

September 24th

Today's Bible Story: God knows what is best for me. In the Garden • Genesis 1:31, 2:8–3:24

Memory Verse: "God saw everything he had made. And it was very good." Genesis 1:31, NIV

Key Question: Who made everything?

Bottom Line: God made everything.

Basic Truth: God made me.

BEFORE LARGE GROUP

ACTIVITY 1: Following Directions

What You Do:

During the Activity: Shuffle the cards and call on a child to select one. Show the card to the children and identify the action on the card. Lead the children to follow the directions on the card "Simon Says" style, like "child jumping" and the number five means jump up and down five times.

After the Activity: Introduce the concept of following directions that we'll hear in today's Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: Friends, come stand with me! I have some action cards for us to play with today. When I call on you, I want you to draw a card and show it to all our friends!

During the Activity: Let's play! [Child's name], draw a card and show everyone what the action is. *(Pause.)* Ooo! You drew the [action]. Let's follow directions and complete that action! *(Pause.)* Great job! [Child's name], come pull a card. *(Continue until each child has a turn.)* Following directions was so much fun!

After the Activity: Wow! There were so many fun directions to follow. In our story today, we'll hear about a man who had to follow directions. Let's follow our own directions and practice our memory verse together!

God *(hold open palm with thumb to forehead and pull down)*
saw everything he had made. *(Two fingers under eye, push forward)*
And it was very good, *(thumbs up)*
Genesis 1:31. *(Open hands like a book.)*

Good job, friends! **Who knows what's best for you? [Bottom Line] God knows what's best for me.**

Materials:

- "Following Directions" Activity Page



ACTIVITY 2: Take Home - Seven Beads

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write each child's name on the back of the charm. Give a piece of yarn to each child. Wrap one end of the yarn tightly with masking tape. Give each child a charm. Place seven beads and one string in a cupcake liner for each child.

During the Activity: Encourage children to thread the beads and charm on the yarn. Knot the ends and have children wear their necklaces if desired.

After the Activity: Talk about how the seven beads represent the seven times Naaman dipped into the water.

What You Say:

During the Activity: Find a seat, and let's make a special necklace. Take the taped end of yarn and thread the charm and seven colorful beads onto it. *(Pause.)* Nice job. Let me tie the ends together, and you can wear your beautiful necklace.

After the Activity: You added seven beads. We are going to learn about a man named Naaman who had boo-boos that needed to be healed. He dipped his boo-boos in the water seven times. Naaman did what God said and something amazing happened! **Who knows what's best for you? [Bottom Line] God knows what's best for me.**

Materials:

- "Seven Beads" Activity Page (1/child)
- Macrame beads (7/child)
- Yarn (1/child)
- Cupcake liners (1/child)
- Masking tape
- Pen



AFTER LARGE GROUP

ACTIVITY 3: Bye-Bye, Boo-Boos (Bible Story Review)

What You Do:

During the Activity: Work together to make boo-boos on a laminated copy of Naaman, a washable marker, and a tissue. As you review the Bible story, demonstrate how to make “boo-boos” on Naaman with a dry-erase marker. Then count to seven together and wipe the boo-boos off with a tissue. Repeat.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: Everyone come sit with me. We’re going to do something fun with this (*hold up laminated Naaman*) while we talk through our Bible story.

During the Activity: This is Naaman. (*Place laminated Naaman on a table.*) Naaman was the man in our Bible story. Do you remember what was wrong with Naaman? (*Pause.*) Yes, Naaman had boo-boos all over his body. Let’s use a marker to draw boo-boos all over Naaman. (*Make marker dots on your Naaman.*) Another man, named Elisha, loved God and told people what God said. Elisha sent Naaman a message from God telling Naaman to dip in water seven times and his boo-boos would go away.

Naaman had to choose to do what God said or keep looking for another way to get better. What did Naaman do? (*Pause.*) You’re right! Naaman trusted God and dipped in water seven times! Let’s count to seven then wipe Naaman’s boo-boos away with a tissue. (*Give each child a tissue.*) Don’t wipe Naaman until we say seven. Count with me! One, two, three, four, five six, seven! Wipe away your marker dots. Bye-bye, boo-boos! Naaman did what God said, and his boo-boos were all better! Let’s do that again!” (*Repeat as desired.*)

After the Activity: God knew what was best for Naaman, and God knows what’s best for us, too! **Who knows what’s best for you?**
[Bottom Line] God knows what’s best for me!

Materials:

- “Bye-Bye, Boo-Boos” Activity Page
- Washable markers
- Facial tissue



ACTIVITY 4: Clear Naaman (Application)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Peel the backing from the contact paper and place Naaman face down on sticky side. Attach the two pictures of Naaman about two feet apart on the wall at preschooler height. Loosely put red stickers all over both pictures, making sure to put the same number on each. Tape a line at least five feet across from the pictures.

During the Activity: Divide children into two groups and have them line up single file. Encourage both teams to run to the wall and take off one sticker then run back then get in the back of the line. The next child will run down and take a sticker and run back. Continue until one team has removed all of their circle stickers.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: Who is ready to play another game? Join me over here, and we'll make two teams." (Divide children into two groups and have them line up behind the tape, single file.)

During the Activity: Look, there are two pictures of Naaman on the wall, and he is covered in boo-boos. When I say, 'Go,' the first person on both teams will run down and take one sticker off their Naaman and run back. Then the next person will go. We will play until one Naaman is no longer covered in boo-boos. Are you ready? Go! (Pause.) Just take one sticker then run back. Next friend, go! (Continue until one of the pictures is cleared.) Amazing job, friends! That took us a while to clear Naaman of his spots, and it took him seven dips in the water until his boo-boos were gone.

After the Activity: Naaman was an important leader, but he was sick and covered with so many boo-boos. No doctor was able to help him. One of Naaman's workers told him that a man named Elisha could help him. Elisha loved God and was a prophet, so he sent a messenger to tell Naaman to go dip in the water seven times to make him better. At first, Naaman didn't do what God said. But his workers told him he should listen to God. So Naaman went and dipped in the water seven times, just like God said. When he came out, he didn't have any more boo-boos. Naaman learned that God knew what was best for him. And we know that God knows what's best for us, too!

Who knows what's best for you? [Bottom Line] God knows what's best for me.

Materials:

- "Clear Naaman" Activity Page
- Red circle stickers
- Painter's tape
- Contact paper



ACTIVITY 5: Closing Activity (Storybook)

What You Do:

Gather the children and read the story book together. You can stop after the part in the story they are learning this weekend, or you can read the entire book and tell them what is coming!

What You Say:

Okay friends, I have a really fun story book for us to read! It's about a true story from the Bible! Let's read it together. (Read the story book together.)

Materials:

- Monthly Storybook