



January 1, 2017

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: Who is there when you need Him?

Bottom Line: Jesus is there when I need Him.

Memory Verse: "You are everything I need." Psalm 119:57, NIV

Bible Story Focus: Jesus has the power to help me.

Healing the Blind Man • *John 9:1-7*

Make It Fun (Introductory Activities, 10 minutes)

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as Your 5&6 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. Wants and Needs Sorting

"Wants and Needs Sorting" is an activity that uses critical thinking skills and movement to help kids categorize items into "wants" and "needs" and introduce today's Bottom Line.

What You Need: A bottle of water, a small shirt/pants or other piece of clothing, plastic food, a blanket, a crayon or marker, a toy, a piece of paper, a toy cell phone, scissors, and 2 Hula-hoops

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Talk about the things in our lives that we need. Explain that things like food, water, air, and sleep are the things we need to help our body grow. A need is something that's necessary to live.

During the Activity: Place the two Hula-hoops on the floor about two feet apart. Explain that one of the hoops is for our "wants" (*point to the hoop*) and the other hoop is for our "needs" (*point to the other hoop*). Hold each item one at a time and talk about whether it falls in the "wants" or "needs" category. Select a different child each time to place the item into the correct hoop on the floor.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Have you ever really wanted something? Maybe you wanted a new bike or a special baby doll? There are all kinds of things we could want. But a need is different. There are some things we need to live a healthy life. I'll give you an example. One big need is water. We all need water to live."

During the Activity: “In this box, I have some items that are wants—things we would like to have but don’t have to have in order to live. I also have some things that are needs—the things that ARE necessary to live. Do you see these two Hula-hoops? In this hoop (*point to the hoop on the left*), I want us to place all the items that we need, and in this hoop (*point to the hoop on the right*), I want us to place all the items that we want. Are you ready? Okay, here’s our first item.”

After the Activity: “Look at all these things we need to live! We need to have water and air and sleep and clothing! Today in our Bible story, we’re going to hear about someone who had a BIG need! I can’t wait for you to find out how Jesus helps him with his need!”

2. Under the Cup

“Under the Cup” is an activity that teaches concentration and focus while using the sense of sight to introduce today’s Bible story.

What You Need: 3 large plastic cups and a small square block

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the block on the table and ask the children to gather around the table.

During the Activity: Place one cup upside down over the block. Place the other two cups next to the first one, also upside down. Quickly move the cups around mixing them up. Challenge the children to keep their eyes on the cup with the block under it to see if they can pick it out after you have mixed them up. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “God gave us eyes to see things with. Let’s use our eyes today to play a game!”

During the Activity: (*Place the cup over the block and the other two cups on the table.*) “Everyone keep your eyes on the cup with the block under it. I’m going to mix up the cups and then we’re going to see if you can tell where the block is. Are you ready? (*Play game.*) Great job using your eyes! Let’s play again!”

After the Activity: “God gave us our eyes to see things with, like how we could see the cups in our game. Today in our Bible story, we are going to hear about a man that could NOT see. Then something AH-Mazing happened! I can’t wait for you to find out what it was!”

3. What's in the Bag?

"What's in the Bag?" is an activity that uses fine motor skills and the sense of touch to identify items while blindfolded to introduce today's Bible story.

What You Need: An opaque bag and 6 different items from around the classroom (such as a Bible, a toy, a crayon, a pair of scissors, a plush animal, a doll, etc.)

(NOTE: If you have a large class, consider offering more than one bag/group of items.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather six different items from around the classroom. See suggested items listed above. Place all the items in the bag.

During the Activity: Pull out each item and identify it with the children. Then place the items back in the bag. Allow each child to take a turn putting their hand on one item with their eyes closed. Challenge the child to identify the item just by touching it, not seeing it. Ask the child to pull the item out of the bag to see if his/her guess is correct. Repeat with the rest of the items until every child has had a turn.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I want to show you some special items that I've gathered from around the room. As I pull each item out of the bag, I want you to tell me what it is and what we use it for. Are you ready? Here we go!"

During the Activity: "Okay, now I have a challenge for you. All these items are going back in the bag. I want you to take turns feeling one item in the bag with your eyes closed and I want you to tell me what that item is without looking. Remember, you cannot open your eyes! You can only use your hands to identify what the item is. And once you give an answer, let's pull the item out to see if you are correct."

After the Activity: "Great job, everyone! Was it harder to tell me what the item was when your eyes were closed? Of course! Can you imagine what it might be like to not be able to see? Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about a man who was born blind. We'll find out what happens to him when he meets Jesus. I can't wait!"

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.

1. Memory Verse with Motions

"Memory Verse with Motions" is an activity that uses repetition and movement to teach this month's memory verse.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the memory verse with the class several times.

During the Activity: Teach the following motions to the children while saying the verse: *You are (point up) everything (hands out to sides) I need (point thumbs to chest), Psalm 119:57. (Open your hands like a book.)* After the children have learned the motions, repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We have a new memory verse this month. It is: *You are everything I need, Psalm 119:57.* Now let's say it together! *You are everything I need, Psalm 119:57.* Awesome! Again! *(Repeat.)* Nice job!"

