you need it are the best! And it's even better when we're thankful for the people who help us!  
**Who are you thankful for?"**

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

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

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

(Open Bible to memory verse card.)

**SGL:** "I hope we never stop being thankful for the people who help us. Hopefully the memory verse we've learned this month will help us remember to 'always give thanks to God.' Let's say our verse one time with the motions and then anyone who wants to try and say it by them self can do it. I have my stickers/hand stamp ready!"

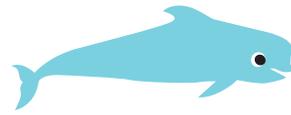
(Lay Bible down.)

**SGL:** "Okay, all together now!"

**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.)

**SGL:** "Now it's your turn to say it all by yourself!"

(Give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his/her own. Have your stickers/



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*hand stamp ready to give when they say it.)*

**SGL:** "I am so proud of you! Now let's sit together so we can write in our journal and talk to God."

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

**SGL:** "Today we are going to make a list of our friends. Friends are awesome and we should tell God thank You for them! This will be a fun list to make! So tell me, who are your friends?"

*(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! What a list! Would anyone like to pray and tell God thank You for their friends before I pray?"

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

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

## PRAYER

**SGL:** "Dear God, You have given us so many wonderful friends. Thank you for [child's name]'s friend [friend's name] and *(repeat with each child)*. Help us be a good friend to them so they know how much we love them. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."