

# First Look™

## Curriculum for Preschoolers

We want preschoolers to take a first look at who God is and understand . . .

God made me.

God loves me.

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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# June 7, 2020

**Bible Story Focus:** I spy God's Son, Jesus.

Jesus • *The Gospels*

**Memory Verse:** "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." John 20:31, NLV

**Key Question:** Who can believe in Jesus?

**Bottom Line:** I can believe in Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

## **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction**

*(Choose one or all of these activities.)*

### **1. I Spy What Baby Needs**

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

### **2. Fill the Glass**

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

### **3. I Spy**

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

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

*(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)*

### **1. Memory Verse with Motions**

**Hear from God | Memory Verse Review**

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

### **2. I Spy the Life of Jesus**

**Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

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

### **3. Look for Jesus**

**Live for God | Application Activity**

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

### **4. The Amazing Life of Jesus**

**Live for God | Application Activity**

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

### **5. Door Hanger**

**Live for God | Application Activity**

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

### **6. Journal and Prayer**

**Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

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

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## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

*Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.*

### **1. I Spy What Baby Needs**

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

**What You Need:** A baby doll, pacifier, baby bottle, baby blanket, baby socks, a rattle, and a basket or bin to hold these baby items. Print visuals (simple clip-art pictures are fine) for each item represented.

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Place all of the baby items in the bin or basket in the center of your activity area. Gather the children and place the baby doll next to you, several feet away from the bin of baby items.

*During the Activity:* Cradle the baby doll as you call out items the baby will need using the dialogue below. Lead the children to the bin to grab the item for the baby. If time allows, return all of the baby care items to the bin and repeat.

*After the Activity:* Set bin of items and baby doll aside.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Have you ever watched a mom or dad take care of a baby? There are lots of things we need to take care of a baby."

*During the Activity:* “I see some things the baby needs. When you find it, let’s take it to the baby.

“I spy something the baby needs when it’s hungry. *(Hold up the visual. Lead children to select the bottle.)*

“I spy something the baby needs when it’s cold. *(Hold up the visual. Lead children to select the blanket.)*

“I spy something the baby needs when it’s fussy. *(Hold up the visual. Lead children to select the pacifier.)*

“I spy something the baby can play with. *(Hold up the visual. Lead children to select the rattle.)*

“I spy something to keep the baby’s toes warm.” *(Hold up the visual. Lead children to select the socks.)*

*After the Activity:* “You are great at spying items for the baby! In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about a special baby who grows up to be a special man. I can’t wait for you to hear all about it.”

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by calling out ways you can take care of a baby as children pantomime the action. Examples: “The baby is fussy. I spy a pacifier. Let’s give the baby a pacifier.” “The baby is cold. I spy a blanket. Let’s wrap up the baby.” “The baby needs a toy. I spy a rattle. Let’s give it to the baby to play with.”

## 2. Fill the Glass

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

**What You Need:** “Magnifying Glass” Activity Page; one piece of red cardstock; one piece of yellow cardstock; one piece of green cardstock; contact paper; wall tape; red, yellow, and green foam pieces or tissue paper; and scissors

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Magnifying Glass” onto the three pieces of cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. From the contact paper, cut three circles that are a little bigger than the pieces you cut out of the magnifying glasses. Peel off the backing of the contact paper and stick one circle to the back of each “magnifying glass” to cover the hole that you made. The sticky part of the contact paper will show through the hole. Hang the three pages on a wall at preschooler level. Place all of the foam pieces or tissue paper in a pile in the activity area near the hanging magnifying glasses.

*During the Activity:* Invite the children to select a piece from the pile and place it on the sticky part of the matching color magnifying glass. Continue until all of the pieces have been placed on the magnifying glasses.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “I spy something in the magnifying glass! (*Point.*) Oh, no! It’s empty!”

*During the Activity:* “We have a lot of items to add to our I spy glasses. (*Point.*) Match the color of the items to the color of the I spy glasses. The red items will go into the red glass, the green items will go into the green glass, and the yellow items will go into the yellow glass.” (*If needed, sort the items by color together as a group before asking each child to place it on the sticky part. Provide hand-over-hand help as needed.*)

*After the Activity:* “Great job! This month, we will talk about ‘I SPY’. It’s one of my favorite games! I spy . . . STORY TIME! I can’t wait to hear a true story from the Bible.”

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by playing “I spy” but with only green, yellow, and red items.

