BIBLE WORDS

Birds and Flowers

MATTHEW 6:25-34

"The people were amazed at his teaching."

MATTHEW 7:28, NCV

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus teaches you important things.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft element that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos.

The toddler curriculum is designed to be used in conjunction with the monthly crawler curriculum. Feel free to use both in your classrooms.

STORY TIME:

Tell It

CRAFT TIME:

• You Flower

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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

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) is a story that Jesus taught His friends, the disciples. Jesus taught them that God takes care of the flowers and God takes care of the birds.

"Jesus told this story to teach us something very important. God loves us more than flowers and birds. And since God takes care of flowers and birds, that means that God will take care of us too! Jesus teaches us that we don't have to worry. God will take care of us. I'm so glad Jesus teaches us important things. Jesus teaches you important things."

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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: "You Flower" Activity Page, cardstock, flower cupcake liners, glue sticks, and a permanent marker; *Optional: camera, photo paper, and scissors*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "You Flower" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Optional: Take a close-up photo of each child's face, print it, and cut it out to match the diameter of the bottom of the cupcake liner.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Rub glue at the top of the stem and encourage children to flatten a cupcake liner at the top of the stem so the outside of the liner becomes the flower. Clean hands as needed.

Option: If you took a photo, rub some glue on the center of the liner and encourage children to add their picture to the center of their flower.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Help me make a special flower on your paper. Who made the flowers? (Pause.) God made the flowers, that's right! (Rub glue at the top of the stem.) Flatten this fun cupcake liner at the top of the stem to make your flower. (Pause.) Look how pretty! Today we learned that God loves us more than flowers and birds. And since God takes care of flowers and birds, that means that God will take care of us too! Jesus teaches us that we don't have to worry. God will take care of us. I'm so glad Jesus teaches us important things. Jesus teaches you important things."