



MAY 2023

Babies-Toddlers Lesson THE FOUR FRIENDS

Bible Words: “We have the Lord our God to help us.” Chronicles 32:8, NLT

Bottom Line: God made you to help others.

Basic Truth: God made me.

BIBLE STORY FOR NURSERY

(The Beginner’s Bible Pg. 328-333, “Story Images” Activity Pages)

“Hello, friends. I’m so glad to see you today. Join me on the floor. Today’s true story from the Bible (hold up Bible) begins with four friends. These friends knew someone who needed help (Put your thumb up on your other palm)... a man whose legs didn’t work and he couldn’t walk. He needed their help because he had to be carried everywhere.

One day, Jesus came to the town where the four friends lived. They knew that Jesus could help their friend who couldn’t walk. So, they carried him to the house where Jesus was, but it was full of people! They carried him up to the roof, dug a hole in it, then lowered him through the hole. Hooray for helpers! When Jesus saw how much the friends believed in Him and how much they helped, Jesus did something amazing. Jesus made the man’s legs all better! He could walk and even dance! The four friends did what God made them to do. They helped others. And you can help others, too, because [Bottom Line] God made you to help others.”

HOW TO USE THE ACTIVITIES

As a nursery volunteer, your primary focus is on keeping babies-toddlers safe and happy. We understand that your classroom is busy, and your hands are literally full. However, we know that your influence on these children is more than childcare. The activities included in this lesson are suggestions of how to be more intentional in pointing little ones to Jesus. The theme will remain the same all month long. Choose one activity per week to focus on and don’t worry if you run out of time.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Monthly Parent Cue - 1 per family first weekend of the month)

Hand parents/influencers the Parent Cue handout (age specific for Babies vs Toddlers) and encourage them to review the activities with their child this week.

BABIES ACTIVITIES

BIBLE STORY SONG

As you rock or change baby, say the following chant and clap baby's hands.

“God made you. (Clap.)
God made you (Clap.)
God made you to help. (Clap.)
Woo! God made you!” (Clap.)

Words For Baby:

“Baby, God made you! God made you to do so many amazing things. God made you to help!”

PEEKABOO

(No Supplies)

What You Do:

- Sit with a few children and play peekaboo.

What You Say:

“Friends, come and sit with me. Peekaboo! God made you. Yes! God made each and every one of you. God made you to help others.”

GOD MADE YOU

(No Supplies, Optional: Shakers)

What You Do:

- Sit with the children and say the chant as many times as desired.
- Optional: Add shakers.

What You Say:

“Friends, God made you! Listen to the chant and clap with me!”

“God made you. (Clap.)
God made you (Clap.)
God made you to help. (Clap.)
Woo! God made you!” (Clap.)

BOX OF SCARVES

(Empty Wipes Box, Scarves)

What You Do:

- Fill the wipes box full of scarves.
- Guide each child to pull a scarf out of the box until the box is empty.
- Return all the scarves to the wipes box and repeat.

What You Say:

“[Child’s name], can you reach into the box and pull out a scarf? Great! Thank you for helping me get that scarf out of the box. [Child’s name], can you reach into the box and pull out a scarf? Wow! You are all such great helpers! God made you to help others.”

CRAFT TIME

(“Friend to Carry” and “Friend to Carry Parent Note” Activity Pages, Cardstock, Paper Plates - 1 per child, Crayons, Scissors, Optional: Glue Sticks)

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Copy “Friends to Carry” on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Copy “Friends to Carry Parent Note” and cut, one per child.
- Write each child’s name on their cutout and paper plate.

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to decorate their man and plate with crayons.
- Have children place the man on the plate and lift and lower it.

What You Say:

During the Activity:

“Today we heard the story of the four friends who helped their friend who couldn’t walk. (Hold up the man cutout.) Use the crayons to color the man. (Pause.) Super-duper!

“They carried him to see Jesus, and Jesus made his legs all better! Hooray! Let’s pretend this plate is the mat the friends carried him on. Color the plate. (Pause.) Great! Lay your man on the plate. (Pause.) Raise your plate in front of you. Now lower it. (Pause.) Fantastic! In our story, the friends had to lower the man through the roof because the house was too full to go in the front door.

“Jesus saw how the friends helped and how much they believed Jesus could help. So He did what only Jesus could do! Jesus made the man’s legs all better. He could walk, and even dance! The four friends helped. You can help people, too, because **[Bottom Line] God made you to help others.**”