

# CHALK MAZE

## Today's Bible Story

Jesus Chose Matthew  
*Matthew 9:9-13*

## Today's Point

Jesus chooses to  
love me.



# CHALK MAZE

## Story Connection

Remind preschoolers that Jesus chooses to love them, just like He chose to love Matthew in today's story.

## Tip

If playing indoors, tape long pieces of banner paper to the floor and draw with washable markers.

## Prepare:

- Gather different colors of sidewalk chalk.
- Use sidewalk chalk to draw lines, each about 6 feet long, outside in a safe play area. Along each line draw X's, O's, and hearts.

## Play

- Gather children in groups of three or four. Assign each group to a maze. Form a line at the start of each maze.
- Explain that each symbol requires the child to perform a different action: *X—jump up and down twice*; *O—spin in a circle*; and a heart shape—say the Point, “*Jesus chooses to love me.*”
- After traveling along each maze, give each child a piece of chalk to make his own maze line with X's, O's, and hearts.

# CONSTRUCTION WORKER SAYS

## Today's Bible Story

Paul Listened and  
Obeyed  
*Acts 26:1-20*

## Today's Point

Jesus loves me no  
matter what.



# CONSTRUCTION WORKER SAYS

## Story Connection

Remind preschoolers that today they learned how Paul listened to Jesus and obeyed Him. In order to listen and obey, Paul needed to follow Jesus' instructions.

## Prepare:

Gather a construction vest and hat.

## Play

- Start the game with a teacher wearing the construction vest and hat.
- Tell children to listen closely to what the worker says and follow his instructions.
- Call one action at a time while children repeat the action. Actions may include: *pretend to hammer a nail, paint a wall, drive a truck, and clean up a mess.*
- Play a few rounds.
- Invite a child to take a turn wearing the vest and giving an instruction such as: *jump up and down, spin around, touch your toes,* or any simple direction.
- Remember with preschoolers that the fun is in following directions. Unlike "Simon Says" don't disqualify a child if you give the directions without using the words, "Construction worker says."

# KNOCK DOWN/PICK UP

## Today's Bible Story

Jesus Prayed in  
the Garden

*Matthew 26:36-46*

## Today's Point

Jesus has a plan for me.



# KNOCK DOWN/PICK UP

## Story Connection

Sometimes, we feel sad, angry, or scared. We can pray and ask God for help. Remind preschoolers that today they learned that Jesus prayed in the garden.

## Tip

If playing outside, use rope for the “Start” line.

## Prepare

- Gather six empty cans or plastic cups, a bean bag or soft ball, and painter’s tape or rope.
- On a flat surface, stack the cans or cups with three on the bottom, two in the middle, and one on top.
- Place a tape or rope “Start” line several feet from the cups.

## Play

- Line up the children, one in front of the other.
- Guide the child at the front of the line to toss the bean bag or soft ball and try to knock over the cans or cups.
- Prompt the child to mention a prayer request before the next child tosses the bean bag or ball.
- Restack the cups or cans and play again.
- Keep track of the requests and pray for them at the end of the game.

# TOSS AND TELL

## Today's Bible Story

Jesus Made a Promise  
*Matthew 28:1-10,16-20*

## Today's Point

Jesus will always be  
with me.



# TOSS AND TELL

## Story Connection

Remind preschoolers that today they learned about a promise Jesus made. Jesus died on the cross but is now alive and living with God in Heaven. Jesus told the disciples to tell everyone that He is alive.

## Prepare

- Gather four or five buckets and a Ping-Pong® ball or bean bag.
- Place the buckets on the ground in a line.
- Make a “Start” line 1–2 feet away from the buckets.

## Play

- Invite one child at a time to stand at the “Start” line in front of the first bucket. Guide the child to throw the ball into the bucket closest to him.
- If it lands in the bucket, let the child try to toss it into the next bucket. He can continue tossing to the next bucket until he misses.
- When a ball lands in a bucket, ask the child to tell something he remembers about the Bible story.



