

## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



## 1. CONFETTI MOVERS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Wrapped gift box, confetti, turkey basters, cardstock, small brooms, and empty squeeze bottles  
*Optional: Helium-filled mylar balloons and clear tape*

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Place the gift box on one side of the activity area with the opening facing out. Set a few piles of confetti three or so feet away. Fold the cardstock accordion style to create several fans. Set the turkey basters, cardstock fans, brooms, and empty squeeze bottles next to the piles of confetti. *Optional: If using balloons, tape them to the gift box.*

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to move the confetti to the gift box by using the different tools. Demonstrate how to squeeze the end of the turkey baster or squeeze bottles to blow air, wave the fan, and sweep with the brooms to move the confetti.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come stand over here with me! What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! So much confetti!"

*During the Activity:* "Let's start the party and get the confetti to the gift box. We can use these items to move the confetti. Let me show you how! (Demonstrate.) Listen for your name and I'll send you to one of the piles of confetti. (Call out names and send two or three children to each pile.) Choose one of the items and use it to move the confetti all the way to gift box. (Pause.) Wow! Great job! Come back to the line so another friend can have a turn! (Continue until each child has a turn.) Confetti is so fun! Thank you for starting the party and moving the confetti!"

*After the Activity:* "Confetti always makes a party more fun. Jesus wanted to be Matthew's friend forever, and Matthew celebrated Jesus by throwing a party. Jesus wants to be OUR friend forever too! And we can celebrate Jesus! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Matthew's Party**  
LUKE 5:27-32

## MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy  
when I am with you."  
**ACTS 2:28, NIRV**

## KEY QUESTION

**Who can celebrate Jesus?**

## BOTTOM LINE

**I can celebrate Jesus!**

## BASIC TRUTH

**Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.**

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



## 2. MATTHEW'S PARTY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Allergy Alert Poster, "Matthew's Party," and "Matthew's Party Guests" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, laminate pouches, large shallow bin, raw white rice, gallon resealable bags, food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and air-tight storage container

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Divide rice into bags. Add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice out on wax paper to dry for one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour rice into container. Copy the "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list rice, vinegar, and food coloring, and post on the door. Copy "Matthew's Party" on cardstock, one per small group. Laminate "Matthew's Party" and place on the table. Copy "Matthew's Party Guests" on cardstock, one set per small group. Laminate and cut out each person. Pour the colored rice into the bin. Place the party guests from the Activity Page into the bin, covering with the rice. Place rice bin on the table.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to sift through the bin to find all the party guests. When a party guest is discovered, say you're invited and place them on Matthew's house. Continue until you've found each of the hidden party guests and they've all made it to the party.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible story and celebrate Jesus.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Hello, hello, friends! It's great to see you today! Come gather around the table with me!"

*During the Activity:* "Look at this tub of awesome [color] rice. Today in our Bible story, we learned about a man named Matthew. This is a picture of Matthew's house. (*Point to Matthew's House.*) Do you remember what Matthew did after Jesus told him that He wanted to be Matthew's friend forever? (*Pause.*) That's right! Matthew threw a party to celebrate Jesus, and he wanted all his friends to come and celebrate Jesus too! We need to find the people and invite them to the party. Reach into the rice and see if you can find some people to invite. (*Pause.*) You found someone; let's all say, 'You're invited!' You're invited! Fantastic! Put the friend in Matthew's house. (*Pause.*) Let's find more people to invite. (*Continue until you've found all the people.*) Wow! Look at Matthew's house! There are so many people who were invited to celebrate Jesus!"

