



WEEK
THREE
JUNE 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



BIBLE STORY

I can have joy
when I do hard things.

**EZRA AND THE REBUILDING
OF THE TEMPLE
EZRA 3:10-13**

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart
is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who can have joy all the time?

BOTTOM LINE

I can have joy all the time.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

5. FATHER'S DAY AWARD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Best Dad Award" sticker, paper plates, strips of colored paper, dot markers, tape, crayons, washable markers, permanent marker.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place a "Best Dad Award" sticker, a paper plate, and two colored paper strips in front of each kid.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage kids to decorate their plate with the dot markers and coloring supplies. They can color designs, or they can draw a picture of their father figure. Once they are finished, turn the plate over and help them cut a small "V" on the bottom of the thin side of the paper strips and tape two paper strips to the back of the plate to form an award ribbon. If the kids are younger, you can have a leader pre-cut the paper strips for them.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Write each kid's name on their paper plate and place somewhere to hand to the parent at check out.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We've been learning that we can have joy all the time! Some people who bring us joy are our Fathers! And it's Father's Day this weekend! Let's create something to bring joy to our dads or other father figures in our lives.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Right now, your paper plate is blank, but each of you have a sticker to place in the middle of your plate. Do that now! . Once you've put your sticker on, decorate your plate with the supplies at your table! You can draw a picture of your dad, or you can just color it in a fun way! Once you're finished coloring, raise your hand and we can come by and help you attach your paper ribbons to complete your award!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our story, we learned about a man named Ezra. Ezra knew that he could do hard things and have joy all the time. Our dads are people who bring us joy and God wants us to bring joy to others too! **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.** These crafts can help us bring joy to the father figures in our lives. **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time."**



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MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



3. AMAZING DOMINOES! [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dominoes

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set up ten dominoes in a circle on a flat surface, one behind the other, counting each one as you put it in the shape of a circle.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to predict what will happen if you tap one domino. Once they have made their guesses, tap a domino to make the other dominos fall over. Repeat, adding dominoes to make the circle bigger each time.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:

"Friends, gather around the table. These are dominoes. Let's stand up ten dominoes in a circle. There needs to be a little bit of space between each one." (Pause.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "What do you think will happen if I tap this domino here? (Pause.) Do you want to see something amazing? Watch this! (Tap the domino.) Wow! That was amazing! Let's add more dominoes and rebuild the circle. (Repeat as desired, adding more dominoes and counting them each time.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "God's people had a hard job of rebuilding the temple, but they had joy and celebrated because the work had begun. They sang songs to God about how good God is and how thankful they were. We can have joy when we do hard things too because God loves us. **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time!**"

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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, and a fun-shaped pen

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WHAT YOU SAY:

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

"Today, we're going to make a list of things that are hard to do. I'll go first. I think [name of action] is a hard thing to do. (*Write your hard thing in the journal.*) There! Now, when I say your name, you can tell me something you think is hard to do and I will write it in our journal." (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Thank you for making this list with me. We can use it when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, sometimes we have to do hard things, like (*read the list you and the children made*). I'm so glad we can have joy all the time, even when we do hard things, because You love us all the time. Help us remember how much You love us the next time we do something hard. It may even help us to sing a song to You while we do the hard thing! We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."