# TALL TOWER

## Today's Bible Story

The House on the Rock  
*Matthew 7:24-29*

## Today's Point

Jesus helps me know  
how to live.



# TALL TOWER

## Story Connection

Remind preschoolers that today they learned a lesson taught by Jesus about a house on a rock. Jesus taught this lesson to help us understand that God will help us know how to live.

## Tip

Challenge older kids to build a structure as tall as one of the kids in the group.

## Prepare

- Gather cardboard, foam, interlocking, or wooden blocks.
- Provide different types of foundations/bases for building. Foundations may include: a container of sand, a container of rocks, bricks, or an empty container.
- Set a pile of blocks next to each container.

## Play

- Group preschoolers into three equal “construction teams.”
- Guide each team to gather around a container and pile of blocks.
- Blow a whistle or give a signal for teams to start building.
- After several minutes, alert teams to stop building. Compare the size of the buildings.
- Continue until each team has a chance to build on each foundation.

# WRECKING BALL CHALLENGE



# WRECKING BALL CHALLENGE

## Tip

Demonstrate how to swing the wrecking ball low to the ground, making sure other preschoolers are out of the way.

## Prepare

- Gather cardboard tubes or blocks, wiffle balls, and heavy string.
- Create structures using cardboard tubes or blocks.
- Make wrecking balls by tying a piece of string through a couple of holes in a wiffle ball. Make sure the string is long enough to allow the preschooler to easily swing the ball.

## Play

- Line up a group of preschoolers a few feet from each structure.
- On your signal, the first child in line will have three chances to knock down the structure by swinging the wrecking ball.
- Work together to rebuild the structure before the next child attempts to knock it down.
- Continue until all children have a chance to swing the wrecking ball.

# TRUCK RACE



# TRUCK RACE

## Tip

- Let children select a different truck for each race.
- If playing outside, find a safe play area with a hard surface. Use chalk to draw the squares, “Start” line, and to replace the caution tape line.

## Prepare

- Gather toy trucks, painter’s tape, and *VBS 2020 Caution Tape* (005821522).
- Tape a square on the ground using painter’s tape. Tape a another square horizontal to the first but a few feet away.
- Tape a “Start” line about five feet from each square.
- Behind each square, add a strip of caution tape.
- Create a racing area for every six children (three pairs).

## Play

- Group children into pairs. Assign each pair to a racing area.
- Race trucks by pushing them from the start line to the “construction zone” (square).
- Play again, trying to push the trucks from the “Start” line to the caution tape.
- Continue until each pair has a chance to race twice.

# FILL AND DUMP



# FILL AND DUMP

## Tip

If using this game inside, use small interlocking blocks, instead of sand.

## Prepare

- Gather toy dump trucks, play sand, small plastic shovels, plastic containers, tape or rope.
- Fill one large container with sand.
- Make a “Start” line with tape or rope. Place the filled container about 10 feet from the line.

## Play

- Assign preschoolers into equal groups. Lead each group to stand in a line, one child in front of the other.
- Hand the first child in each group a toy dump truck. Tell him to race down to the container, scoop sand into the back of the truck, race back, and give it to the next preschooler in line.
- The next child will try not to lose any sand while racing back to the container to dump it.
- Continue until all children in line have pushed, filled, and dumped the truck.



# BRICK RELAY



# BRICK RELAY

## Prepare

- Gather 10 cardboard blocks or empty boxes, such as tissue boxes, to represent bricks and large boxes or laundry baskets.
- Fill a basket with “bricks” (blocks or boxes) for each group.

## Play

- Assign preschoolers to equal groups. Lead each group to stand in line, one child in front of the other. Place the basket of “bricks” in front of the first player in line.
- Instruct the first player in line to pass a brick to the next child in line. Continue to pass the brick until it gets to the last player in line.
- Guide the last player to set the brick on the ground, move to the front of the line, and pass another brick through the line. Give an instruction related to how to pass it such as: *pass it over your head, pass it quickly, or slowly*. When the brick arrives at the last player in line, instruct him to stack it on the brick on the ground.
- Continue to play until each child has a chance to add to the stack of bricks and until all the bricks are used.