*After the Activity:* "Today we learned that Jesus wanted to be Matthew's friend forever. Jesus gave Matthew so much JOY that he threw a party so everyone could celebrate Jesus. We can celebrate Jesus too! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"



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## 1. FREE THE CONFETTI

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic tablecloth, large shallow bin, pom-poms in a variety of colors, ice cube trays, water, spray bottles, pipettes, plastic cups, and paper towels

*NOTE: Pom-poms can be placed in a mesh bag or pillowcase and dried in the dryer for future use.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of  
the Wedding Feast**  
MATTHEW 22:1-14

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Place two pom-poms into each section of your ice cube tray and fill the trays with water. Place in freezer the night before to create confetti ice cubes. Cover the table with the tablecloth. Place the bin on the table and fill with the confetti ice cubes. Fill the spray bottles and cups with water and place on the table with the pipettes.

## MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy  
when I am with you."  
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

*During the Activity:* Gather the children around the bin of ice cubes. Point out the "confetti" pom-poms trapped in the water. Encourage the children to free the confetti by spraying an ice cube with water or dropping water onto the ice cube with the pipette until the pom-poms are released. When the confetti is freed, encourage everyone to celebrate!

*After the Activity:* Talk about how we see confetti when we celebrate at a party. Jesus taught us that everyone is invited to the party because everyone can be His friend forever.

## KEY QUESTION

**Who can celebrate Jesus?**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Hello, friends! Come join me at the table. Do you see the confetti in these ice cubes? It's trapped! I need your help to unfreeze the ice cubes and free the confetti. Will you help me? (Pause.) Great!"

## BOTTOM LINE

**I can celebrate Jesus!**

*During the Activity:* "You can use the spray bottles and spray the ice, or you can drop water with the pipettes. (Demonstrate.) When the confetti is free, let's all celebrate! (Pause.) Yay! Hooray! You freed the confetti! Keep going until all the confetti is free. (Pause.) You did an amazing job! Everybody celebrate with me. Hooray!"

## BASIC TRUTH

**Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.**

*After the Activity:* "We toss confetti at a party. Jesus taught us that everyone is invited to the party because everyone can be friends with Jesus. We can start the party and celebrate Jesus because Jesus wants to be our friend forever! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



## 2. PRACTICE POURING

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large flat plastic bin, several clear plastic pitchers or teapots, plastic cups, teacups, water, food coloring, and paper towels; *Optional: Plastic tablecloth*

*Note: Never leave a tub of water unattended. An adult should always be present. When the activity is over, please discard the water immediately.*

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Place the bin on the ground and fill the pitchers/teapots with water and mix in food coloring, a different color for each pitcher. Set the pitchers and cups in the bin. If you have a large group of children, consider offering more than one bin. Option: If you are doing this activity inside, cover a classroom table with the tablecloth and set the bin on the table.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to pour the water into the cups, observing the colors and the changes that occur when colors are mixed.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come find a spot around this bin. Let's pretend this is a well like in our Bible story. The woman in our story went to a well for water. That's where people went to get water. Let's practice pouring into these cups today."

*During the Activity:* "Wow! Look at that! The water is different colors! What colors do you see? (Pause.) What happens when you mix two colors together? (Pause.) Pour the different colored water into the cups and let's find out! You can pour water from the cups back into the pitchers to keep practicing pouring. (Pause.) That was fun pouring and mixing the colors. Let's dry our hands."

*After the Activity:* "When the woman was at the well, she met Jesus. She didn't know who Jesus was, but Jesus told her He is God's Son and He came to be her friend forever. She was so happy that she ran to town to tell everyone. She started a big party to celebrate the good news that Jesus wants to be our friend forever! Jesus wants to be our friend forever too. Let's start the party and celebrate Jesus! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of  
the Wedding Feast**  
MATTHEW 22:1-14

## MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy  
when I am with you."  
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

## KEY QUESTION

**Who can celebrate Jesus?**

## BOTTOM LINE

**I can celebrate Jesus!**

## BASIC TRUTH

**Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.**

## MADE TO EXPLORE

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## 1. PIGS IN THE MUD SENSOY BINARY\*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, plastic tablecloth, shallow plastic bin, shaving cream, brown washable paint, large spoon, plastic pig toys, and baby wipes

\*Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of  
the Lost Son**  
LUKE 15:11-32

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list shaving cream, and post at the door. Cover the table with the tablecloth. Squirt all the shaving cream into the bin and mix in some brown paint to create "mud." Use the spoon to incorporate the paint and add more if needed to get to your desired color. Place the sensory bin on the covered table with the pig toys nearby.

## MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy  
when I am with you."  
**ACTS 2:28, NIRV**

*During the Activity:* Gather the children around the sensory bin. Encourage them to play with the pigs in the mud. Remind them to keep the mud and mud-covered pigs inside the bin! Clean hands and move bin and pigs out of reach of children.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible story.

## KEY QUESTION

**Who can celebrate Jesus?**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come find a spot at the table with me."

*During the Activity:* "What do you see? (Pause.) Pigs! And what do pigs love? Mud! You can play with the pigs in the mud, but let's keep the mud and the pigs in the bin. (Pause.) That was fun squishing around in the mud. Let's clean hands."

## BOTTOM LINE

**I can celebrate Jesus!**

*After the Activity:* "In our Bible story Jesus told a story about a dad and his son. The son asked his dad for a lot of money so he could leave home. He made bad choices and spent all his money. He was so hungry that he even thought about eating pig food! Yuck! The son went back home and when the dad saw him, he ran to his son and gave him a big hug! The dad loved his son no matter what. He ran to his son, hugged him, and then threw a BIG party to celebrate. Jesus told this story to show us that God loves us no matter what. God loves us so much that he gave us His Son Jesus to be our friend forever. We can celebrate Jesus! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

## BASIC TRUTH

**Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.**

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## 2. BUBBLING PIGGIES\*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, baking soda, vinegar, food disposable gloves, rubberbands, pink balloons, permanent markers

*\*Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of  
the Lost Son**  
LUKE 15:11-32

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Copy the "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list baking soda, vinegar, and post at the door. Fill each finger tip of plastic gloves with vinegar. Seal off with a rubber band. Cover the table with the tablecloth. Hand out a pink balloon to each child.

## MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy  
when I am with you."  
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to draw nose, ears, and eyes on a pink balloon. Help children put a tablespoon of baking soda in their balloon. Then, help children put a vinegar ball inside their balloon and tie off. Let children stomp on their balloon and watch their "piggie" bubble up.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible story.

## KEY QUESTION

**Who can celebrate Jesus?**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come join me around the table. Everyone gets a pink balloon."

## BOTTOM LINE

**I can celebrate Jesus!**

*During the Activity:* "What type of animal was in our Bible story today? (Pause.) Yes! A pig! Today we are going to make our own piggies. First, our pigs need ears, eyes, mouth, and nose. We will need to take turns with the markers. Once you are done decorating your piggie, a leader will help you put a spoonful of baking soda in your balloon. Last, we will need to put another balloon filled with vinegar inside the pink balloon. Once everyone has their balloon filled and tied off, we will get to watch them bubble up!"

## BASIC TRUTH

**Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.**

*After the Activity:* "What happened to the piggies? They bubbled up! That's like Jesus' love for us. Jesus told the story about the Lost Son and His Father to show us that God loves us no matter what. God loves us so much that he gave us His Son Jesus to be our friend forever. We can celebrate Jesus! **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



## 1. CELEBRATION DOUGH\*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," "Celebration Dough Label" Activity Page, cardstock, Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent, heart and party cookie cutters, flour, salt, cream of tartar, warm tap water, foil confetti, small bowls for individual ingredients, a large mixing bowl, large wooden spoon, a tray, 5.5-ounce disposable snack cups with lids, a permanent marker, measuring cups, measuring spoons, and baby wipes

*\*Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.*

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list ingredients, and post on the door. Measure 4 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, 4 tablespoons of cream of tartar, and 2 cups of warm tap water. (*This recipe makes enough dough for 6-8 children.*) Place all dry measured ingredients and confetti in separate bowls along with a large mixing bowl and spoon on the tray. Write each child's name on the bottom of their cup. Once children are seated, place the tray of ingredients on the table.

