



## WEEK FOUR – MAY 2024 – PRESCHOOL

**Bible Story:** *Shadrach, Meshach + Abednego | Daniel 3:10-28*

**Key Question:** *Who loves you?*

**Bottom Line:** *God loves me*

**Memory Verse:** *“I will always love you.” Jeremiah 31:3 CEV*

**Basic Truth:** *God loves me*

**Series Overview:** This month is all about introducing preschoolers to God—the One who loves them with a love that lasts forever. When it comes to preschoolers and what they know about God, there are a few faith skills we want to make sure they have in their little red wagon. We want every child to know that they can hear from God, pray to God, talk about God to others, and live for God. We hope they will pull these faith skills around, wherever they go, for the rest of their lives. Then they can go with confidence because they have the faith skills needed for whatever comes their way.

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## 9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### Opening Small Group Activity

*Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts*

**What You Need:** Calendar; Black Marker; Red Marker

### What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Set the large desk calendar on the table. Write children's birthdays on the calendar if possible. Gather the children to sit around the calendar.
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - Call on each child as you point to a day on the calendar. Ask children to name something they do on that day. Write down their answers on that day using a black washable marker. Continue until each child has added to the calendar and you've written something on each day of the week. Review each day and the things you've written.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Draw red hearts around each day of the week as you introduce the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - "Friends, come sit around the table here with me. Do you know what this is? (*Pause.*) It's a calendar. It shows us every day of the week! See, (*point to these as you review*) there's Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Let's talk about what we do on those days."
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - "Friends, come sit around the table here with me. Do you know what this is? (*Pause.*) It's a calendar. It shows us every day of the week! See, (*point to these as you review*) there's Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Let’s talk about what we do on those days.”

- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Today in our Bible Story, we will hear about how we can live for God and love Him on Sunday (*draw a red heart on Sunday*) and Monday (*draw a heart*) and Tuesday (*draw a heart*) and every day of the week. (*Draw in hearts for the rest of the week.*) Look! We can live for God and love Him every day. I can’t wait to hear this story!”
- *TRANSITION*
  - Move to Worship and Story by calling on the children to make hearts with their hands as they travel.

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**9:20 - 9:50 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP**

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**Story Focus: I can live for God.** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have a choice to make. Are they going to live for the king and do what the king says OR are they going to live for God and do what God says? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego choose to live for God. They know that, no matter what happens, God loves them. We can choose to live for God, too, because God loves me and God loves you!

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**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 – SMALL GROUP**

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**Live Poster**

**[Live For God | Application Activity]**

*Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers*

**What You Need:** Live Poster” Activity Page, cardstock, glue stick, poster board, washable ink pads, washable markers, plastic tablecloth, and baby wipes

### **What You Do:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Copy “Live Poster” on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Glue the picture to the center of your poster board.
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - Set the poster board in the middle of the children. Point out the globe. Talk about how we can live for God wherever we go. Lead the children to press their thumbs onto the ink pads and then press them down flat on the poster board around the edge to leave their thumbprints. This will form the body. Pass out wipes for children to clean messy fingers. Encourage children to use the markers to give their thumbprint a head, legs, and arms.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Hang up the poster board where parents can see it when they arrive.

### **What You Say:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Friends, join me over here.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “We learned in our story today that we can live for God wherever we go! Let’s add a ‘thumb body’ around the edge of the poster board. I want you to press your thumb onto the ink pad and then onto the poster board around the edge. Clean your thumb and then use a marker to draw a head, arms, and legs to make little thumb bodies! *(Pause.)* Your thumb bodies look so cute!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “We can live for God no matter where we go, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They knew that God loved them, and God loves us too. Tell me, **who loves you? [Bottom Line] God loves me!** One more time! **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] God loves me.**”

### **Journal + Prayer**

#### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application*

**What You Need:** “Memory Verse Card” Activity Page; Bible; journal

**What You Do:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Place one card in your Bible at Jeremiah 31:3. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - Review the Memory Verse and motions; then encourage the children to help you make a list of their friends in the journal.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

**What You Say:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Now we can sit down and talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “*In our Bible Story today, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did what God said. They lived for God, and they did not bow to the king’s statue. Doing what God says is how we show God that we love Him. And we can always trust that what God says is best because God loves us. [Bottom Line] God loves me, and God loves you! Who loves you? [Bottom Line] God loves me! The Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that God says: ‘I (point up) will always (draw circles with finger pointing up) love you.’ (cross arms over chest) Jeremiah 31:3. (Open hands like a book.) That is such good news! God will always love us! Stand up with me and let’s say God’s words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. ‘I (point up) will always (draw circles with finger pointing up) love you.’ (cross arms over chest) Jeremiah 31:3. (Open hands like a book.) Now who’s ready to say that by yourself? I know you can do it! Let’s sit down and we can take turns. I have my stickers ready! (Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.) Everyone, clap for [child’s name]! Here is your sticker! (Say this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.) I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/handstamp. One, two, three! (Pause to look.) Yay! (Clap.) Now let’s*

*sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were friends. They helped each other live for God. When I say your name, I want you to tell me the name of one of your friends and I will write it in our journal. Then we can pray that our friends will live for God too.” (Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**

- *“Look at all our friends’ names! (Hold up journal.) Let’s pray for our friends now. 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 always loving us. Thank You for teaching us that we can live for You. Please help (say each child’s name) and our friends (read the list you made) do things like read the Bible, pray, talk about You to others, and love You so we can live for You. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*