# KEEP IT LEVEL



# KEEP IT LEVEL

## Tip

- To add variety to the game, periodically stop the music. The child holding the shovel will tell something he learned in VBS.
- If playing outside, consider downloading the music onto a phone or other device. Music can be purchased for download from [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

## Prepare

- Gather plastic shovels, small bouncy balls, CD player, and *VBS 2020 Music for Preschoolers CD* (005817860).

## Play

- Guide preschoolers to sit in circles. If you have a large group, limit the number to 5–6 preschoolers in each circle.
- Play music from the *VBS 2020 Music for Preschoolers CD*.
- Hand a player a shovel with a bouncy ball on top of the scoop.
- Carefully pass the shovel around the circle while the music plays. Keep the shovel level (straight) so the ball doesn't bounce off the side.

# NUTS AND BOLTS



# NUTS AND BOLTS

## Tip

- To add a challenge, move the “Start” line back a couple of feet after each round.
- Show a real nut and bolt to the children. Talk about how they are used in construction.

## Prepare

- Gather pool noodles, painter’s tape or rope, and small pools or buckets.
- Cut the pool noodles into “nuts” (1- to 2-inch pieces), and “bolts” (4- to 5-inch pieces). Place a “Nuts” sign on one pool or bucket and a “Bolts” sign on the other.
- Place a tape or rope “Start” line about four feet from the pools or buckets.

## Play

- Assign preschoolers to equal groups. Lead each group to stand in line, one child in front of the other.
- Give each child a “nut” and a “bolt.” One child at a time will stand behind the line and throw the “nut” and “bolt” into the labeled pool or bucket.

# BRICK BOUNCE



# BRICK BOUNCE

**Tip:**

If time allows, play additional parachute games such as raising the parachute while two or more children switch places.

**Prepare**

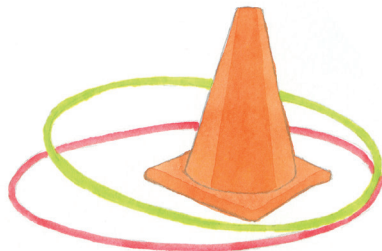
- Gather a play parachute, sheet, or tablecloth and car wash sponges.
- Spread the parachute and lay it flat on the ground.

**Play**

- Guide preschoolers to gather around the edge of the parachute and grab a handle or part of the edge.
- Practice lifting the parachute up and down in sync.
- Toss a “brick” (car wash sponge) in the center of the parachute. Work together to move the parachute so the brick bounces up and down. Periodically, add one extra brick at a time.
- Sit down and try again to make the bricks bounce while keeping them from landing on the ground.



# RING TOSS



# RING TOSS

## Tip

- Plastic ring toss circles may substitute for small hula hoops.
- Make safety cones by using orange cones and wrapping silver tape around the middle of each.

## Prepare

- Gather orange cones, small hula hoops, painter's tape or rope, and silver tape (optional)
- Set four cones around the play area in a square pattern. Make sure each cone is an adequate distance away from the other cones. Place a hula hoop next to each cone.
- Place a tape or rope "Start" line a different distance from each cone.

## Play

- Gather children in groups of three or four. Assign each group to a cone. Form a line behind each "Start" line.
- Take turns trying to toss the hoop onto the safety cone.
- Blow a whistle to signal it is time for each group to move to the next cone. Tell them which direction to move in the rotation.

# BUCKET STACKING



# BUCKET STACKING

## Tip

- Use a stopwatch to time older children. Challenge them to beat their own times.
- Avoid making the game a competition between children.

## Prepare

Gather small plastic buckets or cups (10 per group).

## Play

- Demonstrate how to stack buckets or cups with four on the bottom, three on the next row, then two, and one on top. Quickly disassemble the stack and build it again as quickly as possible.
- Assign preschoolers into equal groups. Give each group a set of 10 buckets or cups.
- Encourage one preschooler at a time to stack the cups as quickly as possible and then break down the stack.