**3. I Spy**

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

**What You Need:** Colorful items around the classroom; pieces of construction paper or card stock for each color you plan to call out.

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Gather the children in your activity area.

*During the Activity:* Teach the children how to play “I Spy”. Call out colorful items the children can easily find and hold up the coordinating piece of paper as you name the color. (*You may want to place a few items in front of the group to create choices and limit movement. Change some of the items after each round.*) Allow children to guess the item. Play several rounds as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Let’s play a game called ‘I Spy’. When I say, ‘I spy something red,’ I want you to look around the room to spy something that color and call it out. I will tell you if you are correct. Are you ready?”

*During the Activity:* “I spy something (*green, or another colorful item in the room – hold up coordinating paper*). Do you spy something that color?”

*After the Activity:* “You are such good spotters! I love to play ‘I Spy’. You can play this with your family anytime. We’ll spy all kinds of fun things this summer. Let’s head to Large Group and see if we can spy some fun things as we worship and hear our Bible story.”

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by continuing to play “I Spy” with items you see along the way.

# June 7, 2020

**Bible Story Focus:** I spy God's Son, Jesus.

Jesus • *The Gospels*

**Memory Verse:** "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." John 20:31, NLV

**Key Question:** Who can believe in Jesus?

**Bottom Line:** I can believe in Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

*Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.*

### **1. Memory Verse with Motions**

#### **Hear from God | Memory Verse Review**

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

**What You Need:** Copy of the MV\_Handmotions.pdf with pictures cut out.

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children. "These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God." (Rock baby.) John 20:31. (Open your hands like a book.)

*During the Activity:* Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Offer children the option to hold up each square of the memory verse as the group repeats the verse. Repeat several times.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "I am going to say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me!



*“These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God. (Rock baby.) John 20:31.” (Open your hands like a book.)*

*During the Activity:* “Now, let’s do it all together! Are you ready? *These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God. (Rock baby.) John 20:31.” (Open your hands like a book.)*

*After the Activity:* “God gave us the Gospels and the Bible so that we can learn and believe in Jesus! **Who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus!**”

## **2. I Spy the Life of Jesus**

### **Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

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

**What You Need:** “I Spy the Life of Jesus” Activity Page; copy paper; plastic magnifying glasses, one for each child; and large star or eyeball stickers

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy the “I Spy the Life of Jesus” Activity Page onto copy paper, one per child. Set the magnifying glasses and stickers on the table. Print and cut out the pictures from the “I Spy the Life of Jesus” Activity Page to use for yourself.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to look through their magnifying glasses. Use the dialogue below to describe each event in Jesus’ life. Encourage them to spy the event on the page, and mark each one with a sticker. As you describe an event, hold up the cutout version of the picture to help children identify it on their own page. Provide hand-over-hand help as needed.

*After the Activity:* Gather all of the magnifying glasses from the children to be used again later. Set pages aside for pick up.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “In our Bible story today, we learned all about Jesus! I have some special magnifying glasses for you. Let’s use them to spy some true stories about Jesus.”

*During the Activity:* “First, we learned how an angel told Mary she would have a special baby. Do you spy a picture of Mary and the angel? It looks like this. (*Hold up picture card.*) When you do, place a sticker on that picture.

“Next, I spy a picture of baby Jesus. He’s so cute! When you spy the picture of baby Jesus, mark it with a sticker. *(Provide hand-over-hand help with stickering, as needed.)*”

“Now, I spy a picture of a stable in the town of Bethlehem. That’s where Jesus was born. It looks like this. *(Hold up picture card.)* Place your sticker on the stable when you spy it. *(Provide hand-over-hand help with stickering, as needed.)*”

“Oh, look! I spy a picture of some fish and bread. Jesus fed a huge crowd with just one small lunch. It looks like this. *(Hold up picture card.)* Can you put a sticker on the bread? *(Provide hand-over-hand help with stickering, as needed.)*”

“Do you spy the picture of Jesus healing the sick man? It looks like this. *(Hold up picture card.)* Put a sticker on that picture when you spy it! *(Provide hand-over-hand help with stickering, as needed.)*”

“And finally, the last picture I spy is Jesus telling the storm to STOP! It looks like this. *(Hold up picture card.)* Did the storm stop when Jesus told it to? *(Pause.)* Yes! Place your sticker on the picture. *(Provide hand-over-hand help with stickering, as needed.)*”

*After the Activity:* “We spied Jesus, God’s Son! These pictures show us some of the amazing things Jesus did so that we can all believe in Him. Tell me, **who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus.** It’s true, friends! Spying all of these amazing things about Jesus helps me to remember that **[Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus.**”

### 3. Look for Jesus

#### Live for God | Application Activity

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

**What You Need:** A picture New Testament Bible for each child

*NOTE: There are many picture Bibles that are great for toddlers and preschoolers. Check out our Pinterest board for some recommendations.*

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Look through the picture Bible that you will use and pick out the four story pictures of Jesus you want the children to find. Make color copies of the pictures you plan to ask the children to search for.