*During the Activity:* Allow children to help by pouring all dry ingredients into the bowl. Allow each child to stir the mixture with a spoon. Add the confetti followed by the warm water. Stir the mixture with a spoon. Dump it on the counter and knead it really well with your hands. Then have the children take a seat and pass out a small ball of dough to each child to play with at the table. As they finish, provide snack cups with each child's name written on theirs so they can take their dough home. Snap the lids on each cup and encourage children to add the label to the top of the lid. Set near the classroom door for pick-up.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come sit with me at the table. I have all the ingredients to make celebration dough, but I need your help! Will you help me? (*Pause.*) Hooray!"

*During the Activity:* "First, we need to add all these ingredients to the bowl. Can you pour it into the bowl? (*Have a different child help with each ingredient.*) Great job! Now we need to mix it all up! (*Allow each child to give the mixture a stir.*) Right now our dough doesn't look like a celebration, but what if we add this fun confetti? (*Pour confetti in the bowl and give it a couple stirs.*) We've got one more ingredient: water. (*Pour water in.*) I'll just mix this up. Stir, stir, stir! We need to knead the dough like this. (*Demonstrate.*) And now I can share some celebration dough with you. You can squish it, roll it, and create with it! (*Pause.*)

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Woman at the Well**  
JOHN 4:1-26, 39-42

## MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy  
when I am with you."  
ACTS 2:28, NIRV

## KEY QUESTION

**Who can celebrate Jesus?**

## BOTTOM LINE

**I can celebrate Jesus!**

## BASIC TRUTH

**Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.**

## (1. CELEBRATION DOUGH, CONTINUED)

I have fun shaped cookie cutters to use too! *(Pause.)* Put your dough in this cup and add this label to the top of the lid. *(Pause.)* That was so fun! Now you have dough to play with at home!"

*After the Activity:* "I love this celebration dough. It looks like a party! In our Bible story, we heard a story Jesus told about a dad and his two sons. The youngest asked his dad for money and then he left home and went far away. He made bad choices and spent all his money! He went home to tell his dad he was sorry, and when his dad saw him, he ran and gave his son a big hug! The dad threw a party for his son because he was so happy his son had come back home.

"Jesus told this story because He wants us to know the good news that God will always love us no matter what. When we make bad choices, we can always talk to God, and God will forgive us. God will never ever, ever stop loving us! God loves us sooooo much, God gave us His Son Jesus to be our friend forever! And when Jesus is your friend forever, Jesus gives you joy! That good news is worth celebrating, so let's start the party! **Who can celebrate Jesus? can celebrate Jesus!"**



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## 2. BALLOON ADDITIONS\*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," "Balloon Additions" Activity Page, cardstock, laminating pouches, and Play-Doh®

*\*Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" and post it at the door to your room.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Woman at the Well**  
JOHN 4:1-26, 39-42

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh®, and post on the door. Copy "Balloon Additions" on cardstock, one per child. Laminate each child's copy and set at the table with the Play-Doh.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to follow the shapes of the balloons and fill each one with Play-Doh to create a colorful bunch of balloons!

*After the Activity:* Review the Bottom Line.

## MEMORY VERSE

"You will fill me with joy  
when I am with you."  
**ACTS 2:28, NIRV**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come sit at the table with me. We've had a great day learning that everyone can celebrate Jesus."

*During the Activity:* "Look at the picture on your paper and tell me what you see. (Pause.) Yes! I see lots of balloons too! Balloons make me think of a party! Let's use the Play-Doh to add some color to your balloon shapes. (Pause.) Your balloons look amazing! Great job!"

*After the Activity:* "In today's Bible story, Jesus told a story about a king who threw a party to celebrate his son. Jesus told this story to teach us that everyone is invited to be His friend forever. Jesus wants to be your friend and your friend and my friend too! Jesus wants to be everyone's friend. Let's start the party and celebrate Jesus. **Who can celebrate Jesus? I can celebrate Jesus!**"

## KEY QUESTION

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