



Copy That, Copycat

Eli's Two Boys

BIG IDEA: God helps me make good choices.

BIBLE BASIS: 1 Samuel 2:12–26

KEY VERSE: “Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid...I will be with you everywhere you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:00

LARGE GROUP LESSON

11:00-11:30

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:30-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

In *Alice in Wonderland*, the 1951 Disney classic, Alice is lost in the woods when she encounters the Cheshire Cat, a mischievous but surprisingly astute character. “I just wanted to ask you which way I ought to go,” Alice says. “Well,” the Cheshire Cat retorts, “that depends on where you want to get to.” Alice, unsure, replies, “Oh, it really doesn’t matter, as long as I....” Interrupting, the Cheshire Cat points out, “Then, it really doesn’t matter which way you go!”

Do you know where you’re going? Have you ever thought about it? If you don’t, then it really doesn’t matter which way you go, does it?

What if you *could* know? What if God had a glorious destination in mind for you? What if He had a full, vibrant, deeply satisfying life ahead? What if He told you how to get there?

He does and He has. His Word leads us and guides us. Follow it. Follow *Him*.

Casey Jordan
GO! Contributor



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Managing Small Group Materials

As you're probably aware, GO! small group activities often utilize a variety of materials. From paper to ping pong balls, there are any number of items that you might have to juggle while keeping your kids engaged. Here are some tips to help keep you from dropping the ball:

Be prepared. If you're reading the small group lesson for the first time while seated with a group of wide-eyed kids, you might be in for a wild ride. Always read the lesson before arriving and have a plan for when and how you'll incorporate the accompanying materials.

Take inventory of your materials when you arrive. No one's perfect, and occasionally you might be missing a material or there might not be enough materials for the number of kids you have. Take inventory as soon as you arrive so that you can catch mistakes early.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Sometimes the materials might look slightly different from how you imagined when you were reading the lesson at home. Take a look at the materials when you first arrive so there are no surprises during group time.

Don't reveal the materials too early. Kids can be easily distracted. Often, if you reveal or hand out materials too soon, the kids will become more interested in the material and miss your instructions. Fully deliver your instructions before handing out the materials. If necessary, pull out just one set of materials for demonstration purposes.

Let the kids help you. If there are papers or other materials that need to be given to each kid in the group, put the kids to work. They love helping! Choose one or two kids and let them hand materials to the rest of the group.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

COPYCATS

Supplies: None

Say: Do you remember Otis the cat? He copies everything we do. Let's play a game where we pretend to be Otis and copy each other's actions.

Directions: Play a game of "Copycat" (a.k.a. Follow the Leader) with the children. Make up a fun action, then have the children repeat it after you like Otis the Cat. Next, let the children take turns being the leader. Continue playing for as long as interest allows.

Say: You did a great job being Otis the cat! Today, Otis is going to help us tell the Bible story again. With the help of Otis, we're going to learn that **God helps me make good choices**.

Question: Did you make any good choices this week? Tell me about it.

COPY THAT (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today's Bible verse:

"Be strong (*flex muscles*)
and brave (*power pose with fists on hips*).
Do not be afraid (*Shake head and wag finger "no"...*)
I will be with you (*hug yourself*)
everywhere you go (*march in place*).
Joshua 1:9 (*extend hands like you're holding a book*).

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. When ready, tell the children to say the verse with you while copying your action. For example, spin around, or hop on one foot, or hold your tongue, or do a silly dance. When finished, choose a child to be the leader, then have everyone say the verse while copying them. Continue until everyone has had a turn being the leader.

Large Group: Room 207 at 11:00 AM



☆ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

IF YOU LOVE GOD (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: The Bible says that we can show God our love by following His commands. Let's sing a song and play a game that helps us think about ways we can follow God's commands.

Directions: Begin by singing the song below to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." Encourage the children to sing along and perform the action. When finished, ask the children, "What is one way you can make a good choice and obey God this week?" Choose one child to answer, then allow them to pick a new action for the song. Sing the song with the children again, this time inserting the new action. When finished, choose another child to answer the question and pick an action. Continue until all of the children have had a turn.

Song:

If you love God and you show it, clap your hands.
If you love God and you show it, clap your hands.
If you love God and you show it, then He really, really knows it.
If you love God and you show it, clap your hands.

FATHER, MAY I (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, Eli's two sons stole food from God. But not Samuel — he loved God and made good choices. Let's play a game that helps us think about the good choices we can make for our Father, God.

Directions: Have the children stand against one wall in the room. Tell them the goal is to reach the opposite wall. If you say a good choice, the children may take one giant step forward. If you say a bad choice, the children may take no steps forward. Begin by saying, "Father, may I..." then read one of the bad choices from the list below. The children should say, "No," and take no steps forward. Next, ask the children about a good choice they could make in that situation, then say, "Father, may I..." and insert the good choice suggested by the child. The children should say, "Yes," and take one giant step forward. Continue alternating between bad choices and good choices until the children have reached the opposite wall.

Bad Choice List:

- Tell my mom a lie.
- Push my brother when he pushes me.
- Disobey my dad when he tells me to clean my room.
- Steal a toy that I really, really want.
- Yell mean things when I'm angry.
- Eat a cookie when my mom said "no."
- Push my way into the front of the line.

2.3 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



STORY BOP (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Balloon (1 per group), music player (1 per group)

Directions: Have the children stand in a cluster, then begin playing music. As the music plays, the children must continually bop the balloon into the air. Let the music play for 5 to 20 seconds before pausing it. When the music stops, the children must try to catch the balloon. Ask the child who catches it, "What happened first in today's Bible story?" Only allow them to tell a small part of the story. Allow the other children to help answer if needed. When finished, begin playing the music and bopping the balloon in the air again. Ask the next child who catches the balloon, "What happened next in the story?" Repeat this until the whole story has been told.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Say: Did you know that Jesus doesn't just love grown-ups, He loves kids too! Whether you're big or small, short or tall, Jesus loves you so, so much. Let's say a prayer and thank Jesus for loving us so much.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking Jesus for loving each of the children by name.

Question: Eli's two sons stole food from God and disobeyed their dad. Why do you think they did that?

Question: Samuel loved God and followed His commands. Do you think that was hard for Samuel or easy? Why do you think that?