

Theme: Gadgets and Gizmos – Uniquely wired. Wonderfully made.

Basic Truth: God made me.

Key Question: Who made you?

Bottom Line: God made me.

Memory Verse: "I am . . . wonderfully made." *Psalm 139:14, NIV*

Bible Story Focus: God made me to trust Him. Jesus Heals the Blind Man • *John 9:1-7*

HERE'S AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT YOU'LL BE TEACHING IN 3s-5s THIS WEEK.

Make It Fun (Choose one or all of these activities)

- Walk the Line
- Find That Color
- Feely Bag

Make It True

- Worship
- Introductory Sketch
- Bible Story

Make It Stick (Choose as many of these activities as you like)

- Memory Verse Walk
- Building a Robot
- Grab It!
- Robot Relay
- Craft Stick Faces
- Additional Craft: Face Painting

Make It Real

- Small Group Time
- Prayer

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MAKE IT FUN (INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES, 10 MINUTES)

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 kids at the door.

1. Walk the Line

“Walk the Line” is an activity that teaches large motor skills and shows the children how to build trust.



What You Need: Floor tape



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make three lines on the floor, each about 15 feet long. Make one a straight line, one a zigzag line, and one a curvy line.

During the Activity: Ask the children to try to walk on each line. Next, challenge the children to walk the lines with their eyes closed. After a few attempts, divide the children into pairs. Ask one child to close his eyes and the other child to guide him down the line with her eyes open. Make sure every child gets to play each role.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.



What You Say:

Before the Activity: “There are lines on our floor today! (*Point.*) I see a straight line, a zigzag line, and a curvy line. Let’s see who can walk on the lines.” (*Start activity.*)

During the Activity: “Great job! Now let’s try walking on the lines again, but this time with our eyes closed! (*Have children start walking.*) Whoa! This is really hard! I think we need help with this! Everyone pick a partner. (*Divide the children into pairs.*) Now one of you will walk on the line with your eyes closed and the other one will help by guiding you with their eyes open. Are you ready to give it a try? (*Pause.*) Awesome!”

After the Activity: "Great job! I love how you each trusted your partner to guide you down the line while your eyes were closed. I bet that was hard not being able to see. Today in our Bible story we are going to hear about someone who couldn't see, but he trusted someone to help him. I wonder who it was!"

2. Find That Color

"Find That Color" is an activity that uses color recognition to introduce today's Bible story.



What You Need: A small plastic bottle with the label removed, pony beads and pom-poms (to fill the bottle), a hot glue gun, "Color Circle Cards" Activity Page, white cardstock, and scissors



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Fill the clean, empty water bottle with colored pom-poms and pony beads. Leave about an inch of space at the top to make it easy for the children to shake the contents around in the bottle. Close the bottle tightly and run a bead of hot glue around the edge of the lid to secure. Copy the "Color Circle Cards" page onto the white cardstock and cut apart.

During the Activity: Shuffle the "Color Circle Cards" and place them face down in a stack in the center of the table. Show the children the discovery bottle and point out the different colors found inside. Let the children take turns drawing a color card and then pointing to a bead or pom-pom of the same color inside the bottle. Make sure they name the color aloud too and that every child has an opportunity to participate.



What You Say:

During the Activity: "Friends, do you see all the different colors in my bottle? Let's play a game to name the colors we see. I want you to take turns drawing a card and then pointing to that color in our bottle and saying the color's name. Ready? Let's get started!"

After the Activity: "Great job, everyone. You really know your colors! Can you imagine what it would be like if you couldn't see colors? You'd miss seeing the bright blue sky full of puffy white clouds and the shiny stars in the sky next to a full silver moon! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a man who couldn't see anything at all. It was so sad. But I think Jesus is going to help him! We'll find out what happens in just a few minutes!"

3. Feely Bag

"Feely Bag" is an activity that allows the children to use their sense of touch, instead of their sense of sight, to prepare for the lesson of today's Bible story.



What You Need: Medium-sized drawstring bag, a spoon, a small ball, a small cup, a small plush animal, a sock, and a hairbrush



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place all of the objects in the bag and close it.