# CONSTRUCTION ZONE



# CONSTRUCTION ZONE

## Tip

If playing outside, use chalk or rope to create the squares and lines.

## Prepare

- Gather painter's tape, toy construction vehicles, and a box of 5–6 blocks.
- Tape a "Start" line. Tape a large square, a straight line behind the square, and a zigzag line behind the square. Add the box of blocks at the end of the course.

## Play

- Place kids into equal groups. Lead kids to stand in line, one child in front of the other.
- Demonstrate how to complete the obstacle course. Run to the large square and drive the car along the taped lines. Continue by moving to the straight line and driving along the tape. Repeat again on the zigzag line. Build a structure with the blocks and knock it down with the car. Put the blocks back in the box.
- Give a toy construction vehicle to the first few children in line and instruct the first child in line to begin the course. After the first child finishes driving around the square, the next child can begin. When a child completes the course, he will hand the car to the child at the front of the line and then move to the back of the line.
- Continue until each child has a chance to complete the course.

# RIDE-ON RACES



# RIDE-ON RACES

## Tip

- Select a safe place for the races. If using an area outside, such as the parking lot, rope off the area for safety. Make sure the kids are within view at all times.
- Use rope in place of the tape if necessary.

## Prepare

- Gather ride-on toys, painter's tape, and *VBS 2020 Caution Tape* (005821522).
- Tape a "Start" line with painter's tape and a "Finish" line with caution tape. Decide where to put the lines based on the amount of space available.

## Play

- Assign preschoolers to equal groups. Lead each group to stand in line, one child in front of the other. Line up the groups next to each other. Provide a ride-on toy for each group.
- On your signal, the first child in line will ride on the toy to the caution tape, turn around, and ride back to the group. The next child in line will do the same while the child who just finished the ride moves to the back of the line.
- Continue to play until each child has a chance to ride on the toy. Play as time allows.



# STOP AND GO



# STOP AND GO

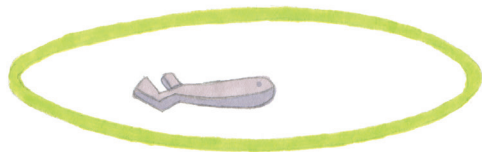
## **Prepare**

- Make a “Stop” sign and a “Go” sign.
- Place a rope or tape line at one end of the play area.

## **Play**

- Have a teacher (or a child) stand at one end of the room or outdoor space holding the signs.
- Instruct children to line up side by side on the other end.
- When the leader (or child) holds up the “Go” sign, the children begin walking toward the leader, making truck noises.
- When the “Stop” sign is held up, the children must stop. When the children reach the other side, choose another child to hold up the signs.

# BEAN BAG TOSS



# BEAN BAG TOSS

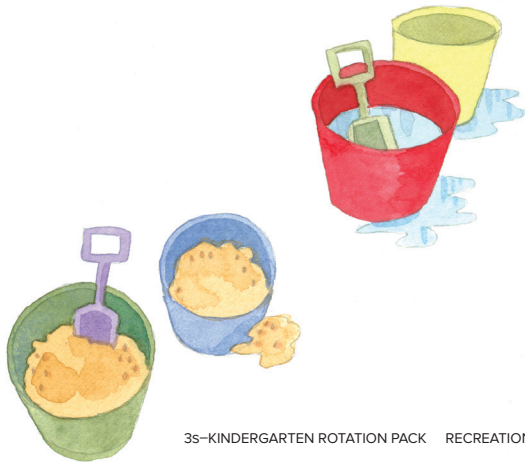
## **Prepare**

- Gather hula hoops, plastic toy tools, bean bags, and painter's tape or rope.
- Lay the hula hoops on the ground or floor. Place a toy tool in the center of each hoop.
- Place a "Start" line a few feet from each hoop.

## **Play**

- Demonstrate how to stand behind the line and toss a bean bag into the hoop, trying to get it to land on or as close as possible to the toy tool.
- Assign preschoolers to equal groups. Lead each group to stand in line, one child in front of the other. Line up each group behind a "Start" line.
- Prompt the first child in each line to toss a bean bag and try get it to land on or close to the tool in a hoop.
- Rotate the groups so they have a chance to toss at each hoop.

