Younger Preschool June 28

Bible Teaching: James

Bible Passage: James 2:1–17

Summary:
James became a leader of the Jerusalem church. His letter offers wisdom for all believers. In James 2 he teaches not to show favoritism, emphasizing that both the rich and poor are equally loved by God. Showing mercy instead of judgment reflects true faith. Faith in Jesus should inspire actions that help others, especially those in need. God's love is for everyone, and trusting in Jesus brings eternal life.

Today’s Brite Idea is: God helps us love others.

Monthly Memory Verse: (Hebrews 13:21)
May God equip you with everything good.

Monthly Big Question: Who can we ask for help? We can ask God!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Roughhousing

You turn your back for a second, and the next thing you know Aiden and Oliver are wrestling again.

- **Don't allow horseplay.** These situations are ones in which truly you give an inch and kids take it a mile. Physical interactions quickly escalate. Keep a firm boundary on kids keeping their hands and feet to themselves. When your group is rough physically, some kids may not feel safe.
- **Define spaces.** Have chairs spread apart enough at tables. Have designated spots on the floor to sit. Help kids by giving them their own space. Remind kids to stay in their own space or "bubble."
- **Provide fidgets.** If a kid has a hard time keeping their hands to themselves, consider giving them something to have in their hands. Sometimes kids just get overstimulated and need to touch something. Better a fidget than a friend!

Navigating a Broken World: Feeling Unwanted

Research shows that as many as 18 percent of kids experience emotional neglect.* Emotional neglect occurs when love, concern and other emotional needs are withheld from the child. These experiences, as well as parent abandonment or rejection from siblings and friends, can cause kids to feel unwanted. You may have kids in your group who feel rejected by the people they love the most. You may also have kids who just feel left out. Perhaps they don't fit in with other kids at school or church. Your group can be a place where every kid knows that they are wanted. In today's lesson, kids will discover that God loves everyone. His love won't ever end. He wants every kid to have a relationship with Him. Every kid needs a loving, caring adult to invest in them. In your role, you have the opportunity to help kids in your group experience the unconditional love of our Savior.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

Preschool Glossary:

Favoritism: treating one person better than others
Mercy: kindness that is not deserved

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

I Love…
Supplies: Stuffed animal

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

James (James 2:1–17)
Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Memory Verse Parachute
Supplies: Parachute, music player, Memory Verse Song

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Dot Marker Kindness
Supplies: Take-Home page, printable page, dot markers (1 per kid), coloring supplies

I Love…

Belong Activity

Supplies: Stuffed animal

Prep: None

Activity Intro: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Instructions:

1. *Gather kids and sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Today we're learning that God helps us love others, even when we're small! Let's play a game with our special stuffed animal friend.
3. *Hold up the stuffed animal.*
4. **Say:** When you're holding the animal, you can tell us the name of someone you love.
5. *Hand the stuffed animal to the first kid.*
6. *Encourage each kid to share about someone they love and then pass the stuffed animal to someone new.*
7. **Ask:** Who helps us love others?

Activity Wrap-Up: Remember, God helps us love others every day with our words, our helping hands and our kind hearts.

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

James

(James 2:1–17)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of James. James was a leader of the church after Jesus went back to heaven. James wrote a letter to people who believed in Jesus. This letter is now in the Bible! Say “Bible!”

Say: James taught that one way we can show love for God is by being kind to everyone. Imagine a new friend came in wearing fancy clothes. If we said “Sit by me,” but we were mean to someone who didn’t have fancy clothes, that would not be right. Show me a thumbs down. We should be kind to everyone.

Say: God does not have favorites. Instead, God loves everyone! James said we shouldn’t have **favorites** either. We can love everyone, even people who look or act differently than us. Jesus said, “Love each other.” Can you give a friend a high five?

Say: James also taught that we can show God’s love by doing good things for people. If a friend is hungry, we can share our snack. If they fall down, we can help them up. We can show our faith in Jesus by helping people and loving everyone as Jesus did. *Show a big thumbs up.*

Say: We can be kind and do good because Jesus is so kind and good to us. He loves everyone. Because He loves us, we can love other people too! Say “Thank You, Jesus!”

Wrap-Up:

Big Question: Who can we ask for help? We can ask God!

Memory Verse: (Hebrews 13:21)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- May God equip *(roll hands around one another)*

- you with *(point out)*
- everything good. *(extend arms out)*
- Hebrews 13:21 *(open hands like opening a book)*

He: God helps us love everyone.
We: We can love everyone.
Me: I can love everyone.

Memory Verse Parachute

Believe Activity Option

Supplies: Parachute, music player, Memory Verse Song

Prep: None

Leader Tip: If you don't have a parachute, use a large bedsheet.

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God helps us to love others!

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Let's play with our parachute while we listen to our Memory Verse Song! This verse reminds us that God helps us do good things, like loving others!
2. *Invite kids to each hold a handle or edge of the parachute. If needed, have a leader hold extra spots.*
3. **Say:** When the music plays, we'll shake the parachute and move it up and down.
4. *Play the Memory Verse Song. Encourage kids to lift, wiggle or bounce the parachute.*
5. *Repeat several times to help the verse sink in.*
6. **Ask:** What good things can God help you to do?

Activity Wrap-Up: God gives us everything we need to love others and follow Jesus every day!

Dot Marker Kindness

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, printable page, dot markers (1 per kid), coloring supplies

Prep: Print the printable page on cardstock (1 per kid). Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

Leader Tip: Remind kids to gently stamp the dot markers and not slide them.

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Today we're learning that God helps us love others. One way to show love is by being kind! Let's fill these hearts with colorful dots to remind us that kindness comes from God's love.
2. *Give each kid a printable page and a dot marker.*
3. **Say:** You can dot your hearts with lots of colors! As you stamp, remember that God helps us show kindness and love to others.
4. *Encourage kids as they work, saying things like, "Look at all your kind hearts!" or "Your dots remind me of all the ways God helps us love people."*
5. *Write each kid's name on their page and set it aside for parent pick-up.*

Discussion Questions:

- Does God love everyone, even people who look different?
- Can you tell me a way you can help someone?
- Who does God want us to love?
- What is one nice thing you can do to show God's love?

Pray Together: Dear Jesus, You are so loving! Help me to love like You. Amen.

Activity Wrap-Up: Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

Centers

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Puzzles:** Provide puzzles and encourage kids to work together with love and helpfulness.
- **Dramatic Play:** Provide stuffed animals and doctor play supplies for kids to explore loving and caring for others.
- **Coloring Station:** Provide a large piece of butcher paper and coloring supplies, encourage kids to draw ways we can show love to others.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: James became a leader of the Jerusalem church. His letter gives wisdom for all believers. In James 2 he teaches not to show favoritism and shares how God loves the rich and the poor the same. Showing mercy instead of judgment reflects true faith. Faith in Jesus should make one want to help others and care for those in need. God's love is for everyone, and trusting in Jesus gives us life forever with God.

Who can we ask for help? We can ask God!