

2. Book Look

Made to Play

***Uses Minimal Supplies**

What You Need:

- Different types of preschool board books, five per Small Group
- Preschool Bible

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Stand books and a Bible upright on a table or shelf, like a mini library display.

During the Activity: Point to and briefly describe each book. Let children choose a book to explore. Sit with them and look at the pictures.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come with me and let's look at some books!"

During the Activity: "What kind of books do you see? Oh look, [child's name] picked the animal book! Let's look at it together. *(Pause.)* That was such a neat book about animals! What other books do you see? [Child's name] picked the [subject] book! Let's look at it together. *(Pause.)* Super cool! What about this book? *(Hold up the Bible.)* Do you know what this book is? *(Pause for responses.)* This book is the Bible. It's filled with God's words! Let's look at it together. *(Continue with each book. Repeat as desired.)* I enjoyed looking at all the books with you today."

After the Activity: "Today we're going to hear a true story from the Bible *(hold up the Bible)* about Jesus when He was young, just like you! Let's go hear it together!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by cheering, "The Bible is the best!"

Groups
Creating a Safe Place to Connect
25 minutes

***Uses Minimal Supplies**

1. Memory Verse with Motions
Hear from God | Memory Verse Review
Made to Move

What You Need: No supplies needed

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the “Memory Verse Hand Motions” PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

During the Activity: Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. ‘Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth,’ (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: “Now, let’s learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: ‘Your’ (*point up*). Point one finger up in the air like this (*pointer finger up to the sky*) and say, ‘Your.’ (*Repeat with children.*) Great job!

“The next part of our verse says: ‘Word’ (*open hands like a book*). Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book like this (*open hands like a book*) and say, ‘word.’ (*Pause.*) Now let’s put that together. ‘Your (*point up*) word’ (*open hands like a book*). Great job!

“The next part of our verse says: ‘Is truth’ (*move index finger forward from mouth*). Put your pointer finger up to your mouth like you are saying shh like this (*pointer finger to lips*), then move your finger forward from your mouth (*move finger forward from mouth*) and say ‘is truth.’ (*Repeat with children.*) Nice job! Now let’s put that together. Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth’ (*move index finger forward from mouth.*) Super!

“Now the last part is: John 17:17. (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book*) and say: ‘John 17:17.’ (*Repeat with children.*) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? ‘Your (*point up*) word (*open hands like a book*) is truth,’ (*move index finger forward from mouth*) John 17:17” (*open hands like a book*). Nice job. Let’s do it again!” (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: “The Bible teaches us so many wonderful things like how God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. **[Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things. What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line] The Bible teaches me the best things.**

4. Young Jesus Puppet

Live for God | Application Activity
Made to Create

***Uses Minimal Supplies**

What You Need:

- ❑ “Young Jesus Puppet” Activity Page
- ❑ “Young Jesus Puppet Label” Activity Page
- ❑ Cardstock
- ❑ Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- ❑ Paper lunch bags
- ❑ Crayons or washable markers
- ❑ Glue sticks
- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Young Jesus Puppet” on cardstock and cut one set per child. Copy “Young Jesus Puppet Label” on label paper, one label per child. Write each child’s name on their paper bag.

During the Activity: Encourage children to glue the top part of Jesus’ head to the bottom flap of their lunch bag and Jesus’ body to their lunch bag. Have them color Jesus, then use the puppets to review the story.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today, we heard a story about when Jesus was twelve years old. That’s a little bit older than all of you.”

During the Activity: “Let’s make a Jesus puppet. We can use our puppet to help us review our Bible Story. Start by finding the flap on your bag. *(Pause.)* Great. Now glue Jesus’ head to that part of your bag so His mouth lines up to the edge of the flap. *(Pause.)* Tuck Jesus’ body under the flap and glue it to the bag. *(Demonstrate.)* Now color your Jesus puppet. *(Pause.)* Super job! Add this label to the back of your puppet. It tells you where you can look in the Bible to find today’s Bible Story. Now slide your hand into the bag to make your puppet talk like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Let’s use our puppets to help us review.”

After the Activity: “Jesus was twelve years old when He traveled with Mary and Joseph to a big celebration in the city of Jerusalem. It was so much fun! When the celebration was over, everyone went back home, but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. While Mary and Joseph were walking back home, they realized Jesus wasn’t with them. Hide your Jesus puppet behind your back. *(Pause.)* When they couldn’t find Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him. *(Put your hand above your eyes.)* When they finally found Him, Jesus was sitting and talking with important teachers about God. Use your puppets to talk to each other. *(Pause.)* The grown-ups were AMAZED at what Jesus said.

“Jesus was talking to the people about God, and we can talk to people about God, too! The Bible has God’s words in it, and it teaches us the BEST things! **What does the Bible teach you? [Bottom Line]**
The Bible teaches me the best things.”