

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Love One Another  
**JOHN 13:34-35**

### MEMORY VERSE

"Lord, you are more powerful than the roar of the ocean. You are stronger than the waves of the sea."  
**PSALM 93:4 , NIrV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who can help you change the world around you?

### BOTTOM LINE

God can help me change the world around me.

### BASIC TRUTH

God made me.



## 1. WAVES OF LOVE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus Pictures" and "We Can Pictures" Activity Pages, cardstock, string, scissors, tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

*Before the Activity:*

- Make one copy of "Jesus Pictures" and "We Can Pictures" on cardstock.

- Cut three long pieces of yarn.

*Note: The length of yarn will be determined by the amount of space you have to play the game.*

*During the Activity:*

- Lay the three "Jesus" pictures in a vertical row on the floor.
- Lay the three "We Can" pictures in a vertical row to the right of the "Jesus" pictures.
- The space between the rows of pictures needs to be the same as the length of your yarn pieces.
- Assist the children in connecting each "Jesus" picture with the "We Can" picture that shows a similar helping, sharing, or kindness action.
- After the children make the matches, mix up the pictures and match them again.

*Make sure to keep the "Jesus" pictures in one row and the "We Can" pictures in a separate row when you mix them up each time. Repeat the activity as long as time and interest allow.*

*After the Activity:*

- Talk about how God can help us change the world around us when we love like Jesus.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

*Before the Activity:*

"Who wants to play a game? Come over here and I'll show you how to play."

*During the Activity:*

"I have three pictures of ways Jesus loved people in our Bible story today. Jesus loved people by helping them. In this picture, Jesus is helping a man who couldn't walk.

"Jesus loved people by sharing with them. In this picture, Jesus is sharing food with people who didn't have anything to eat.

"Jesus loved people by being kind to them. In this picture, Jesus is saying kind words to a woman who didn't have any friends.



## (1. WAVES OF LOVE, CONTINUED)

"I also have three pictures of ways WE can love people like Jesus.

"We can love people by helping them. In this picture, a boy is helping carry groceries.

"We can love people by sharing with them. In this picture, a boy is sharing his toy cars.

"We can love people by saying kind words to them. In this picture, a boy is saying kind words by cheering for a friend.

"Now it is time to play the game. I am going to mix up the pictures on the floor. When I say your name, I want you to use this string to match the helping pictures, sharing pictures, and kindness pictures."

*Assist the children when needed.*

*After the Activity:*

"You did it! You matched all of the pictures! God sent Jesus to show us how to love others. When we help, share, and say kind words, we are loving like Jesus, and God can help us change the world around us! **Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me!**"

## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



## 2. MEMORY VERSE MUSICAL "CHAIRS"

**WHAT YOU NEED:** several beach towels of varying colors/patterns, a music player, upbeat worship music

**WHAT YOU DO:**

*Before the Activity:*

- Lay the beach towels out on the floor in a large circle.

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*During the Activity:*

- Invite the children to walk around the towels as you play the music.
- Stop the music, select a towel with one or more children sitting on it to say the Memory Verse together.
- Repeat until all of the children have a chance to say the verse.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Lord, you are more powerful than the roar of the ocean. You are stronger than the waves of the sea."  
**PSALM 93:4 , NIrV**

*After the Activity:*

- Collect all the beach towels and set aside.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

*Before the Activity:*

"Friends, come gather here with me! Let's play musical chairs with these towels. When you hear the music, I want you to walk around the circle of towels. When the music stops, quickly find a towel and have a seat! You can have more than one friend on a towel. Then, I'll call on some of you to say our Memory Verse. Ready? *(Start the music.)* Let's walk!

### KEY QUESTION

Who can help you change the world around you?

*During the Activity:*

*(Stop the music.)* "Everyone on the *(describe one of the towels)*, say the verse with me.

"'Lord, you are *(point up)* more powerful than *(muscle arms)* the roar of the ocean. *(hands by mouth)* You are stronger than *(muscle arms)* the waves of the sea,' *(arms make waves)* Psalm 93:4, NIrV." *(open hands like a book)*

### BOTTOM LINE

God can help me change the world around me.