#### What You Say:

*During the Activity:* “I have a very special book for us to look at today. (Give each child a picture Bible.) Who can tell me the name of this book? (Pause.) Yes! This is the Bible. I really like this kind of Bible, because it has pictures in it. We are going to use the pictures to play a game of ‘I Spy’. I’ll call out a story picture about Jesus and show you what it looks like. Then, I want you to spy the picture with your little eyes. Sound good? Get your Bibles ready.

“Our first story picture is Jesus (example: standing in a boat with Peter, catching fish. Hold up the photo and set it out for the children to refer to.) Show me the picture when you spy it. Yay! You found Jesus (standing in a boat with Peter, catching fish).

“Let’s do that again! Now, I want you to look for Jesus (example: feeding A LOT of people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. Hold up the photo and set it out for the children to refer to.) Show me the picture when you spy it. Yay! You found Jesus (feeding A LOT of people with just five loaves of bread and two fish).”

*Continue with the other pictures you want the children to find in their picture Bible.*

*After the Activity:* “God’s Son, Jesus, was born a long time ago. He grew up to do amazing things that only He can do. People wrote down what they saw Jesus do so that we can believe in Jesus, too! **Who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus.**”

#### **4. The Amazing Life of Jesus** **Live for God | Application Activity**

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

**What You Need:** A plastic or inflatable baby pool; ball pit balls or shredded paper; “Life of Jesus Pictures” Activity Page; cardstock, and scissors

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Make two copies of the “Life of Jesus Pictures” onto cardstock and cut apart. Keep one set for yourself. Fill the baby pool with ball pit balls or shredded paper then hide the six pictures in the pool for the children to find. (You might also only keep one picture hidden in the pool at a time, and play 6 rounds.)

*During the Activity:* Gather the children around the baby pool. Encourage the children to sift through the pool to find the picture you describe using the dialogue below. If time allows, place all of the pictures back in the baby pool and play again. (For the first round, hold up each picture as you describe it. For remaining rounds, see if children can find it just from your description.)

*After the Activity:* Pull the baby pool off to the side when finished.

### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Friends, come gather here with me. Inside this baby pool are some pictures of the life of Jesus. Let’s see if we can spy them!”

*During the Activity:* “I spy, with my little eye, someone who told Mary she would have a baby! (*Hold up picture.*) (*Child’s name*), can you find it? (*Pause.*) That’s it! I see the angel telling Mary she would have a baby. Great spying!”

“Okay, next one. I spy with, my little eye, a time when Jesus told the storm to STOP! (*Hold up picture.*) Did it stop? (*Pause.*) Yes! (*Child’s name*), can you find it? (*Pause.*) Great spying!”

“I spy, with my little eye, a very special baby. Who is it? (*Pause.*) Jesus! (*Hold up picture.*) (*Child’s name*), can you find it? (*Pause.*) That’s it.”

“I spy, with my little eye, the place where Jesus was born. Does anyone remember where Jesus was born? I’ll give you a BIG hint: there were animals there. (*Pause.*) Yes, a stable in the town of Bethlehem. (*Hold up picture.*) (*Child’s name*), can you spy it? (*Pause.*) Great job!”

“I spy, with my little eye, the time when Jesus fed a huge crowd with one small lunch. (*Hold up picture.*) (*Child’s name*), can you find it? (*Pause.*) Great! Jesus fed that crowd with just two fish and five loaves of bread. Amazing!”

“And finally, I spy, with my little eye, a time when Jesus healed a sick man. (*Hold up picture.*) (*Child’s name*), can you find it? (*Pause.*) Way to go!”

