

Curriculum for Preschoolers

July 26, 2020

Bible Story Focus: I spy something that is real.

Jesus Prepares a Place • *John 14:2-3; Acts 1:1-11*

Memory Verse: “These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” John 20:31, NLV

Key Question: Who can believe in Jesus?

Bottom Line: I can believe in Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

At-Home Parent Guide

1. Creating a Special Place
2. Special Place
3. Heaven Brainstorm
4. Journal and Prayer

1. Creating a Special Space

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

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers, home magazines, scissors and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut out pictures of furniture (beds, tables, chairs, etc.) from the magazines. Place a large piece of butcher paper on the table. Draw several boxes (each one at least 12” x 12”) on the page. Place the magazine cutouts and glue sticks in the center of the table.

During the Activity: Have your child stand next to a box on the butcher paper. Instruct your child to select pictures of furniture to fill their “rooms” (boxes). They can arrange the furniture as they choose and glue them in the box.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: Do you see the boxes here on the butcher paper? We’re going to pretend each box is a room in a house. What do we need? Furniture! I have some pictures here for you to choose. Once you select the pictures you want to add to your space, arrange them inside your box or ‘room’ and glue them down.”

After the Activity: “Look at these special rooms and places you’ve created. Did you know that God has made a special place for us where we can live with him one day? We’ll hear all about it in our Bible story today.

2. Special Place

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

What You Need: Large box (like a refrigerator box), blankets, small toys, and a box cutter

(OPTION: If you do not have access to a large box, you may use beneath a table or a corner as the special place.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Use the box cutter to cut an opening in the box as a door.

During the Activity: Place the box in the activity area. Encourage your child to use the blankets and toys to make the inside of the box a special place to play.

After the Activity: Allow your child to play in the box.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to make a special place to play today.”

During the Activity: *(Point to the box.)* “This is our place! We can use the blankets and toys to make this special. *(Do activity.)* WOW! What a cool special place! Let’s play in it!”

After the Activity: “Today, in our Bible story, we will hear how someone special is making us a special place!”

3. Heaven Brainstorm

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers, and wall tape or sticky tack

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay a large piece of butcher paper on a table.

During the Activity: Gather your children around the butcher paper. Have your child share some ideas of what they think heaven will be like. You can write statements on the page or draw simple pictures. Encourage your child to use their imagination!

After the Activity: If you have wall space, hang your list on the wall at preschooler level.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “When Jesus left the earth, He went into the sky through the clouds. Where was Jesus going? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus went to heaven. Jesus is in heaven, right now, getting things ready for everyone who believes in Him.”

During the Activity: “What do you think heaven will be like? *(Invite answers and write them down after each question.)* I’ll write down your answers on our page. What do you think heaven will look like? What kinds of things will be there?”

After the Activity: “Wow! What a great list. We can believe that heaven is real because that’s what Jesus said! And we can believe in Jesus because He always tells the truth. Everyone who believes in Jesus will get to be his friend forever and live with him in heaven one day. So, tell me, **who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus.**”

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

Parent: “It’s prayer and journal time. Today, we’ll hold our hands like binoculars *(demonstrate)* while we walk to our prayer spot. Look through your binoculars, and see what you spy while we walk. Binoculars ready? *(Look at your child through your hand binoculars.)* Follow me! *(Hold your hands like binoculars as you lead your child to your prayer spot.)*

“We made it! Tell me what you saw through your binoculars. *(Pause and listen.)* Cool! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the child.)*

“Our Bible story, today, was about a very special place. Do you remember what the special place was? *(Pause.)* Yes! Heaven! And who is getting heaven ready for everyone who believes in Jesus? *(Pause.)* Right again! Jesus is preparing a special place for everyone who believes in Him. We can read the story right here in the Bible. *(Hold up the Bible.)*

“Men wrote down what they saw Jesus do and what they heard Him say so that we can believe in Jesus, too. **Who can believe in Jesus?**”

CHILD and PARENT: [Bottom Line] “I can believe in Jesus!”

PARENT: “Yes, you can believe in Jesus! And the Bible verse we have spent so much time learning says that the stories in the Bible are written so that we can believe in Jesus. It says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse.)*

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, John 20:31. (Close Bible and lay it down.)

“We should know this verse SO well by now. We have practiced it a lot! Let’s stand up and say it together with the motions one more time, then anyone who wants can try to say it!”

CHILD and PARENT: *“These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God. (Rock baby.) John 20:31.” (Open your hands like a book.)*

PARENT: “You have totally got this! Let’s sit down. When it’s your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and try it.

PARENT: “Way to go, *[child’s name]*! Here is your sticker! *(Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)*

“Now, it’s time to write in our journal and pray.

“I want us to make a list of our favorite places. It can be the playground, your bedroom, the beach, your grandparent’s house, the grocery store, anywhere in the whole wide world. When I say your name, tell me one of your favorite places. *(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“These are some really great places! I can see why they are your favorite. But guess what? Jesus is making heaven SO amazing that it will be even better than our favorite places. It’s true! Let’s use our list to talk to God, now. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

Prayer

PARENT: “Dear God, thank You for wonderful places like (*read the list the children made*). We love going to these places. Thank You that Jesus is making an even more amazing place where everyone who believes in Him can live with Him forever. You are so good to us, God. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”