

First Look™ (Mill City Church)

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.

Choose an engaging adult or older sibling to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command attention through animated storytelling. Consider sending the script to a grandparent or aunt/uncle. They can tell the story online! These scripts are written to be “told” and not “read.” Reading through it before hand will guarantee success.

Additionally, look to our resources page (millcitychurch.com) for an animated video with this same Bible story. Preschoolers love repetition. Feel free to use all or just some of the resources. There is no wrong answer in how to do this friends!

Today’s Bible Story: God’s way is perfect.

In the Garden • *Genesis 1:31, 2:8–3:24*

Memory Verse: “God’s way is perfect.” 2 Samuel 22:31, Nlrv

Key Question: Whose way is perfect?

Bottom Line: God’s way is perfect.

Basic Truth: God made me.

STORY

What You Need: Bible

LEADER: “Hello, friends! I’m SO glad to be here with you today because I have an awesome true story to share from the Bible. Remember, the things we read in the Bible are true!

Hold up the Bible.

Today’s true story from the Bible begins in the VERY beginning, when God created the most perfect garden. It had big trees . . .

“Beautiful flowers, and lots of plants. Some of these plants even had food on them! And there were SO many animals!

“But God wasn’t done. As beautiful and perfect as the garden was, God knew it needed His most amazing creation. So God made people! First, God made Adam. Then, God made Eve.

“Now the garden was truly perfect.

“God gave Adam an important job to do! Do you know what that job was? *(Pause.)* God told Adam to name ALL the animals and take care of them. Let’s see if you know the names of these animals. What makes this sound?”

Lead the children to name the animal after you make the sound of that animal. Do several animals.

“Great job! Adam and Eve lived in God’s wonderful garden, and they knew that **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.**”

“They could eat fruit from ANY of the trees except for one. In fact, it was the only rule. God told them to never, ever eat that one fruit.

“But guess what? Even though they knew the rule, Eve still ate the fruit. Everyone say, ‘Eve, OH, NO!’”

CHILDREN: “Eve, OH, NO!”

LEADER: “No is right! Eve ate the fruit! But that’s not all.

LEADER: “Then, she handed the fruit to Adam. And guess what? Adam ate it, too. Everyone say, ‘Adam, OH, NO!’”

CHILDREN: “Adam, OH, NO!”

LEADER: “Oh, no is right! Adam and Eve didn’t do things God’s way. And because of that, God had to them away from His beautiful garden.

“But God still loved Adam and Eve, very much. They had food to eat and animals to take care of, but it was a LOT harder. It would have been so much better if they had followed God’s way. Because **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** When I ask, ‘**Whose way is perfect?**’, you say, **[Bottom Line] ‘God’s way is perfect.’** Ready? Here we go. **Whose way is perfect?**”

CHILDREN and LEADER: **[Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect!”**

LEADER: “That’s right! Remember, when God wants you to do something, His way is perfect. So jump, jump, and go God’s way!

“Okay friends, it’s time to pray. Let’s ask God to help us jump, jump, and go HIS way.”

PRAYER

LEADER: “God, thank You for loving us. You are awesome. Help us follow You and do what You ask because Your way is perfect. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

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: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the memory verse with the following motions in front of the children.

"God's way (point up) is perfect," (two thumbs up) 2 Samuel 22:31. (Open hands like a book.)

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I'm going to say our new memory verse. Everyone, watch me! 'God's way (point up) is perfect,' (two thumbs up) 2 Samuel 22:31." (Open hands like a book.)

During the Activity: "Now, let's do it together! Are you ready? 'God's way (point up) is perfect,' (two thumbs up) 2 Samuel 22:31." (Open hands like a book.)

After the Activity: "Our memory verse tells us that God's way is perfect! **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!**"

2. Happy Garden

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

During the Activity: Tell each child to pretend to be one part of the garden: blooming flowers, tall swaying trees, and lots of different animals. As the children pretend to be their part, review the Bible story.

After the Activity: Talk about how God made a perfect garden, but Adam and Eve chose to do things their own way instead of going God's way.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hi, friends! We heard a story about how God made the world. Let's tell the story together!"

During the Activity: "In our Bible story, God made the world and a very special garden.