During the Activity: Have the children come up to you one by one and open the bag just enough for one of their hands to go inside. Ask the child to pick something up in the bag and try to identify it before pulling it out. They should identify it just by feeling it. Repeat until every child has had a turn. If you have more children than items, you may either add more items to the bag, or simply reuse the original items by replacing them back in the bag after each use.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible story.



What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I have several objects in this bag! (*Hold up.*) I want you to tell me what I have in the bag by using your hands only."

During the Activity: (*Have a child place his hand in the bag.*) "Can you find an object to pick up? (*Pause.*) Use your hand to try to decide what that object is. (*Pause.*) Do you have a guess? (*Pause.*) Let's pull it out and see. Awesome try! Now let's give someone else a turn."

After the Activity: "You all did a great job using your hands instead of your eyes. In our story today we are going to hear about a man whose eyes did not work. I'm excited for you to hear it!"

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Bible Story Focus: God made me to trust Him. Jesus Heals the Blind Man • *John 9:1-7*

MAKE IT STICK (APPLICATION ACTIVITIES, 35 MINUTES)

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today’s Bible story and Bottom Line. 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 kids to participate in each, then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. Memory Verse Walk

“Memory Verse Walk” is an activity that uses gross motor movements to review this week’s memory verse.



What You Need: “Gears” Activity Page, white cardstock, and scissors



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make multiple copies of the “Gears” Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut apart. Lay the gears in a winding path on the floor.

During the Activity: Review the memory verse with the children. Then line up the children and let them walk along the gear path as you say the words of the verse together.



What You Say:

During the Activity: “Let’s say our memory verse together: *I am . . . wonderfully made*, Psalm 139:14. Great job! Do you see the path I created on the floor? *(Pause.)* Let’s take turns walking along the gear path while saying our verse.”

After the Activity: “Great job, everyone! You ARE wonderfully made by God and He loves you very, very much. Tell me: **Who made you? [Bottom Line] God made you.** Good job!”

2. Building a Robot

"Building a Robot" is an activity that the children will add to all week long as more Bible stories are told. The robot that they will build will serve as a visual aid as the stories are retold and reviewed.

(Note: "Building a Robot" is an activity that will be continued all week long in Bible Story Review. If possible, leave the robot on the wall in the Bible Story Review activity area all week long. If you do not have that option, please consider using a piece of poster board or a large felt board that you can attach the robot to and place in the activity area each day.)



What You Need: "Building a Robot Body" and "Building a Robot Parts" Activity Pages from Day One (separate files in the activity pages folder), white cardstock (if needed), scissors, and tape



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut out the pieces of the robot's face from the "Building a Robot Parts" activity page.

During the Activity: Remind the children about the robot that you started building yesterday. Add the mouth of the robot and then the nose. Ask the children what else the robot's face needs. When they say "eyes," add the eyes.

After the Activity: Retell the Bible story.



What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We started to build our robot yesterday. (Point as you name each part.) We have his head, body, and feet already. Today we are going to add his face!"

During the Activity: "First we are going add his mouth. (Hold up the mouth and tape it to the robot.) Perfect! Now we can put on his nose! (Hold up the nose and tape it to the robot.) Hmm. Our robot still seems to be missing something on his face. Do you know what he is missing? (Pause.) YES! He is missing his EYES!" (Hold up the eyes and tape tem to the robot.)

After the Activity: "I am glad we remembered the eyes. Eyes are very important. In our story today there was a man whose eyes did not work. He could not see at all! He needed help! He needed someone who could DO ANYTHING! Do you remember who that was? (Pause.) Yes! It was JESUS! Jesus spit in some dirt and made mud. He rubbed the mud in the man's eyes and told him to go wash his eyes. Do you remember what happened next? (Pause.) You got it! The man trusted Jesus and did what He said, and then the man could see! God made us to trust Him. **Who made you? [Bottom Line] God made me!"**

3. Grab It!

"Grab It!" is an activity that uses fine motor skills to introduce this week's theme.



