



MAY 2023  
**TODDLERS**  
WEEK THREE

## BIBLE WORDS

"We have the Lord our God  
to help us."

**2 CHRONICLES 32:8, NLT**

The Four Friends

**MARK 2:1-12**

## BOTTOM LINE

God made you to help others.

## BASIC TRUTH

God made me.

## STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Preschool Bible, butcher paper, and markers in various colors

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) begins with four friends. (*Draw four simple stick men and count them as you draw them.*) These friends knew someone who needed help. They had a friend who couldn't walk. His legs didn't work. (*Draw a simple stick man lying on a mat.*) They helped (*thumb up on palm*) him by carrying him where he needed to go.

"One day, Jesus (*Draw a simple stick man Jesus.*) came to the town where the four friends lived. They knew that Jesus could help their friend. So, they carried him (*Draw the four simple stick men carrying the mat with the man lying on it.*) to the house where Jesus was, but it was full of people! (*Draw a house shape with Jesus and lots and lots of circles for faces.*) They wanted Jesus to see their friend, so they carried him to the roof. (*Draw simple stick men on the roof and the man lying on the mat.*) They dug a hole in it, then lowered him through the hole. (*Draw simple stick men on the roof lowering their friend on the mat through the hole in the roof.*)

"Hooray for helpers! When Jesus saw how much the friends believed in Him and how much they helped, Jesus did something amazing. Jesus made the man's legs all better! (*Draw a simple stick man Jesus and the stick man dancing right next to Him.*) He could walk and even dance! The four friends did what God made them to do. They helped others. And you can help others too, because **God made you to help others.**"



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## CRAFT TIME

*Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Story in Pictures" and "Friends" Activity Pages; cardstock; scissors; glue sticks; and a permanent marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Story in Pictures" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Copy "Friends" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Help children rub glue on the back of the picture of the friends and glue it to the roof. Help children rub glue on the back of the picture of the man and glue it next to Jesus. Clean hands if needed.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we'll finish the story in our picture. Let's rub some glue on the back of your picture of the four friends. *(Pause.)* Now flip it over and press it on the roof of the house. *(Pause.)* The friends were great helpers. The other picture we need to add to the story is a picture of the man after Jesus made him all better. Let's rub some glue on the back of your picture of the man. *(Pause.)* Now flip it over and press it next to Jesus. *(Pause.)* Great job!

"God made the four friends to help. You can help people, too, because **God made you to help others.**"