



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

Prepare to offer the following activities as your 3&4 year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. Build a House

"Build a House" is an activity that teaches fine motor skills and teamwork.

What You Need: Building blocks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the blocks out in the play area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to work together and build a house with the blocks.

After the Activity: Introduce today's Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "WOW! Blocks! (*Point.*) Let's work together and build a house with them."

During the Activity: (Start building.) "This house is really starting to look great! We all need a house or shelter to live in to keep us warm and dry!"

After the Activity: "You all did a great job building the house! I'm so glad God always gives us what we need, like a house or shelter. In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about God giving a man something that he needed. I wonder what it is?"

2. Peek-a-Boo

"Peek-a-Boo" is an activity that introduces a concept of today's Bible story in a fun and interactive way.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children sit around you.

During the Activity: Cover your eyes with your hands and say, "Where is [child's name], where is [child's name]? Then take your hands off of your eyes, look at that child, and say, "There you are! Peek-a-boo! I see you!" Continue with the activity until every child has had his/her name said.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's play a game! Everyone come sit with me!" (*Motion for them to come.*)

During the Activity: (*Cover your eyes.*) "Where is [child's name], where is [child's name]? (*Uncover your eyes and look at the child.*) THERE YOU ARE! Peek-a-boo! I SEE YOU!" (*Continue with the activity until you have said every child's name.*)

After the Activity: "That was such a fun game! God gave us eyes to see with! Our eyes are definitely something we need in order to see. In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about someone very special who helped someone see! I cannot wait to find out who!"

3. Texture Board

What You Need: Medium-sized foam board, bubble wrap, felt, furry fabric, sandpaper, scissors, and liquid glue

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut a five-inch square out of the bubble wrap, felt, furry fabric, and sandpaper. Glue each of the squares onto the felt board.

During the Activity: Lay the board in the activity area. Encourage the children to touch all of the different squares with their eyes closed. Ask them what each square is by how it feels only.

After the Activity: Explain to the children that people who cannot see use their hands to feel things instead of using their eyes.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Everyone hold up your hands! (*Demonstrate.*) Let's use our hands to see things today instead of our eyes!"

During the Activity: (Point to the board.) "Use your hands to touch the different squares on the board. I want to see if you know what it is without looking!" (Allow the children to do the activity.)

After the Activity: "Great job, everyone! People who cannot see with their eyes use their hands to see with instead, just like you just did! In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about a man who could not see. I bet that was so hard!"

Make It Stick

Choose the following activities to help make the Bottom Line stick. Lead the activities with small groups of children. Encourage children to play on their own if they do not wish to take part in an activity.

1. Memory Verse with Motions

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.)* Repeat several times.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

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! *You are everything I need, Psalm 119:57.* Nice job!"

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

After the Activity: "Our verse tells us that God is everything that we NEED! It's so true.

Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!"

2. Mud in the Eyes

What You Need: "Mud" Activity Page, white paper, wall tape, laminator, several dry-erase markers, and an eraser or paper towel

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the Activity Page onto the paper. Laminate the Activity Page and hang it on a wall in the activity area.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible story. When you get to the part about mud in the eyes, ask the children to come up a few at a time and color over the man's eyes on the Activity Page with the markers.

After the Activity: Finish retelling the Bible story. Make sure every child has had a turn to draw on the man's eyes.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We heard an AMAZING story today!"

During the Activity: "There was a man (*point to Activity Page on the wall*) who could not see. His eyes did not work! Only one person could help him! Do you remember who it was? (*Pause.*) YES! It was JESUS! He spit in the dirt and made mud! He then put it over the man's eyes. Can you help me put mud over his eyes? (*Give several children a marker.*) Color over his eyes. (*Pause.*) Great job! Now let's let some of our other friends have a turn. (*Continue the activity until all of the children have had a turn.*) Nice work! After the mud was on the man's eyes, Jesus told him to wash it off in a special pool. Do you remember what happened next? (*Pause.*) That's right! The man could see again!"

After the Activity: "Just like Jesus let the man see, Jesus gives us what we need too. He is always there for us! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**"

3. It's Time

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand around you.

During the Activity: Lead the children in a series of the following movements: jump, clap, march, touch toes, and spin around. Before each movement, say, "It is time to [name movement]." Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "IT'S TIME to get moving!"

During the Activity: "Everyone come and stand with me. IT'S TIME to jump around! (*Jump with the children.*) Now IT'S TIME to clap our hands! (*Clap your hands.*) Great job! Now IT'S TIME to march. (*March in place.*) You are doing a great job! NOW IT'S

TIME to touch your toes! (*Touch your toes.*) NOW IT'S TIME to spin around!" (*Spin around.*)

After the Activity: "God is with us ALL THE TIME! He is always there for us when we need Him. **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**"

4. Paper Glasses

What You Need: "Paper Glasses" Activity Page, scissors, googly eyes, crayons, and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the Activity Page. You will need one page per child. Use the scissors to cut the lenses out of the glasses. Only cut on the dotted lines. You will not be cutting the lenses completely out. You should only be left with flaps. Fold the Activity Page in half with glasses showing on the outside. Glue the page to itself to create a half page. Be sure the flaps still pull up on the glasses.

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page and two googly eyes. Help the child glue a googly eye under each of the lenses of the glasses. Encourage the children to color the glasses with the crayons.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today our story was about a man who could not see. But Jesus helped him when he needed help and made him see again! We are going to make special glasses that you can take home to help you tell your family about our AMAZING story that we heard today!"

During the Activity: (*Give the children a prepped Activity Page and two googly eyes.*) "Open up the flaps on the glasses. (*Demonstrate.*) We are going to put eyes in the glasses. Use the glue to glue the eyes inside the glasses. (*Pause.*) Great job! Now we can use the crayons to color the glasses." (*Finish the activity.*)

After the Activity: "Jesus is always there when we need Him! He helped the man see again and He helps us too! You can take your glasses home and tell your family all about how Jesus is always there when we need Him! **Who is there when you need Him? [Bottom Line] Jesus is there when I need Him!**"