What You Need: 2-4 robot claws, pit balls, floor tape, and a timer or phone to use as a timer

Visit First Look's VBS 2017 Pinterest Board to see robot claw options for this activity:

<https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/vbs-gadgets-and-gizmos/>



What You Do:

Before the Activity: In an open area of the room, mark a three-foot square on the floor with the floor tape.

During the Activity: Scatter the pit balls around the outside of the square on the floor. Select two to four children to use the claws to pick up as many balls as they can and move them inside the square in 30 seconds. When you say, "SWITCH," help the children hand their claws to two or four new friends and repeat until all the balls are inside the square.



What You Say:

During the Activity: "Let's pretend we're robots with these cool grabbers! They look almost like robot arms, don't they? Do you see this square marked on the floor? (*Point.*) We will take turns using these claws to move the balls into the square on the floor. You can only use the claws—not your feet or your hands. When I say, 'SWITCH,' I want you to pass your robot claw to another friend, so someone else can have a turn. Let's go!"

After the Activity: "Great job, everyone! It's fun to pretend to be robots! But you know what? I think our arms and hands are pretty cool too. Hey, who made these arms and hands? (*Pause.*) Yes! God did! You are wonderfully made by God! **Who made you? [Bottom Line] God made me!"**

4. Robot Relay

"Robot Relay" is an activity that uses teamwork and gross motor skills while allowing the children to dress up and be silly.



What You Need: Robot dress-up attire (metal strainers as hats, aluminum foil vests, box with arm holes cut out, etc.)

Visit First Look's VBS 2017 Pinterest Board to see inspiration for this activity:

<https://www.pinterest.com/firstlookcurr/vbs-gadgets-and-gizmos/>



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children line up in a single file line.

During the Activity: Help the first child in line put on the robot attire. Encourage that child to walk fast to a designated spot in the activity area and then turn around and go back to the line. Then ask the child to take off the robot attire and give it to the next child. The next child will put on the attire and continue the relay. Be sure that all of the children in the line have a turn to participate in the relay.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story and say the Bottom Line together.



What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's be robots! Everyone stand in a straight line, please."

During the Activity: (Help the first child in line dress up.) "When it is your turn to be a robot, then you will put on the robot costume (hold up costume) and walk fast to this spot. (Point to designated spot.) Then turn around and come back to the line. You will give your friend next in line the costume and he will have a turn. Are you ready to be robots?" (Do the activity.)

After the Activity: "Great job being robots! We always think that robots can do anything and that they are big and strong. Robots are pretty cool, but only one person can really DO ANYTHING! That is JESUS! The man in our story today trusted Jesus to help him. Jesus helped the blind man to see again. Wow! That's awesome. God made us to trust Him, and we can. **Who made you? [Bottom Line] God made me!**"

5. Craft Stick Faces

"Craft Stick Faces" is an activity that uses creativity and role-play to review today's Bible story.



What You Need: "Blind Man Faces" "Parent Note" Activity Pages, white cardstock, craft sticks (3 per child), clear tape, scissors and sandwich-size zip-top bags (1 per child)



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Blind Man Faces" Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut apart. You will need one set of faces for each child. Copy the "Parent Note" onto the cardstock and cut apart. You will need one parent note per child.

During the Activity: Pass out the three faces to each child. Help them flip them over and tape each face to a craft stick. Talk about each face as you review today's Bible story.

After the Activity: Gather each child's craft stick faces, write his name on the outside of a sandwich bag, and place the craft sticks and a copy of the parent note explaining today's craft inside the bag.



What You Say:

During the Activity: "In our Bible story today, Jesus healed a blind man. Today we're going to create some craft stick faces to help us retell the story. See these faces? (*Hold each one up as you talk about it.*) This is the man before he met Jesus. He was blind, which meant he couldn't see. The man needed help. So what did Jesus do? He helped him! He put mud on his eyes, like we see on this face. And what happened when he washed off the mud? Look at this last face. The man could see! Jesus healed him." (*Help children make their craft stick faces.*)

After the Activity: "I want you to take your craft sticks home with you today. You can use them to retell the Bible story to your mom or dad or brother or sister or even your dog! Isn't it amazing that Jesus was able to heal the blind man? Jesus can do anything! And because of that we can always trust Him. God made us to trust Him. **Who made you? [Bottom Line] God made me!"**

Additional Craft: Face Painting

"Face Painting" is an activity that uses creativity and fine motor skills to review today's Bible story and Bottom Line.



