



January 29, 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 can help me when I'm scared.

Calming the Storm • *Matthew 8:23-27*

Make It Fun

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. Row Your Boat and STOP!

"Row Your Boat and STOP!" is an activity that uses music, singing, and listening skills to introduce today's Bible story.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in an open area of the room. Have them sit on the floor in rows as if they are sitting in a boat. Once children are seated, explain that you will "row the boat" with your arms as you sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." But they must listen as they sing. If they hear a leader say, 'STOP!' they must stop singing and stop rowing. Repeat and stop the song in a different spots each time. Continue singing and stopping as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Today I want us to pretend we're all on a boat! Let's sit in rows on the floor like this. (*Help children get into rows and sit on the floor, criss-cross applesauce.*) When you're on a boat, you have to row like this. (*Demonstrate how to row with your arms.*) Great job! As we row, let's sing 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat.' Do you know that song? (*Pause.*) Let's sing it together. (*Sing the song.*) Great singing, everyone! I want us to sing it again, but I need everyone to put on their listening ears! If you hear a leader say, 'STOP,' you must stop singing and stop rowing. Are you ready? Are your listening ears on? (*Pause.*) Okay, here we go!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "If I were in a boat that needed rowing, I would definitely want you on the boat with me! You are great rowers and singers. AND you are great listeners! Today

we're going to hear about some friends who were out in a boat with Jesus. But they hit some rough water. It's going to be a really exciting Bible story!"

2. Pattern Boats

"Pattern Boats" is an activity that teaches critical thinking and problem solving.

What You Need: "Boat Patterns" Activity Pages, and blocks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Boat Patterns". You will have four different patterns. Lay the patterns out in the activity area. Place the blocks near the patterns.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to use the blocks to build boats inside the patterns. Help them fill the entire pattern with blocks. Encourage the children to try all four patterns.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's build boats! I have four outlines of boats. (*Point.*) And we have these blocks!" (*Point.*)

During the Activity: "We can lay the blocks inside the boat outlines to make our boat. (*Demonstrate.*) Try to keep the blocks inside the lines! Let's try to build all four boats!"

After the Activity: "Great job making the boats! You know, there is a boat in our Bible story today. I cannot wait to find out what AMAZING thing Jesus does in the story!"

3. Shaking the Storm

"Shaking the Storm" is an activity that uses pretend play to introduce today's Bible story.

What You Need: A clear medium-sized plastic container with a lid that seals tightly, water, and small toy boats and/or fish

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Fill the container half full of water. Place the small toy boats and fish in the water and tightly close the lid.

During the Activity: Gather the children in an open area of the room and have them sit on the floor in a circle. Point out the fish and toys in the container. Pass the container around the circle and let each child take a turn shaking the container to create a "storm." Make sure they do not open the container.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Take a look inside my container. What do you see? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! I see some fish and boats! What would happen if you were out on a

boat like this and a big storm came? (*Pause.*) Let's take turns shaking this container to create a storm. I'm going to pass this around our circle so everyone has a turn shaking it. Don't take the lid off, or you will get wet!"

After the Activity: "It's fun to create a small storm like this one, but it would not be fun to actually be in a big storm out on the water! Today we're going to hear all about how Jesus and his friends were out on a boat when a big storm came. What do you think will happen? Let's go find out!"

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. What We Need

"What We Need" is an activity that teaches the children the difference between needing something and wanting something while reinforcing this month's memory verse.

What You Need: "Needs" and "Verse Background" Activity Pages, yellow cardstock, white paper, scissors, and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Needs" Activity Page onto the white paper. Cut out the items along the dotted lines. Each child will need one of each object. Copy the "Verse Background" Activity Page onto the yellow cardstock. You will need one per child.

During the Activity: Say the memory verse with the children. Give each child a "Verse Background" page and the four cutout objects. Encourage the children to glue each object onto the yellow cardstock.

After the Activity: Say the memory verse several more times with the children.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Jesus gives us what we need! We need Jesus! Things that we need are things like food, water, clothes, and a house. We might want other things, but these are the things that we need. The thing we need the most is JESUS! That is what our memory verse this month is about. Let's practice it together. *You are everything I need, Psalm 119:57. Yes! Jesus is EVERYTHING we need!*"

During the Activity: (*Give each child the yellow cardstock and the four cutouts.*) "Here are things that we NEED. Use your glue stick and glue the items to your page. Which one do you think we need the MOST? You got it! We need JESUS!"

After the Activity: “Great job gluing on some of our needs! Let’s say our verse again! *You are everything I need*, Psalm 119:57. Perfect! Jesus IS everything that we need! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**”

2. Parachute Story

“Parachute Story” is an activity that uses gross motor movements to review today’s Bible story.

What You Need: A parachute and blue pom-poms

What You Do:

During the Activity: Spread out the parachute on the floor in an open area of the room. Have the children stand around the outside of the parachute. Ask the children to stand up and hold onto the parachute. Talk about what happened in the Bible story as you wave the parachute and throw the blue pom-poms across it to create the ‘storm.’

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Who was with Jesus in our Bible story today? *(Pause.)* Yes, his friends, the disciples. And what happened in the middle of the night? *(Pause.)* That’s right, a big storm started rocking the boat. Let’s start waving our parachute to show how the water was rough in the storm. *(Wave parachute.)* And there was lightning and thunder. *(Throw the blue pom-poms on the parachute.)* While the rain came down, what was Jesus doing? *(Pause.)* Yes, Jesus was asleep. The disciples woke Him up to tell Him about the storm. They were afraid! But they didn’t need to be, because Jesus was with them. Jesus held out His hands and said: ‘Be still.’ And the storm STOPPED. Let’s stop waving the parachute because the storm is over!” *(Stop waving parachute.)*

After the Activity: “Let’s have a seat. You can let go of the parachute. You did a great job creating a big storm together. I know there may be times when you are scared, like when you start a new school, or go to the dentist, or when the lights suddenly go out. But I want you to remember that you aren’t alone—ever! Jesus is with you all the time. And He can help you when you’re scared, just like He helped the disciples in the boat. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him. I’m SO glad! Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him.**”

3. That Is Scary!

“That Is Scary!” is an activity that allows the children to talk about things that frighten them and receive comfort and reassurance.

What You Need: Medium-sized beach ball

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit in a circle with you in the middle.

During the Activity: Tell the children that fears are normal and tell the children a fear of yours, such as a fear of the dark, of spiders, etc. Roll the ball to a child and ask him what he is afraid of. Be sure not to dismiss any fear. Every time a child tells you a fear, tell the child, "Jesus will help you when you are scared."

After the Activity: Continue with the activity until every child has had a turn to catch the ball and share a fear.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's all sit in a circle!"

During the Activity: "In our story today, we heard about the men who were on the boat and they were very scared! It is okay to be scared of things. We are all scared of something. But, you know, Jesus will help us when we are scared! I am scared of [object/situation]! But I know Jesus will help me when I am scared. I am going to roll the ball to each of you. When you have the ball, it is your turn to tell us what you are scared of. Are you ready?" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Thank you for sharing something that scares you. It is such a wonderful thing to know that Jesus will help us when we are scared! Jesus is always there when we need Him—ALL THE TIME! **Who is there when you need Him?** **[Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**"

Prayer

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus. He is such an amazing friend! Thank You that He is there to help us when we need Him, like when we're scared. Help [child's name] to ask Jesus for help when (*read what that child listed*) scares him. (*Repeat this for each child.*) We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."