



BOZ, The Green Bear Next Door™

Good Morning BOZ

Book Extension Activities

Morning rituals are a special part of a child's day. **Good Morning BOZ** reminds us that every day with young children is filled with possibilities, adventure and joy.

1. Guessing Bag

Children love the suspense and intrigue involved in guessing games. To prepare for this activity, simply fill a brown bag, pillowcase, or other non-transparent bag with items that are a part of your morning routine (toothbrush, hairbrush, clothing items, breakfast utensils, etc.). Give your child clues about each item and let him or her guess what is being described. After your child makes a correct guess, let him or her use the item to act out what it is used for. You could even prompt them with a song:

This is the way we brush our teeth
Brush our teeth, brush our teeth.
This is the way we brush our teeth
So early in the morning.
(Sung to tune of Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush)

2. Pancake Breakfast

Host a pancake breakfast for your family as a way to enjoy the acts of cooking, eating and being thankful together. Pancakes are a simple treat usually requiring no more than a baking mix, milk or water (depending on mix), eggs and toppings (syrup, fruit, whipped cream). Using an electric frying pan means that all of the preparation can be done on a tabletop and provides a great way for children to safely observe the cooking process.

As part of your activity be sure to include a prayer thanking God for each of the ingredients and the ways they work together to make a special food that tastes yummy and gives our bodies energy to start the day.

3. Special Moments Book

Even when we do our best to slow down, days with young children can be very busy and hectic. With your child, brainstorm a list of special moments that are important enough to take time out for such as reading a book, a family hug, praying together, taking a walk, a bedtime cuddle or giving thanks. Use the list to create a book with each family member answering a prompt (Reading a book is special because_____, Praying together is special because_____.)



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Good Night BOZ

Book Extension Activities

Sleep is very important for growing minds and bodies. Children love revisiting the comforting evening routines of bath time and story time highlighted in the **Good Night BOZ** board book.

1. Pajama Party

Host a family pajama party. Invite your child to share something special about how they get ready for bed. Take turns acting out all the parts of a bedtime routine (taking a bath, brushing teeth, and getting cozy in bed). Include a real story time and an end of the day prayer of quiet thankfulness.

2. Shadow Play

Create a fun nighttime atmosphere by hanging or holding a sheet in the middle of a darkened room. Shine a flashlight or other small light behind the sheet. Using hands, fingers, or other props, make shadows behind the sheet. This activity can easily be turned into a game by having family members guess what is making the shadow or by inviting your child to act out his or her own shadow creations for the others in the family.

3. Night Sky Art

Give your child pieces of black paper and white chalk. Encourage them to draw a night sky scene or component. When the pictures are done, revisit each picture as a family. Reflect on the many marvels of the night sky and thank God for the beauty, comfort and wonder that surround us every day and every night.



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God Gives You Friends

Book Extension Activities

Friendship is a gift that doesn't come in a box or with a bow. In **God Gives You Friends**, BOZ the Bear reminds young children that friendship is a gift from God!

1. Thank You Card

Help your family to build awareness of special people in their lives through creating and delivering thank you cards. After allowing children to craft the outside of their cards, have them think about the special person they are making the card for. Help children record their answers to the question, "You are special to me because?" or, "I am thankful for you because ..." on the inside of their cards.

2. Friendship Fruit Salad

Provide a diverse array of fruits to contribute to a special Friendship Fruit Salad snack. Work as a family to prepare the fruit salad allowing every child to add something to the bowl and to have a turn stirring. Before eating this special treat, say a prayer of thanks for each person who contributed to the snack and to highlight the wonderful results of sharing and working together.

Friendship Fruit Salad can be a one time only activity or can be integrated as a weekly ritual to celebrate the importance of cooperation and togetherness.

3. Links of Love

Invite children to share their ideas of actions or qualities that make them feel loved or special. Write key words down on strips of paper that can be linked together to make a paper chain. These "Links of Love" can be hung around the house as an excellent reminder of how we like to be treated and therefore should treat one another. When you observe children working out of kindness, thoughtfulness and friendship take the time to write down what you saw and to add it to the chain.



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God's Colorful World

Book Extension Activities

The unique beauty and feelings that come from **God's Colorful World** shine as a "bright reminder of God's love".

1. Mixing Colors

Fill small, clear containers with water and add a few drops of primary colored food coloring to each. Using eyedroppers, have children transfer the colored water to flattened coffee filters to create new colors and designs. Take the time to marvel with the children at the magical experience of creating a new color. Remind them that God gives them the gift of many different colors and experiences in the world.

After the coffee filters have dried, they can be hung in a window as beautiful sun-catchers, or bunched and held together with twisted pipe cleaners to create butterflies or flowers.

