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Helping others is the next theme for BOZ Treehouse Time! at MOPPETS. We will talk about ways we can help, especially during autumn. As your child participates in daily activities at home, affirm pro-social behaviors like sharing toys and showing kindness. As you know, young children must repeat these behaviors again and again before they become completely integrated into their character. It’s worth the effort, though!

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Introducing Treehouse Time!

**BOZ Treehouse Time!** encourages young children to discover God's world through play-based, faith-focused activities. The interactive learning experiences will help children know and love God.

Because many younger children are not enrolled in a formal program for learning, MOPPETS is their "school." Ideas and activities in Treehouse Time! are developmentally appropriate for children under the age of 6. This includes the selective use of interactive media to extend children's active engagement as they explore, create, learn and imagine.

Young children gain a great deal of security from routine, so develop a logical pattern that can be used for each session, even if adult leaders rotate.

The lesson elements are designed to be flexible, so feel free to establish a routine that works best for your group.

For example, after children are checked in, you might follow this plan:

* After the children have arrived, say "It's Treehouse Time!
  Come and sit down in front of me on the rug."
* Look in the BOZ bag. Use children's responses to extend the
  conversation about the object or theme. Introduce the memory
  verse during this opening discussion.
* Do the activity rhyme.
* Show the video.
* Do a craft.
* Encourage the children to float back into free play after completing the craft.
* Pray and then serve the snack.
* Do the activity rhyme.
* Read a book.
* Say the closing prayer.
* End with the **BOZ Treehouse Time!** rhyme.
## Lesson Guide

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Lesson Overview

Just for You

Early childhood educators confirm what you might have already observed: Good vs. evil is a common theme for children beginning around the age of 4. The many variations of “cops and robbers” often reflect the characters and storylines of current superhero movies and TV shows. In general, play ends with the good guys winning, which is fine unless a child has been labeled as one of the bad guys. Avoid that potential problem: Redirect play by suggesting a round of hide-and-seek, a spontaneous treasure hunt or a game of chase without labeling children.

Memory Verse

I care about people.
(from Matthew 22:39)

Biblical Concept

Love others as much as you love yourself.

Concept in Action

I can care and share.
Let’s Get Ready!

Suggestions and ideas to help get your room, space or table ready.

Put a variety of small pumpkins and gourds in a bushel basket, or arrange them around a hay bale. If desired, you can also add colored, potted fall plants or other autumn decorations.

Ideally, provide a pumpkin or round gourd for each child to play with on arrival and to use in a later activity during this session. As children explore and play with the seasonal props, encourage them to smell the hay and feel the gourds’ texture.

Brooms are also used in this session, so they will be available for easy hay cleanup later. When children help clean the harvest area, play the song “We Can Do A Lot” (1:55) from BOZ’s Treehouse Tunes #1.

The following coloring/activity pages can be printed and copied for your MOPPETS.
Strong Fort

When we have problems, Jesus’ love protects us like a strong fort. Drew is having a problem in this picture. He’s talking to Jesus about it! Draw a strong fort all around Drew by connecting the dots.

I care about people.
(from Matthew 22:39)
I care about people.
(from Matthew 22:39)
Name: ________________

I care about people.
(from Matthew 22:39)
Gathering Rhyme

It's Treehouse Time! for you and me
So jump up high, count 1, 2, 3
Next clap your hands, then spin around
(whisper) Now please sit down without a sound

BOZ Bag

Use a color printer to reproduce the BOZ bag image available online at www.BozTheBear.com/moppets. Attach the image to a pillowcase or cloth bag.

Insert a small scarecrow. After a child takes it from the bag, talk about how the scarecrow is a pretend person, like a doll. Explain how it's made and why it has a certain facial expression. Discuss why it might look scary to a bird. Lead into this rhyme that explains what a scarecrow does:

I'm a little scarecrow on a farm
A pumpkin head and dry straw arm (hold hands around head, then dangle arms)
When I hear the big black birdies tweet (fly arms)
I scare them off before they eat

Then say, "How would you scare off big birds that are trying to steal your corn?"
Children will probably make scary sounds, clap, flap their arms or explode with a menacing "yeow!" Let them practice their actions and then repeat the rhyme, inviting them to make their scary sounds at the end of the rhyme.

Follow this segment by making the Chopstick Scarecrow craft.
Option 1: Broom Sweep (Game)

In advance, collect a variety of brooms and brushes, such as sweepers normally used with a dustpan, child-sized brooms, regular brooms, snow brushes, upholstery brushes and utility scrub brushes.

At MOPPETS, plan to make scarecrows before this activity so the scarecrow field can serve as a finish line for the broom sweep.

