“Shapes” is the next theme for BOZ Treehouse Time! at MOPPETS. To introduce this topic, please help your child identify circles, triangles, rectangles and squares during everyday activities. For example, your child might feel the circular quarter in your pocket, eat a triangular piece of pizza or rectangular granola bar and use a square napkin. At MOPPETS, we’ll also discuss the very special shape for the month of February — the heart. Have fun exploring the world of shapes with your child.
Introducing *Treehouse Time*!

*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.

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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.
* Children 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.

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Lesson Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Overview</td>
<td>Key points and concepts of your lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let’s Get Ready!</td>
<td>Options to help you set the stage for your lesson, including themed coloring/activity sheets!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering Rhyme</td>
<td>Initial callout that BOZ Treehouse Time! is beginning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOZ Bag</td>
<td>A fun group participation guessing game to introduce the lesson’s theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Options for theme-based activities, including interactive songs, stories and poems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crafts</td>
<td>Make-and-take crafts that help extend the lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snacks</td>
<td>Simple, easy-to-prepare options that reinforce the lesson theme or season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOZ Video Presentation</td>
<td>Engaging theme-based BOZ video episode, along with previewing and follow-up questions to emphasize theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Prayer</td>
<td>Easy-to-learn closing verse and brief prayer for the end of each session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Lesson Overview

Just for You

Shapes are everywhere. Although we rarely stop to think about that, children who identify shapes are beginning to organize what they see. For example, a child who notices that the moon was a circle at bedtime last week but is only a quarter moon now has started to visually note differences. Developing this skill is critical as children move toward reading letters and working with numerals.

Memory Verse

God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

Biblical Concept

God created the world.

Concept in Action

I can recognize shapes.

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Shaping Up!

Let’s Get Ready!

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

Use four different colors of masking tape to make four geometric shapes on the floor: a rectangle, a square, a triangle and a circle. Children might want to walk in, around or on these shapes as they enter the room. These shapes will be used in a later activity.

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

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A Houseful of Shapes

Houses are full of shapes. How many can you find?

How many rectangles? □ _____  How many squares? □ _____
How many triangles? △ _____  How many circles? ○ _____

God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

Visit BozTheBear.com
Name: __________________

God Loves Me

God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

Visit BozTheBear.com
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 items representing these shapes: circle (wheel, bottle cap, quarter); triangle (pennant, musical triangle, sugar cone); square (napkin, book, cake pan); rectangle (dollar bill, envelope, picture frame); heart (heart-shaped candy box, pillow, locket). See if younger children can name the items without looking; older children can identify the items and their shapes.

Define the shapes as children pull out the individual items: a circle has no beginning or end, a square is the same on all four sides, a triangle has three sides, a rectangle has two short sides and two long sides, and a heart has two bumps and a point. After defining the shapes, help children use their fingers to make each shape.
Option 1: The Shapes (Song)

Walk on the shapes taped on the floor while singing these verses to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

I can walk a rectangle
Rectangle
Rectangle
I can walk on two long sides
Then on two short sides

I can hop around and round
Round and round
Round and round
I can hop around and round
A circle never ends

(Whisper) I tiptoe a triangle
Triangle
Triangle
I tiptoe a triangle
It always has three sides

I can jump around a square
Around a square
Around a square
I can jump around a square
The sides all look the same
Option 2: Cheer for Shapes! (Call and Response Cheer)

Ask children to repeat what you say. After they understand the general pattern, add clapping or foot stomping as you repeat the verses. Hold up the matching shape from the BOZ bag, or cut out construction paper shapes to use as you say each verse.

Give me a “T” for triangle.
How many sides? Response: Three
Say it again. Response: Three

Give me an “S” for square.
How many sides? Response: Four
What’s special about the sides? Response: All the same

Give me a “C” for circle.
What’s the shape? Response: Round and round
What’s special? Response: Never ends

Give me an “R” for rectangle.
How many sides? Response: Four
What’s special about the sides? Response: Two short, two long

Give me an “H” for heart.
What’s at the top? Response: Two bumps
What’s at the bottom? Response: A point
Boz, Drew, and Gracie wanted to play hide and seek. This would be a special game: They were going to hide behind shapes. As they found hiding places, Boz called out:

"Circle, triangle, rectangle, square
Shapes surround us everywhere.
Ready or not, here I come."

Gracie hid behind a vehicle with four shapes like this. (Hold up circle.) Boz saw Gracie’s feet peeking from behind a round tire. Where did Gracie hide?

Drew hid behind a large building with two long sides and two short sides. (Hold up rectangle.) What shape did Drew hide behind? Boz walked around the big house and found Drew. "Let’s play again," said Boz. The children ran to hide behind other shapes. Buster the dog was splashing in a wading pool that was this shape. (Hold up circle.) Drew didn’t want to get wet, so he hid behind the playhouse, which was this shape. (Hold up square.)