# SHOVEL RELAY



# SHOVEL RELAY

## Tip

Prepare a bucket relay for each group of four to six children.

## Prepare

- Gather six buckets per group, cotton balls, play sand, plastic shovels, and painter's tape or rope.
- Fill one bucket with cotton balls and a plastic shovel; one bucket with play sand and a plastic shovel; and one bucket half full with water and a plastic shovel.
- Space the three buckets a few feet apart . Place an empty bucket next to each of the filled buckets.
- Make a "Start" line with tape or rope a few feet away from the buckets.

## Play

- Form equal groups of kids. Lead each group to stand in line, one child in front of the other at the "Start" line.
- Guide the first child in each group to move to the first bucket and scoop a shovel of cotton balls into the empty bucket, then move to scoop a shovel full of sand into the next empty bucket, and then to scoop water into the last empty bucket.
- Continue until each child has a chance to complete the relay.

# CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP



# CONSTRUCTION CLEAN UP

## Tip

Make sure there is at least one block for each child.

## Prepare

- Gather claw toys with a squeeze handle, blocks, buckets, and painter's tape or rope.
- Make a "Start" line with the tape or rope.
- A few feet from the "Start" line, build small structures with blocks.
- A few feet past the block structures, place an empty bucket.
- Create a cleanup area for each group.

## Play

- Form two groups. Lead each group to stand in line, one child in front of the other.
- The first person in each group will run to the blocks, pick up a block with the claw, and run to drop it in the bucket. Then, run back to the group, hand the claw to the next person in line, and move to the back of the line.
- Continue to play until all children have a turn to complete the tasks and all the blocks are cleaned up.



# FREE PLAY

## **Build It!**

Provide various-sized boxes, plastic tubs, and other lightweight building materials. (The larger the better!) Encourage kids to work together to build structures. Challenge them to see how long their structure can be, as well as how high.

## **Decorate It!**

Offer a large furniture or appliance box with minimal writing on the outside. Provide paints, markers, and crayons and prompt kids to decorate the “building.” If the box is large enough, cut a door and windows in the sides and let kids decorate the inside of the building as well.

## **Put the Pieces Together**

Gather three puzzles featuring a construction theme. Mix the pieces together in a bag. Challenge kids to work together to put the puzzles together. Depending on the age and skill of the preschoolers, you may choose to mix the pieces of just one puzzle to work at a time. (This game can be done in teams or with individual preschoolers.)

# FREE PLAY

## **It's a Match!**

Mix sets of nuts and bolts of different sizes. Prompt children to match the nuts to the bolts by putting them together. Separate the nuts and bolts, mix them up, and play again. (Use a maximum of 5 sets. Large plastic nuts and bolts can be used with younger children. Due to the choking hazard, carefully supervise this activity.)

## **Splat!**

Fill the bottom of a large oil pan with o-shaped cereal. Provide plastic hammers to preschoolers and let them hammer the cereal. For outside, replace the cereal with water and let children use the hammers to make the water splash!

## **Paint with Water**

Provide large, sturdy paintbrushes (normally used by adults) and buckets of water. Let children preschoolers “paint” the outside walls of the church, sidewalks, and the like.

# KID CHARACTERISTICS

## **3s–Pre-Ks can:**

- Run and walk backward. Walk or jump on tiptoes.
- Stand on one foot and balance.
- Throw a ball at an object five feet away.
- Catch a ball with two hands.
- Walk between parallel lines.
- Develop preference for right or left hand.
- Be very active, but fatigue quickly.

## **Kindergartners can:**

- Hop on two feet in a straight line.
- Skip and run on tiptoes.
- Jump rope.
- Throw a ball over their heads.
- Catch a bounced ball.
- Display good control of fast and slow actions.
- Display good hand-eye coordination.
- Exhibit well-established right- or left-handedness.
- Be very active and rarely tire.