"Great job! Everyone on your feet and let's walk."

*After the Activity:*

"That was super-fun! God is more powerful than the ocean and stronger than the sea. God sent Jesus because He loves us. When we love like Jesus, God can help us change the world around us. **Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me.**"

### BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

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"Lord, you are more powerful than the roar of the ocean. You are stronger than the waves of the sea."  
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Who can help you change the world around you?

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## 3. PING-PONG LOVE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** ping-pong balls, heart stickers, paper cups, masking tape

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:*

- If you have chairs around your classroom table, stack them up and move them aside.

- Tape the cups to the long edge of one of your classroom tables with the masking tape.
- Place a heart sticker on each ping-pong ball.

*During the Activity:*

- Have the children line up at the table, on the opposite side from the cups.
- Show the children how to roll the ball along the surface of the table to land in the cup.
- Give the children a chance to roll their ball into the cup to fill the cup with "love."

*After the Activity:*

- Collect all ping-pong balls.
- Remove the cups from the table and discard.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:*

"Friends, come gather on this side of the table with me! Do you see the cups there on the other side? (*Hold up a ping-pong ball.*) What do you see here on the side of our ping-pong ball? Yes, a heart! A heart reminds me of love! Let's fill these cups with love by rolling the ball across the table like this." (*Demonstrate.*)

*During the Activity:*

"Let's make sure every friend has a turn. Once everyone has rolled their ball to the other side, then let's all walk to the cups to get our ball and play again."

*After the Activity:*

"You filled our cups with love. Great job, friends! Jesus showed love to everyone! When we love like Jesus, God can help us change the world around us. **Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me.**"

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

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## 4. WATER TUB OF LOVE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** large, shallow container; water; pool noodles; serrated knife; permanent marker; and paper towels

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:*

- Cut the pool noodles into 20 one-inch thick discs.
- Write the numbers 1-10 on one set of pool noodle discs.
- On the other set of pool noodle discs, draw a correlating number of hearts, 1-10 hearts.
- Fill the container with water and place the pool noodle discs upside down in the water.
- Place the container on a table or the floor.

*During the Activity:*

- Have the children pick two noodle discs at a time and try to find the matches between the numeral and the number of hearts drawn.
- Once all of the discs are matched, put them back in face down and repeat.

*After the Activity:*

- Review the Bible Story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:*

"What a fantastic Bible Story we heard today! It was all about LOVE! I have a matching game for us to play today."

*During the Activity:*

"Okay friends, you get to pick two discs. (Pause.) Turn them over and tell me what you see. (Pause.) Some of the pool noodles have a number and the others have hearts on them. Did anyone pull a match on your first try? (Pause.) A match will have the same number on one disc as there are hearts on the other disc. If you got a match, show everyone and tell us the number you found. (Pause.) Let's keep playing until everyone has a match.

"If you have a disc with a number on it, let's put it back in the water upside down. (Pause.) Let's make sure everyone has a disc with hearts on it. (Make sure all of the children have discs with hearts on them. If not, pull one out from the container for them.) Everyone look at your disc and count the number of hearts. (Pause.) That's the number you want to find.

"This time pull one noodle disc out. (Pause.) Did anyone get a match? (Pause.) Let's work together and match them. If a friend has the number you need, trade with them. (Pause.) Or we can try to find the number you need in the container. (Pull out discs until each child has a match.)



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**FOUR**  
SUMMER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

STORY

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HOME

## (4. WATER TUB OF LOVE, CONTINUED)

“Great job! Let’s toss them in and play again. *(Repeat as many times as desired.)* There was a lot of love today, and we learned today that when we love like Jesus, we are loving others the way that Jesus loves us. That’s a lot of love.”

*After the Activity:*

“We can show others we love them when we help them or share with them or when we say kind words. Jesus did these things by helping a man walk when he couldn’t. Helping our friends is one way we can love like Jesus. Jesus prayed over and thanked God for two fish and five loaves of bread and fed five thousand hungry people. Sharing with our friends is another way we can love like Jesus. We can also say kind words like Jesus did to a woman who had mean words said to her. God sent Jesus to make big waves that changed the world. When we love like Jesus, God can help us make waves that change the world around us too. **Who can help you change the world around you? God can help me change the world around me.**”



## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



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### KEY QUESTION

Who can help you change the world around you?