*After the Activity:* “You are really good at spying things! Jesus did so many amazing things. Knowing about those amazing, TRUE stories, helps me know that **[Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus. Who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus.**”

## **5. Door Hanger**

### **Live for God | Application Activity**

*Made to Create:* An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

**What You Need:** “Jesus is Amazing,” “Door Hanger Label,” and “Jesus Door Hanger” Activity Pages; Avery® #22807 labels or equivalent; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent;

cardstock, large paper plates, one per child; hole punch; yarn or string; scissors; and glue sticks

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Jesus is Amazing” onto the Avery® #22807 labels or equivalent. You will have three different stickers. Each child needs one of each sticker. Copy “Door Hanger Label” onto the Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, one label per child. Copy “Jesus Door Hanger” onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Cut the yarn or string into one-foot sections. Punch a hole in the top of each plate. Feed one end of the string into the punched hole. Tie the ends of the string together to make a loop or a hanger.

*During the Activity:* Give each child a plate and a Jesus cut-out. Help the children glue the cut-out onto the bottom middle of their plates. The cut-out should hang off of the plate a little. Give children the “Door Hanger” labels and instruct them to place the label at the top of the plate, directly above the cut-out. Help the children place the remaining three stickers around the label and cut-out. Provide hand-over-hand help with assembly as needed.

*After the Activity:* Send the hanger home and encourage the children to hang them on a door in their house.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “We can all believe in Jesus!”

*During the Activity:* “We are going to make a cool door hanger that we can take home and place on a door in our house. It will remind us that we can believe in Jesus!”

*After the Activity:* “Way to go! Be sure to hang your door hanger in a special place so it can remind you that God gave us Jesus and we can believe in Him! **Who can believe in Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can believe in Jesus!**”

**6. Journal and Prayer****Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

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

**What You Need:** Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at John 20:31. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each Small Group. Printed Bible Story Images from the Large Group folder. Copy of the MV\_Handmotions.pdf with pictures cut out. Life of Jesus Activity Page (can be re-used from “The Amazing Life of Jesus” activity).

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “It’s small group time. Today, we’ll pretend we’re holding baby Jesus (*demonstrate*) while we walk to our Small Group spot. Only, we aren’t going to walk. We’re going to tip-toe like this (*demonstrate*) so we don’t wake baby Jesus. Shh . . . He’s sleeping. (*Pretend to hold baby Jesus as you tip-toe to your small group spot.*)

(*Whisper*) “We made it. Good job! (*Return to normal voice.*) Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

(*Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children. Use the printed Bible Story images as you retell the story.*)

“Our Bible story, today, was about God’s Son, Jesus. We learned how baby Jesus was born, and how He grew up to do amazing things that only He can do. People who saw Jesus do these amazing things, like walk on water and heal sick people, wrote down what they saw. Their stories are in the Bible. (*Hold up the Bible.*)

“Now, we can read about what people saw Jesus do, and we can believe in Jesus! That’s why when I ask you, ‘**Who can believe in Jesus?**’, I want you to remember, [**Bottom Line**] ‘**I can believe in Jesus.**’ And if you want, you can say that or point to yourself. Ready? **Who can believe in Jesus?**”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** (*Point to self as alternate response.*) [**Bottom Line**] “**I can believe in Jesus!**”

**SGL:** “You got it! And the Bible verse we are learning even says that the stories in the Bible are written so that we can believe in Jesus. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

“*These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John 20:31. (Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“That means the people wrote down what they saw Jesus do so that we can believe in Jesus, too! Wow! Let’s remember that together. Let me show you the motions. Do you want to say it with me?”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “*These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God. (Rock baby.) John 20:31.*” (*Open your hands like a book.*)

*Repeat the verse with motions a few times. Offer children the option to hold up each square of the memory verse as the group repeats the verse.*

**SGL:** “Great job! High fives for everyone! *(Give each child a high five.)*”

“Now, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God.

*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen. Set out the Life of Jesus Activity Page pictures as choices.*

“Since we are learning stories about Jesus, I think we should make a list of our favorite Jesus stories. It can be when He was born, walked on water, made sick people better, forgave people when they did something wrong, anything! So, think about your favorite Jesus story, and when I say your name, tell it to me or point it out to me on one of our pictures here.”

*Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*

**SGL:** “Wow! There are so many great stories about Jesus in the Bible, and the best part is they are all true! Let’s use the list we made when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

## **Prayer**

**SGL:** “Dear God, Jesus did so many amazing things that only He can do. Some of our favorite stories are . . . *(read the children’s list)*. Thank You for all of the people who wrote down what they saw Jesus do so that we can read about it and believe in Jesus, too. I pray we will all read the Bible, and believe in your Son, Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”