What You Need: "Face Painting" Activity Page, white cardstock, crayons, brown washable finger paint, a few small paper plates, and baby wipes



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Face Painting" Activity Page onto the cardstock. Make one copy per child. Place the crayons in the center of the table.

During the Activity: Pass out the "Face Painting" Activity Pages and let children use the crayons to color in the face. As they finish coloring, pour a small amount of brown paint onto the small paper plates and set them on the tables where the children can reach them. Tell the children to use their fingers to rub some paint over the eyes of the face on their Activity Page to represent the mud Jesus rubbed on the blind man's eyes. Use the wipes to help the children wash their fingers when finished.



What You Say:

During the Activity: "In our Bible story today, what did Jesus place over the blind man's eyes? (*Pause.*) Yes! He rubbed some mud on the man's eyes. First, let's color the face on our page with the crayons. Then we'll rub some brown paint over the eyes to look like the mud Jesus used." (*Help kids make the craft.*)

After the Activity: "You did such a great job painting your faces today. Can you believe Jesus rubbed mud over the man's eyes and then he could see? Isn't it amazing that Jesus was able to heal the blind man? Jesus can do anything! And because of that we can always trust Him. God made us to trust Him. **[Bottom Line] God made me. Who made you? [Bottom Line] God made me!"**

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MAKE IT REAL (SMALL GROUPS, 5 MINUTES)

Make It Real is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests.

Divide kids into Small Groups of about five to eight children with each leader. Ideally, assign the same Small Group Leader to the same group of preschoolers for the entire year.

Small Group Time



What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” (from day one) in your Bible at Psalm 139:14. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each Small Group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Hey, friends! Come sit with me. It’s time for our special group time.

“Are you having fun at VBS? I sure am! What has been your favorite part so far?

(Pause for responses.) We’ve learned a lot about how God made you and you and you . . .

(point to each child). **Who made you?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “God made me!”

SGL: “He sure did! Yesterday we learned that we are wonderfully made by God and today we learned that God made us to trust Him.

“How did the blind man in our Bible story today show that He trusted God? *(Pause for responses.)* When Jesus told the blind man to wash the mud from his eyes, the man did what Jesus said. Doing what Jesus says is one way to show God we trust Him.

“I can’t wait to learn more about how God made you and me tomorrow! **Who made you?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “God made me!”

SGL: “And what does our Bible verse say about how God made you? Listen carefully and you’ll hear it!”

(Open Bible to memory verse card.)

"I am . . . wonderfully made, Psalm 139:14."

(Lay Bible down.)

"Our Bible verse says that you are wonderfully made by God! Stand up and say that verse with me with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN and SGL: *"I (point both thumbs to yourself) am . . . wonderfully made (throw both hands up in the air in celebration), Psalm 139:14." (Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with the motions several times together.)*

SGL: "Good job! Now let's sit down and write in our prayer journal. Remember our prayer journal from yesterday? It's a notebook where we write down things we want to say to God. Since God made us to trust Him, I want each of us to think of one way we can show God we trust Him."

(Open prayer journal and hold your fun pen.)

"When I write your name, I'll say it and I want you to tell me one way you can trust God.

(Write each child's name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

(You may need to help them think of some ideas like: doing what God says, believing God loves me, believing God made me, helping others, loving others, believing the Bible, believing God made me, believing God can do anything, etc.)

"These are some great ways to show God that we trust Him. We can use our list when we pray and ask God to help us do these things. Would anyone like to talk to God before I pray?"

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

"Now I will pray."

Prayer

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for another super fun day here at VBS. I am so happy I'm getting to make new friends and learn about how You made us. Please help my friends and me to . . . *(read the list the children made)* so we can show You that we trust You. You made us to trust You, and that's what we want to do! Please help all of my friends to come back tomorrow. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."