Line up the pumpkins and round gourds (the ones that were available as children entered the room) behind a masking tape line across the room from the scarecrow wall. Challenge children to race by using the brooms and brushes to push the pumpkins and gourds along the floor to reach the field of scarecrows along the wall.

If you have a large group, repeat this activity several times so all children will have the opportunity to race their pumpkins or gourds to the scarecrow field. Some of the brooms and sweepers will be preferred over others, so encourage children to share.
Option 2: Fall Bracelet (Nature Walk)

Put a loose masking tape bracelet around each child’s hand, sticky-side out. Wear the bracelets outside on a nature walk. Encourage children to lean down to the ground so that leaves, twigs, pods, seeds and other signs of autumn attach easily to their bracelets.

If possible, follow a path with both deciduous trees and evergreens.

Option 3: Autumn (Song)
(Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”)

Leaves are falling all around (twirl hands)
Catch them or they’ll hit the ground (lean over to catch leaves)
Squirrels scamper left and right (run in place)
Finding all the nuts in sight
Birdies flap their wings so fast (flap arms)
Going south, for summer’s past

Bears plod slowly to their bed (take big giant steps in place)
Where they’ll rest their tired head
I’ll help rake the leaves that fall (pretend to rake)
From the trees that stand so tall
Autumn’s here with colors bright (fold hands next to head as if sleeping)
Soon the earth will say “good night”
Crafts

Option 1: Chopstick Scarecrow

Give each child a small brown paper bag. Ask children to rip apart newspaper and stuff the scraps into their bags. When the bags are full, poke a blunt-tip chopstick into the bag. Tightly wrap a rubber band; a green pipe cleaner; or grassy, fiber-like raffia around the neck of the bag.

Invite children to give their scarecrows a face. Using a glue stick, they can attach a candy corn nose and googly eyes or use bits of gingham fabric for patchwork eyes. They can also use washable markers to draw a mouth.

Loosely tape the chopstick scarecrows against the wall with masking tape so they stand up. This “field” of scarecrows will be the target for the Broom Sweep activity.

Option 2: Apple Tree

In advance, cut open a brown paper grocery bag so it lays flat. Then cut out a very large tree trunk with branches from brown construction paper. Staple the trunk to a larger piece of paper so the grocery bag “tree” is mounted on a bigger background.

Completely cover a work table with plastic. Provide red bingo markers or corks for children to dip into a shallow disposable pan of washable red paint. Invite children to add red apples to the branches by using the markers or painting with the corks. Display the finished tree on the wall.
Snacks

Option 1: Orange October

Purchase plastic party picks for children to make an October food kabob.

Put each food in a separate dish so children can choose their own ingredients. Consider using halved black grapes, peach cubes, orange marshmallows, cheddar cheese cubes, mandarin oranges, mangoes and cantaloupe pieces. Make sure pieces are small so they’re not a choking hazard.

Children can make party-pick kabobs using the various foods.

Option 2: Sunny October

In advance, peel and slice oranges.

Give each child an orange slice on a small paper plate. Invite children to add baby carrots around the orange to make rays for the “sun.” Add dried cranberries to make a happy face.
BOZ Video Presentation

You will need: BOZ Treehouse Time! DVD #2, a television and a DVD player.

Select and play

RescueMan to the Rescue!

Running Time: 13:54

pre-viewing question

When BOZ and the Baxters are housecleaning, they find RescueMan. Do you know who RescueMan is?

post-viewing questions

Who was RescueMan?
Superman and Batman are other superheroes. We know they aren’t real, but it’s fun to pretend. What do superheroes do?
Additional BOZ resources

BOZ's Pumpkin Party
(In this book, Drew and Gracie prepare to meet their costumed friends for a party. This oversize book is appropriate for a group presentation, but children will also want to lift the large flaps during individual reading time. Encourage children to share the book or read with a partner.)

- **pre-reading question**
  In this book, BOZ and his friends are getting ready for a pumpkin party. What do you think they will do at a pumpkin party?

- **post-reading questions**
  What did BOZ and his friends do at the party? Who wore the best costume?

It's Fun to Share
(In this book, BOZ and his friends discover things God shares with us every day). Use the song “We Can Share” (1:40) from BOZ's Treehouse Tunes #2.

- **pre-reading question**
  In this book, BOZ shares with his friends. What do you think he shares? Let's find out.

- **post-reading questions**
  What did BOZ share? What do you share with others?

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Closing Prayer

BOZ Treehouse Time! is done today
But now before we end our play
We fold our hands and then we say
"Thank you, dear God, for this great day"

Thank you, God, for helping me share with others and care for them.
Thank you most of all for loving me.
Amen.