



TO THE RESCUE | WEEK 2 | MAY 14, 2023

Preschool Lesson

The Four Friends

Bible Story: *God made me to help my friends. The Four Friends • Mark 2:1-12*

Memory Verse: "We have the Lord our God to help us." 2 Chronicles 32:8, NLT

Key Question: Who made you to help others?

Bottom Line: God made me to help others.

Basic Truth: I am made by God to reflect His Image (act like Him).

KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES

LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES

SMALL GROUP
20 MINUTES

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

When given the opportunity, preschoolers are ready and willing to help because it shows the world they are big and can do things that matter. Need help stirring in the kitchen? Preschoolers to the rescue! Need help carrying groceries? Preschoolers to the rescue! Need help entertaining a fussy baby? Preschoolers to the rescue!

Could it be that the real reason preschoolers want to help is that God made them to help? We think so! That is why we will be spending this month answering the question "Who made you to help?" God made me to help! That's who! After all, God is the ultimate helper, and we are all made in God's image.

Story Focus: God made me to help my friends. Four friends come to the rescue by doing all they can to help get their friend to Jesus, even though it means lowering their friend down through a roof! The friend they are helping cannot walk, but because of their willingness to do whatever it took, their friend met Jesus and WALKED out of that house.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come sit with me. I am so glad to see you here. I love being here with you!

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

"Can everybody follow those rules today? (*Kids respond.*) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn

about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let's say them all together! Are you ready?

1. I am made by God. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

"It's time for our memory verse. Let's watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!"

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

We have (bent hands to chest)
the Lord our God (point up)
to help us, (thumb up on palm)
2 Chronicles 32:8. (Open hands like a book.)

"Ok, Now let's sing and worship God!"

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: MADE BY YOU, VERY BIG THINGS)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Flat Sheet or Towel, Baby Doll, Story Box)

LGL brings the story box with the props inside to the middle.

"I have my story box ready. I'm SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let's see what I have in here..."

Pull out the items.

A sheet and a baby doll. In our story today, we are going to hear about 4 men who helped their friend who couldn't walk see Jesus. I was wondering if I could have some help from 4 of my friends here? Raise your hand if you want to help me?

Choose 4 kids with their hands raised to carry the baby doll on the sheet or towel. Each kid grabs a corner. Lead them to carefully walk around their space. Emphasize how they are 'helping' the friend on the sheet.

Thank you for helping me, friends. All of us can help our friends. Let's watch our story today.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

Wow! The four friends did what God made them to do. They helped (*Sign “help.”*), and we can, too! God made you (*point out*) and me (*thumbs to chest*) to help (*Sign “help.”*) others.

“Now when I ask, ‘Who made you to help others?’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line]** ‘God made me to help others!’ Ready? Who made me to help others?” (*God made me to help others!*)

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

“Our Basic Truth says, ‘I am made by God to reflect His Image. We are made in the image of God, so we are able to act like Him. Because God helps us, we can help others!’

PRAY

“Let’s pray together. (*Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap”*)

Dear God, thank you for loving us and sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Help us be good friends who help. We love you. In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *God made me to help my friends. The Four Friends • Mark 2:1-12*

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Key Question: Who made you to help others?

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COMMUNITY HELPER MATCHING

(“Community Helpers” and “Community Helper Items” Activity Pages)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Community Helpers” on cardstock, one set per small group. Tape to the wall at preschooler level. Copy the “Community Helper Items” on cardstock and cut, one set per small group. Lay the cutouts on the table.

During the Activity: Gather the children to stand near the table. Point out the pictures of the community helpers around the room and the items that go with them on the table. Encourage the children to select an item and walk over to match it to its community helper. *Option: Tape the items to the wall next to the community helper.* Repeat with each item.

After the Activity: Talk about how God gives us people who help us in lots of different ways.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come here with me. I need your help!”

During the Activity: “Do you see the pictures around the room? These are some of our community helpers. And these (*point to the cutouts on the table*) are the items they need. Can you figure out which item goes with each helper? Let’s match them one at a time. I see a [object’s name]. Who uses that to help? Let’s take it to the picture of the helper that would use this item. (*Pause.*) Super-duper! Let’s match another item. (*Continue until all items are matched.*) You found all the matches!”

After the Activity: “I’m so thankful for these community helpers like doctors and firefighters who help us! God made you and me to help, too! **Who made you to help others? [Bottom Line] God made me to help others.**”

FOUR FRIENDS WORK TOGETHER

(Towel/Flat Sheet/Blanket, Small Plush Animal or Baby Doll, Paper Heart)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut out paper heart.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to take turns, four at a time, carrying the towel with the stuffed animal on it to the heart cutout. Remind them to work together to lower the towel onto the heart at the same time. Continue until each child has a turn.

After the Activity: Talk about how four friends worked together to help the friend, just like in our Bible Story today.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, gather here with me! What do you see? A plush friend! In our story today, the four friends had to carry their friend to the top of the house, dig a hole in the roof, and lower their friend down to Jesus. Let’s see if we can work together like those friends did to carry and then lower this friend carefully to the heart on the floor. The heart will be where Jesus is!”

During the Activity: “I’ll call on four friends to help at a time. Each friend can hold one corner. Everyone will have a turn! Ready? Walk over and lower slowly at the same time. (*Pause.*) Yay! Great job! You worked together to help carefully lower the plush friend onto the heart. Let’s have four more friends give it a try. (*Continue until each child has a turn.*) That was super how you worked together!”

After the Activity: “I love how the four friends in our Bible story helped their friend get to Jesus! And Jesus helped him by making his legs all better! I’m so glad that **[Bottom Line] God made me to help others. Who made you to help others? [Bottom Line] God made me to help others.**”

MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

We have (bent hands to chest)
the Lord our God (point up)
to help us,' (thumb up on palm)
2 Chronicles 32:8. (Open hands like a book.)

PRAYER

“Let’s pray together. *(Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap”)*

Dear God, thank you for giving us friends. Please help [child’s name] look for ways [he/she] can help [friend’s name they listed]. Please help [child’s name] look for ways . . . *(Continue with each child.)* We want to help our friends the way you made us to help. We love you, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.