"God made flowers. You (*point to a child or children*) can pretend to be the flowers. Ball up then stretch high to the ceiling like you are blooming. (*Demonstrate.*)

"God made trees. You (*point to a child or children*) can pretend to be tall trees. Stand with your arms spread out and move side-to-side like your branches are blowing in the wind. (*Demonstrate.*)

"God made lots of animals. You (*point to a child or children*) can pretend to be animals. You can act like any animal you want because God made all of the animals.

"God saved the best for last—people! And the first people were named Adam and Eve. Now the garden was perfect. Show me your happy face because **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect.** (*Look around.*) I see the flowers are smiling; and the trees are smiling; and the animals are smiling. It was a very happy garden.

"God told Adam and Eve that they could eat all of the food that grew in the garden except the food on one special tree. Adam and Eve had a choice. Do they go their way or JUMP, JUMP, and go God's way? What did Adam and Eve do? (*Pause.*) You're right. They went their way instead of God's way. Show me your sad face because Adam and Eve did not go God's way. (*Look around.*) I see the flowers are sad; and the trees are sad; and the animals are sad. Now it's a very sad garden."

After the Activity: "Adam and Eve did not go God's way, even though **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect.** It was very sad. But we can still JUMP, JUMP, and go God's way! So, when I ask you, 'Whose way is perfect?', I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] 'God's way is perfect.'** Ready? **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!**"

3. Simon Says: Jump, Jump!

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: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather the children to spread out in your activity area.

During the Activity: Lead the children in a game of "Simon Says." Remind them that you will call out different movements for them to complete. Make sure they listen for the words "Simon Says" first, before they copy you. If they don't hear "Simon Says," don't have them sit out, just remind them to listen carefully and keep playing.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come gather here with me! Everyone put your arms out to your sides like this so you can spread out. (*Demonstrate.*) Make sure you can't touch another friend when your arms are spread out wide. (*Pause.*) Great job! You can put your arms down."

During the Activity: "Today, we'll play a game called 'Simon Says.' Raise your hand if you've ever played it. (*Pause.*) Great. You can put your hands down. I will lead us in a series of movements. I want you to do what I do but ONLY if I say, 'Simon Says' first. Ready? Okay, Simon says Jog in place. Great. Simon says Stop! Now, march. (*Pause.*) Uh-oh! Simon didn't say to march. Let's try that again. Simon says March!"

MOVEMENT IDEAS:

Jog in place

March

Circle your arms

Stomp your feet

Touch your toes

Pat your shoulders, head, tummy etc.

Clap your hands

Spin in a circle two times

Say, "Hello" as you wave to a friend

Play air guitar (you will need to demonstrate this)

After the Activity: "That was so fun! You did an awesome job of listening! In our Bible story today, we learned that **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!** That's why it's super important that we listen to God and go God's way. Tell me, **whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!**"

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Bible at 2 Samuel 22:31, journal, and fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s prayer time! Today you get to pretend to be any animal you want while we walk to our small group spot. When I say your name, tell me which animal you’re going to be. *(Say each child’s name so they can say their animal choice.)* Okay, animals! Follow me! *(Pretend to be animals as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*

“Good job! Now 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.)*

“Our Bible story, today, was about how God made the world and everything in it. He even made a special garden where Adam and Eve lived. It was perfect, because **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** In fact, that is what the new Bible verse we will learn says. Listen to this. *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“‘God’s way is perfect.’ 2 Samuel 22:31. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“Did you hear that? **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect! Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** Let’s stand up and say that Bible verse together with these motions I’ll teach you. Just say what I say and do what I do.”

CHILDREN and SGL:

“‘God’s way *(point up)* is perfect,’ *(two thumbs up)* 2 Samuel 22:31.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: “And you sound pretty perfect saying that verse! *(Give two thumbs up.)* We can always trust what God tells us to do because **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** That’s why, when I ask, ‘**Whose way is perfect?**’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘God’s way is perfect.’** Here we go! **Whose way is perfect?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect!”**

SGL: “**Whose way is perfect?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect!”**

SGL: “Now, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“Today, we’ll make a list of our favorite foods that God made. Then we can use our list to thank God for making food that tastes perfectly yummy. So, when I say your name, tell me your favorite food that God made, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name! *(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.)*”

“Ooo, this is a list of yummy foods! Let’s 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 making this amazing world and everything in it. We especially want to thank You for all of the yummy foods You made. [Child’s name] wants to thank You for making [food they named]. *(Continue with each child’s name and the food listed.)* Please help us trust that Your way is perfect and to go Your way. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”