

First Look™

Curriculum for Preschoolers

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

God made me.

God loves me.

March 8, 2020

Bible Story Focus: Jesus says, “Follow Me.”

Andrew and Peter; John and James • *Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11*

Memory Verse: “Come and follow me,” Jesus said.” *Matthew 4:19, NIV*

Key Question: Who can you follow?

Bottom Line: I can follow Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day’s Bible story.

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.

1. Car Tracks

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Butcher paper, toy cars (at least one per every two children), tape, and markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cover your table(s) with butcher paper. Secure the paper to the tabletop with tape. Gather several toy cars. Use the clear tape to secure a marker to the back of each car. The marker point should be facing down, perpendicular to the car so that when the car is rolled, the marker draws a line along the butcher paper. Set all the cars in the center of the table.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to roll their cars along the butcher paper and watch the line the marker leaves following the car. Make sure they take turns so every friend has a chance to roll a car and leave a trail on the butcher paper. Remind children to only roll the cars on the paper-covered tables.

After the Activity: Collect all cars. Remove the markers from the cars and put the caps back on.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Let’s take turns rolling these cars on the table. Pay attention to what happens as you roll your car. Wow! Do you see the line that follows the car? Let’s share our cars so everyone has a chance to make their own marks!”

After the Activity: “Look at all these lines the markers leave following each car. That’s so cool! We’re going to hear about a leader we should ALL follow today in our Bible story. I can’t wait!”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by traveling like a car! Encourage children to speed up or slow down, honk their horns, turn on their windshield wipers, etc.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the bottom line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

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.

1. Follow Me Verse

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Encourage them to follow you around the room as you repeat the memory verse and hand motions together.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come gather over here with me! Let’s say our verse together as you follow me around the room! Let’s stay in a line as you follow!”

During the Activity: “Say it with me: “*Come and follow me,*” Jesus said, Matthew 4:19.” (Repeat as you continue to walk.)

After the Activity: “That was so fun! You are great followers. Jesus said: *Come and follow me.* We should follow Jesus always! **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus.**”

2. Boat Retell

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Use the floor tape to construct a shape of a boat on the floor in the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to act out the story. Guide two children to stand in the boat and one child play Jesus and walk by and say, “Follow me.” Encourage the children to step out of the boat and follow. Choose two more children to stand in the boat, and lead the three children walk by the boat again. Prompt the child playing Jesus say, “Follow me,” and ask the children in the boat step out and follow them as they walk. Retell the Bible story as you reenact. Repeat the activity until all of the children have had a turn to play a role in the reenactment.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We heard an awesome story today!”

During the Activity: “We have a boat just like in our story. (Point.) Peter and Andrew were fishermen in the boat. (Point to two children.) They were doing their job by catching fish. Then Jesus walked by the boat (guide child to walk by and say, ‘Follow me,’) and the fishermen stepped off the boat and followed Jesus! They all walked to another boat (have two more children stand in the boat) where James and John were fishing. (Instruct the child playing Jesus to walk by the boat with Andrew and Peter and say, ‘Follow me.’) They all followed Jesus!”

After the Activity: “Yay! They followed Jesus. We can follow Jesus, too. **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**”

3. Red Light

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand about 15 feet in front of you.

During the Activity: Instruct the children to walk toward you when you say, "Green light." Instruct the children to stop walking and freeze when you say, "Red light." Continue the activity until the children have reached you.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Follow me!"

During the Activity: "Everyone listen to me and follow what I say. When I say, 'Green light,' you may walk toward me. When I say, 'Red light,' then you stop and FREEZE! Let's see who can touch me first!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "You did a great job FOLLOWING what I said! We can follow Jesus, too. **Who can you follow? [Bottom Line] I can follow Jesus!**"