2. Rainbow Snack

Plan ahead to create a snack that highlights foods of all different colors. Include an array of fruits and vegetables. You can even arrange the items by color to create a beautiful edible rainbow. Talk with children about how a rainbow is used as a symbol of God's love and promise in the Bible. Thank God for this special gift and for the amazing (and tasty) variety of foods we enjoy together.

3. Search and Cut

Set out a piece of construction paper for every color of the rainbow. Allow children to look through old magazines to find items that match each of the colors. Have children cut out the items and paste them on the matching piece of colored paper. As children add items, talk with them about the color and what might be special about it (white fur helps animals blend in with the snow, bright colors can be seen from far away, etc.).

When papers are full, hang them as a reminder of the many different ways that colors contribute to our lives and to all of God's creation.



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Count Your Blessings

Book Extension Activities

Children love to count as a way of making meaning in their world. In **Count Your Blessings**, BOZ the Bear models fun and engaging ways to remember to be thankful for the many everyday gifts that enhance the lives of young learners.

1. Thankful Boxes

Help children decorate shoe boxes with cut-outs, drawings, or paintings that are meaningful to them. Have each child share things that they are thankful for. Record their responses on small scraps of paper and put them in their box. Boxes may be used during prayer or times of reflection.

2. Number Hunt

Draw or create clip art versions of the objects that are used to encourage counting in the **Count Your Blessings** book (1 sun, 2 pillows, 3 apples...10 crickets) writing the matching number on the back of each picture. Children love bringing aspects of stories into their real life activities. Hide the pictures and have the children search for them until they are all found. Use the book as a reference to be sure that the collection is complete.

3. What's Missing

Use the same pictures you created for the Number Hunt but only one of each object (1 sun, 1 pillow, 1 apple...1 cricket). Lay each of the 10 pictures on a tray and let children study what is there. Have children cover their eyes (no peeking) while you remove one or two (or more as the game goes on) pictures from the tray. Have the children open their eyes to guess what pictures are missing. As they are successful, compliment children on their problem solving skills. Remind them that God wants them to learn and grow in all ways; especially in their faith in him.



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God Loves Your Nose

Book Extension Activities

Young children delight in feeling unique and loved. In **God Loves Your Nose** readers are reminded just how special they are from nose to toes.

1. Sniff and Match

A wonderful way to help children appreciate the many different parts of their bodies is by highlighting their senses. This activity utilizes a fun and challenging game to help focus on the sense of smell. Fill left over film canisters, or other small, non-transparent containers with cotton balls dipped in different extracts (vanilla, lemon, peppermint) or with dry spices and herbs (cinnamon, basil, cloves). Create two containers of each scent, up to ten scents total. Challenge children to match the containers according to smell. At the conclusion of the activity, say a short prayer thanking God for our noses and the important work that they do.

2. Texture Collage

Cut small pieces of items that vary in texture (sand paper, fabric, tin foil, cotton, vinyl etc.). Allow children to choose piece to glue onto a piece of cardboard creating their own texture collage. Invite them to describe their collection as they work using descriptive language such as bumpy, smooth, rough, soft and hard. Record the words that they use. Reflect on the sense of touch that allows them to tell the difference in the materials. Say a prayer of thanks for our sense of touch.

3. Taste Party

Children learn by doing and this is an experience that they won't forget. Pre-cut small bite-sized pieces of foods with distinctive flavors (pickles, saltines, oranges, chocolate). Encourage children to sample the food and to describe it using words such as sweet, salty, bitter or sour. Remind children that everyone has different tastes because God made each of us to be unique.



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“Wiggle Your Ears”

Book Extension Activities

Children love games and movement and **BOZ** says, “Wiggle Your Ears” gets them up and going.

1. Obstacle Course

Building an Obstacle Course is a great way to encourage young children to move their bodies in new ways. Be creative and use the materials that you have. Think of ways to have children go under, over, around and through challenges. Congratulate them on their successes and help them delight in the many different ways their bodies can move and grow.

2. Self-Portraits

Help children “reflect” on their uniqueness by providing hand-held mirrors to study their faces and features. Provide pencils and plain white paper and encourage them to draw the details that they see. Talk with each child about their portrait and say a little prayer thanking God for that special person.

3. Homemade Hopscotch

Using masking tape or painter's tape, create a temporary hopscotch game on the carpet, rug or hard floor. Help children take turns throwing a stone or other object to determine how many jumps to take. Encourage the rest of the family to wait patiently when it is not their turn and to cheer for the person who is playing. Turn-taking and supporting others are important parts of learning to work together as a family.