During the Activity: "Now I'm going to teach you some motions that we can do while we say our verse. Watch me and we can do them together. *You are (point up) everything (hands out to sides) I need (point thumbs to chest), Psalm 119:57. (Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat as desired.)*

After the Activity: "Wow! Way to go! Our Memory Verse tells us that God is everything that we need! We should always trust Him and follow what He says! He is always there for us! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**"

2. Act It Out

"Act It Out" is an activity that uses creativity and imagination to review today's Bible story.

What You Need: A bandana

What You Do:

During the Activity: Select children to play the following characters from today's story: the blind man, Jesus, Jesus' friends, and the crowd who witnessed the miracle. Use the script below to "act" out today's Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today we heard an awesome, TRUE story about a blind man that was healed by Jesus! I want us to act out the story together." *(Assign the parts. Give the bandana to the child playing the blind man.)*

During the Activity: “Okay, let’s have our blind man sit here. (*Help volunteer sit down on the floor with the bandana covering his/her eyes.*) Are we ready? Okay, here we go. This is the story of Jesus healing the blind man. One day, Jesus and his friends, the disciples, were walking down a road when they came to a blind man. (*Motion for Jesus and his friends to walk by the ‘blind man.’*) The blind man couldn’t see. His eyes didn’t work. He needed help. Jesus had to power to help him! So Jesus knelt down and spit in the dirt. (*Motion for ‘Jesus’ to pretend to spit on the floor.*) Then he rubbed his hands through the spitty dirt to create some mud and he placed the mud on the blind man’s eyes. Then Jesus told the man to wash in a special pool. So the blind man did. (*Motion for the ‘blind man’ to remove the bandana and use it to wash his eyes.*) And when he looked up from the pool, the man could see! He was so happy! His eyes were healed! Jesus had the power to heal him. Tell me: **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.**” (*Reassign parts and act out the story again if time allows.*)

After the Activity: “Great job acting out your part, everyone! I loved our story from today. Just like Jesus was there for the blind man when he needed Him, Jesus is there for you too. **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.**”

3. Blind Draw

“Blind Draw” is an activity that allows the children to experience a key concept of today’s Bible story.

What You Need: Large piece of white or light-colored butcher paper, markers, and tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the paper flat on top of a table. Tape the paper to the table and make sure it’s secure enough that you can write on it without it moving.

During the Activity: Have the children stand around the table, and give each of them a marker. Ask them to close their eyes and try to draw a circle on the butcher paper. After they finish, ask them to open their eyes to see the circle they drew. Ask the children if it was easy to draw without being able to see. Continue the activity by asking the children to draw a square, rectangle, and a triangle with their eyes closed.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today in our Bible story, we learned about a man who was blind. He could not see!”

During the Activity: “Everyone stand around the table. (*Point to table.*) Great listening! (*Give each child a marker.*) Now we are going to draw on the table, but let’s try it with our eyes closed! Everyone close your eyes really tight. (*Demonstrate.*) Perfect! Now use your marker to draw a circle. Remember to keep your eyes closed while you’re drawing! (*Do activity.*) Great job! Now open your eyes and look at your circle. It’s hard to do

things without seeing isn't it? Let's try it again!" (*Repeat with a square, a rectangle, and a triangle.*)

After the Activity: "I bet that was hard trying to draw with your eyes closed. God gave us eyes so that we can see to do things like that. In our story today, the man could not see, but Jesus performed a MIRACLE and allowed the man to see again! WOW! That is AMAZING! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is always there when I need Him!**"

4. Glasses

"Glasses" is an activity that allows the children to create a visual of today's Bible story that they can take home.

What You Need: "Glasses" Activity Pages,, scissors, small stickers, markers, and yarn in any color

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Glasses" Activity Page and cut out. Be sure to cut out the lenses as well. Cut the yarn into one-foot pieces. Each child will need two pieces. With one of the blades of the scissors, poke a hole into each side at the top of the glasses, just like it is indicated on the template. Place one end of a piece of yarn into one of the holes. Tie a knot to secure. Place one end of the other piece of yarn into the second hole. Tie a knot to secure.

During the Activity: Give each child a pair of glasses, markers, and stickers. Encourage the children to decorate their glasses with the markers and stickers.

After the Activity: Put the glasses on each child's eyes and tie the two sections of yarn into a bow at the back of the child's head.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "In our story today, Jesus helped the blind man see again. Some people wear glasses when they have trouble seeing. Let's make some glasses to take home so that we can remember our Bible story!"

During the Activity: (*Give each child a pair of glasses.*) "Here are your glasses. You can use the markers and the stickers to decorate them any way you would like! (*Allow the children to work.*) Great job!"

After the Activity: "Your glasses look awesome! Now let's wear them! (*Tie the glasses around each child's head.*) Perfect! Jesus helped the blind man in our story see again. Jesus can do anything! He will always help us when we need him, just like he helped the blind man! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**"