### BOTTOM LINE

God can help me change the world around me.

### BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

## 5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** paperclip the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Psalm 93:4; journal; fun-shaped pen

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's small group time! Today we are going to smile our biggest, kindest smile while we walk to our small group spot, because smiling at

people is one way we can be kind and love like Jesus. Let me see your smiles. (Pause.) Oh my! Your kind smiles are making me smile! (Smile really big.) Keep those kind smiles going and follow me!"

*Smile as you lead the children to your small group spot.*

**SGL:** "We made it! Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*

**SGL:** "Our Bible story today was about how Jesus showed us how to love others by helping, sharing, and being kind. And when we love like Jesus, God can help us change the world around us! Who can help you change the world around you?"

### CHILDREN AND SGL: "God can help me change the world around me!"

**SGL:** "God can help us change the world around us, because God is more powerful than the roar of the ocean and stronger than the waves of the sea. The Bible verse we are learning will help us remember how powerful and strong God is. It says . . .

*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*

**SGL:** "'Lord, you are more powerful than the roar of the ocean. You are stronger than the waves of the sea,' Psalm 93:4, NIV."

*Close the Bible and lay it down.*

**SGL:** "Let's stand up and say that together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'Lord, you are (point up) more powerful than (muscle arms) the roar of the ocean. (hands by mouth) You are stronger than (muscle arms) the waves of the sea,' (arms make waves) Psalm 93:4, NIV." (open hands like a book)



*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*

**SGL:** "Great job! (Give fist bumps.)"

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God."

*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*

**SGL:** "God sent Jesus to show us how to love one another. Some of the ways Jesus loves people is by helping, sharing, and being kind. Since God wants to help us love like Jesus, we are going to make a list of ways we can love like Jesus and ask God to help us. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus, and I'll write it down."

*Remember to print as you write so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*

**SGL:** "These are great ideas! Let's use this list when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*

## **PRAYER**

**SGL:** "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love one another. Please help [name of child] love like Jesus and (*read what they wrote*). Please help [name of child] love like Jesus and (*read what they wrote*). Please help . . . (*say this with each child*). When we love like Jesus, You can help us change the world around us! You're the best, God, and we love You. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

### 1. WAVES OF LOVE

**Made to Play:** an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Jesus Pictures" Activity Page
- "We Can Pictures" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Make one copy of "Jesus Pictures" and "We Can Pictures" on cardstock.
- Cut three long pieces of yarn. (The length of yarn will be determined by the amount of space you have to play the game.)

### 2. WATERCOLOR WAVES

**Made to Move:** an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Beach towels—several in varying patterns
- Music player
- Upbeat worship music

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Lay the beach towels out on the floor in a large circle as your "chairs."

### 3. PING-PONG LOVE

**Made to Play:** an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Ping-pong balls—one per child
- Heart stickers
- Paper cups
- Masking tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Tape several cups to the edge of the long side of the table with the masking tape. (Tape them so the edge of the cup is level to the table so that when you roll the ball across, it can land in the cup.)
- Place a heart sticker on each ping-pong ball.

### 4. WATER TUB OF LOVE

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Large, shallow container
- Water
- Pool noodles
- Serrated knife
- Permanent marker
- Paper towels

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Cut pool noodles into 20 one-inch thick discs.
- Write the numbers 1-10 on one set of pool noodles.
- On the other set draw a correlating number of hearts, 1-10 hearts.
- Fill the container with water and place the pool noodle discs upside down in the water.
- Place the container on a table or the floor.

### 5. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

**Made to Reflect:** An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible
- "Memory Verse Card"
- Bible
- Journal
- Fun-shaped pen

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Paperclip the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Psalm 93:4.



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### SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

#### First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. [https://bit.ly/VBS2022\\_Preschool\\_Pinterest](https://bit.ly/VBS2022_Preschool_Pinterest)