



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



2. SHINE LIKE STARS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Stars" and "Blank Stars" Activity Pages, yellow cardstock, scissors, painter's tape, black or blue butcher paper, permanent marker, and glitter pens

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Stars" on yellow cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group. Copy "Blank Stars" on yellow cardstock and cut one per child. Tape a piece of black or blue butcher paper to the wall at the children's eye level. Gather the children to sit with you in front of the butcher paper.

BIBLE STORY

I shine when I do what Jesus says.

SHINE LIKE THE STARS
PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Read the "Stars" cutouts to the children. After reading each star, ask the children if the person complained and argued or chose to have a happy heart. If the person complained or argued, set that star aside. If they did not complain or argue, tape that star to the butcher paper so it can shine like the stars in the sky. After all the stars are on the paper, write each child's name on a blank star and tape it to the paper. Allow the children to use glitter pens to decorate their star.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to stand in front of the stars and hold up their twinkling fingers like stars while you review the Bottom Line together.

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "This big piece of paper reminds me of the night sky. Sit with me in front of it and we'll add shining stars to it!"

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we learned that when we do things without complaining or arguing, we shine like the stars in the sky! I'm going to read these stars to you. If the person complains or argues, the star does not go in the sky. If the person has a happy heart and does not complain or argue, the star will go in the sky to shine! Ready? (Pick up a star.) This star says a boy said, "Thank you" for his food. Did he complain or have a happy heart? (Pause.) That's right! He had a happy heart, so this star gets to shine in the sky. (Tape the star to the sky.) Let's read this star. (Pick up a star.) This one says a girl argued with her sister over a toy. Did she have a happy heart, or did she complain? (Pause.) She complained! So this star doesn't get to shine in the sky. (Continue with the rest of the stars.) I have more stars for us to add to the sky. This one says [child's name] and this one says [child's name]. (Write each child's name on their star and hand it to them.) Decorate your star with these glittery pens. (Pause.) They are beautiful! (Put a tape roll on the back of each star.) Add your star to the sky. (Pause.) Beautiful!"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Come stand in front of the starry sky. Now hold up your fingers and twinkle them like stars. (Demonstrate.) When we do what Jesus says, we shine like the stars! **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, a fun-shaped pen, and stickers or a handstamp

WHAT YOU DO:

Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.)

"Today, when I say your name, stand up and say, **I can do what Jesus says!** Then I will write your name in our journal. Can [child's name] do what Jesus says? (Child stands and says the Bottom Line.) Can [child's name] do what Jesus says? (Continue with each child as you write their name in the journal.) Great job, everyone!" (Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I wrote all your names in our prayer journal! (Hold up journal.) Now let's pray for each other. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us how to shine our light. [Child's name] wants to do what Jesus says. [Child's name] wants to do what Jesus says. (Continue with each child.) Please help us do everything without complaining and arguing so we can shine like the stars and people can see that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

BIBLE STORY

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SHINE LIKE THE STARS
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MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

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Jesus wants to be my friend forever.