Gracie crawled into the tepee, which was this shape. (Hold up triangle.)

Boz started to say his shape rhyme:
"Circle, triangle, rectangle, square
Shapes surround us everywhere.
Ready or not, here I come," said Boz.

Boz found Drew right away. But he couldn’t find Gracie. Boz looked behind a bush that was this shape. (Hold up circle.) He looked behind a tall tree that was this shape. (Hold up triangle.) He even looked behind a box in the garage that was this shape. (Hold up square.) Where was Gracie?

Soon, Boz heard a giggle. He knew where Gracie was hiding. She was inside — what is this shape? (Hold up triangle.) She was inside the tepee.

As Gracie crawled out, she said, "That was fun. And Boz, I liked your rhyme."
"Let’s play again," said Drew. "But this time, Boz, it’s your turn to hide."

The children started to say the rhyme:
"Circle, triangle, rectangle, square
Shapes surround us everywhere.
Ready or not, here we come."

Boz didn’t immediately search for a hiding place. Instead, he looked down at his large green body. It would be hard to fit into a hiding place. Where would you suggest Boz hide?
Option 5: God Made Shapes (Poem)

God fills our world with many shapes
I see them everywhere
A rectangle and circle, too
He even made a square

But if I see a great big heart
Reminding me of love
That’s when I often think of God
Who loves me from above

Option 6: Follow a Shape (Shape Walk)

In advance, lay clean, round margarine lids in a path from your MOPPETS room to another area of the building. (Let others in the building know what you are doing so they don’t pick up the lids.) Then, have the children form a line and follow the circles out the door, asking the MOPPETS leader at the end of the line to collect the lids as you walk. Point out additional shapes as you walk through the hallways. Set up other shape paths in the building, using construction paper rectangles, triangles and squares as desired. Older children might want to follow a shape path using hexagons, ovals or diamonds.

As you plan your “shape walk” path, avoid going near the MOPS meeting room. This will prevent “mom sightings,” which may lead to unintended flare-ups of separation issues. Also, plan to end the walk at the office of the pastor or other ministry leader. (Of course, arrange this in advance.) This is an ideal way to introduce children to church staff.
Option 1: Thumbbody Card

Help children fold a half sheet of rectangular red, purple or pink construction paper in half to make a square greeting card. Along the bottom of the front, print “Thumbbody loves you.”

Pour a small amount of white paint into a dish. Invite children to dip their thumbs (not their entire fingers) into the dish and make thumbprints on the inside of the card. Older children can print their names and an “I love you” message.

If you have access to a copy machine, draw the line and write the memory verse on a single page before duplicating.

Option 2: Valentine Necklace or Bracelet

Purchase straw beads from a craft store or cut red and white straws into 1-inch lengths. Precut lengths of red yarn long enough to slip easily over children’s heads or around their wrists. If desired, have available foam or small construction paper hearts and a paper punch for making holes in the shapes for stringing. Children can string the beads and other items. When completed, knot the yarn.
Help children make a sailboat using an apple wedge or melon slice for the boat, a celery or pretzel stick for the mast and triangle cheese slices for the sails. Goldfish-shaped crackers can be added to “swim” near the boat. If it is not a choking hazard for your group, children can add a small candy heart at the top of the mast for a flag.
Shaping Up!

BOZ Video Presentation
You will need: BOZ Treehouse Time! DVD #1, a television and a DVD player.

Select and play
Shaping Up!
Running Time: 14:37

? pre-viewing question
BOZ and his friends build something that uses three shapes: a triangle, a circle and a square.
What do you think they build?
Let's find out.

? post-viewing questions
What did BOZ and his friends build?
Who else got a new house that used those shapes?

Give each child an empty cardboard roll to play “I Spy,” looking for various shapes around the room just as BOZ and his friends do in the video,

Visit BozTheBear.com
I Spy Shapes with BOZ

(BOZ and his friends discover shapes all around.)

?- pre-reading questions
As you show the book cover, ask,
“What shape are the hats BOZ and his
friends are wearing?
Do you see another triangle?
Let’s see what other shapes they find.”

?- post-reading question
After reading the book, hold open the last
page and say, “Let’s look at the different
shapes of food BOZ and his friends found.”
Pointing from left to right, ask children to
identify each of the shapes on the picnic table.

BOZ Treehouse Tunes #1
“Circle, Triangle, Square” (1:48)

BOZ Treehouse Tunes #2
“I See Shapes” (1:44)

Visit BozTheBear.com
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 all the shapes I see, but especially for the heart shape.
Seeing a heart reminds me that you love me.
Amen.