



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

God promised to fix what was broken.

THE BIBLE

Creation and the Fall: Genesis 1:26-30, 3:1-15
(Psalm 145:8-9)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | "Holy One"
- ACTIVITY** | Creation Lei
- ACTIVITY** | Beach Ball Prayers
- QUESTION** | Your Paradise
- SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 1:26-30; 3:1-13, 21-23
- THE BIG IDEA** | God promised to fix what was broken.
- VIDEO** | Promise, Episode 1
- QUESTION** | The Perfect World
- OBJECT LESSON** | Broken World
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 145:8-9
- ACTIVITY** | Pipeline Creations
- RESPONSE** | What can we do about it?
- MEMORY VERSE** | Memory Verse Waterfall
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - What are some of the things God created?
 - Where were the first humans living?
 - What did the first humans do to disobey God?
 - Read Psalm 145:9. How does God show compassion to all of creation?
 - We have all done something to break God's creation. Can you think of something you have done?
 - What has God done to fix it?
 - What can we do to fix it?
- ACTIVITY** | Back to Paradise
- MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



BY MIKE SHELEY

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR PRETEENS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

THE BIG IDEA | God promised to fix what was broken.

Give all these supplies to your preteens a week ahead of time and have them create your Big Idea banner. To help them out, share [this link](#) with them on ideas for doing chalk art lettering. Remind them that they don't have to be perfect. The goal is to create a visual that helps everyone see and remember the Big Idea for this week!

RESPONSE | What can we do about it?

Divide preteens into groups of three. Give each group one of these news articles, then allow them ten minutes to read the story. Have them share their responses to the questions below as though they were news reporters sharing them on TV or YouTube.

DISCUSSION

- Here are some additional questions you could ask your preteens:
- What is one way you might have broken your relationship with God?
- What is one way you might have your relationship with other people or another person?
- What is one way you might have broken your relationship with Creation?
- Do you have any thoughts on how God fixes what we have broken?



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



BY KIM DORPENYO

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

MUSIC | "Holy One"

Use simple, repetitive actions for kids with special needs. If they cannot do the actions, have them jump up and down. Movement always helps memory and senses. Have noise-cancelling headphones available for kids sensitive to loud sounds. For kids using wheelchairs, have someone "dance" them during fast songs and hold up their hands during slow ones.

ACTIVITY | Creation Lei

Allow the kids to create their pattern before they put the liners on the string. Provide a partner to string the lei for them, if needed.

ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Prayers

Provide a buddy they can catch the ball with or change the throw to a roll so anyone at any physical ability can participate.

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 1:26-30; 3:1-13, 21-23

Many kids with special needs are visual learners. Provide a print-out of pictures for them to follow, or provide the coloring page in your printables folder for them to color while you tell the story. If they need to move, provide them with their own pictures in the back of the room so they can re-enact the story themselves.



THE BIG IDEA | God promised to fix what was broken.

Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea.

- God (*point up*)
- promised (*pinky to pinky - like a pinky promise*)
- to fix (*put hands into fists and have one fist bump on top of the other*)
- what was broken (*cup your hands like a heart that is separated and bring them together*)

QUESTION | The Perfect World

Many kids with special needs write bigger letters than other students. Have an older student or one-on-one partner place their hand over theirs and write with them or have them draw a picture. Have someone write for them, if needed.

RESPONSE | What Can We Do About It?

Provide magazine pictures the kids can use for their stories.



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God promised to fix what was broken.

THE BIBLE

Creation and the Fall: Genesis 1:26-30, 3:1-15
(Psalm 145:8-9)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | “Holy One”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Try to get creative during worship time as kids learn about God! Show this Hawaiian worship song, “[Holy One](#),” and encourage the kids to sing and dance along!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use simple, repetitive action or have them jump up and down instead. Have noise-cancelling headphones available for kids sensitive to loud sounds. For kids using wheelchairs, have someone “dance” with them!

ACTIVITY | Creation Lei

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, prepare cupcake liners, straws cut into pieces, and yarn. Place containers of the liners and straw pieces around the room.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Allow friends to create their pattern before they put the liners on the string. Provide a partner to string the lei for them, if needed.
- Hey, friends! This month, we will pretend to be on a paradise island as we talk about some of God’s promises. To get ready, let’s make some leis! In Hawaiian culture, a lei is sort of like a necklace given to someone as a symbol of friendship or appreciation.
- Get a piece of yarn and look around the room to find some cupcake liners to be the flowers on your lei. String the flowers on your piece of yarn with the straw pieces in between the flowers. When you have enough flowers, tie the ends together and place the necklace around your neck.
- Let’s wear our leis every week to remind ourselves of all the wonderful things God has made!

ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Prayers

- It's time to play on the beach of our island paradise! God created this wonderful place for us. As a matter of fact, God created the whole world for us to enjoy and take care of! We are going to toss the ball around the room. When you catch the ball, call out something in God's world that you are grateful for and then toss the ball to someone else. When the ball comes back to me, I will end with a prayer.
- Dear God, what a wonderful world You've created! Thank You for creating this place and all that's in it. Most of all, thank You for creating each and every one of us. Help us to take care of the world and to take care of each other. Amen.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a buddy they can catch the ball with or change the throw to a roll so anyone at any physical ability can participate.*

QUESTION | Your Paradise

- **Would you like to live in an island paradise?**
- **Where would you consider your "paradise," or the perfect place to live?**
- **What are some things that would make that place special?**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 1:26-30; 3:1-13, 21-23

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Bookmark Genesis 1:26-30, 3:1-13, and 21-23 in your Bible and read them in small chunks as you tell the Bible story. Encourage students who are able to read to follow along with you, and while you read out loud, pause occasionally and tell the kids to shout out the next word in the verse.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a print out of pictures for them to follow or the coloring page while you tell the story. If they need to move, provide them with their own pictures in the back of the room so they can re-enact the story themselves.*
- At the very beginning of time, God created a world and then created humankind to live in the world and care for it.
 - *[Read Genesis 1:26-30.]* **What are some things God provided for the first humans? And what privilege did God give Adam and Eve?**
- That's right, God gave people the power to rule over all living things, and gave them everything they needed. But even though they were given a paradise, the first man and woman, like people do sometimes, messed up big time.
 - *[Read Genesis 3:1-13.]* **Why do you think Adam and Eve listened to the serpent instead of remembering what God told them to do?**
- The first humans disobeyed God. God had provided a perfect world for them, but they chose to ignore the rule about the tree in the middle of the garden. They broke the trust between themselves and God by disobeying. But do you know what God did even though God was disappointed by Adam and Eve's choices?
 - *[Read Genesis 3:21-23.]* **God showed love even after Adam and Eve did what God told**

them not to do. God clothed them and also prevented them from living forever, so they wouldn't have to live forever without God!

THE BIG IDEA | God promised to fix what was broken.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in large letters on a black poster board, using chalk markers in rainbow or neon colors. Position large tropical leaves in front to cover up the words. You can place pots in front of the poster and put the leaves in the pots, or tape the leaves to the poster. At the appropriate time, remove the leaves one by one to reveal the Big Idea.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give all these supplies to your preteens a week ahead of time and have them create your Big Idea banner. To help them out, share [this link](#) with them on ideas for doing chalk art lettering.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea. Example: God (point up) promised (pinky promise) to fix (put hands into fists and have one fist bump on top of the other) what was broken (cup your hands like a heart that is separated and bring them together).
- Things got messy and dark, but God promised to fix it all! Let's say today's Big Idea together: **God promised to fix what was broken.**

VIDEO | Promise, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

QUESTION | The Perfect World

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and something to write with.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Many friends write bigger letters than other students. Have an older student or one-on-one partner place their hand over theirs and write with them OR have them draw a picture. Have someone write for them, if needed.
- **What do you think the perfect garden was like?** At the top of your paper, write a few words to describe the paradise Adam and Eve lived in.
- Draw a line under your words, and then find a few friends and ask them to add words to your list.

OBJECT LESSON | Broken World

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids how to rip their paper in half when it's time. If possible, give the kids small pieces of tape to tape their pages back together.
- Each of you has a paper that describes a perfect world. Look at your paper and imagine that world.
- Now, rip the paper in half.
- When the first humans disobeyed God, it was like this ripped paper. What was perfect became broken.
- Thank goodness we have a God who continues to repair our broken world. **God promised to fix what was broken!**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 145:8-9

- God loves everything God created, even the people who mess up and don't do the things God wants them to do. We know from reading more in the Bible that God had a plan all along for fixing people's relationship with God — the one that was broken when Adam and Even disobeyed — because that's who God is!
- Let's read this Bible passage together that describes how amazing God is.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find Psalm 145:8-9 in your Bible and read it aloud to the kids.
- **How would you react if someone broke something you cared a lot about?** Probably not in a good way. But God reacts differently. God is willing to fix what is broken because God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and loves us that much!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Pipeline Creations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid one pipe cleaner. Instruct them to make a heart shape out of the pipe cleaner.
- When we create something, we have a sense of pride and we love what we create. That is how God feels about everything God created. God loves the world and God loves all the people of the world.
- Now, crush your pipe cleaner heart in your hand. Sometimes, people do things that destroy the world, or ruin their relationships with people. But **God promised to fix what was broken.**
- This time, straighten out your pipe cleaner and make another heart. God can take something that was destroyed and fix it. We can be a part of fixing what was broken, too.

RESPONSE | What Can We Do About It?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, find news articles about brokenness in the world. Find some related to pollution or climate change and others related to how humans relate to each other. Share each story with the kids and ask these questions.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Divide preteens into groups of 3. Give each group one of these news articles then allow them ten minutes to read the story. Have them share their responses to the questions below as though they were news reporters sharing them on TV or YouTube.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide magazine pictures that friends can use for their stories.
- **What is broken in this story?**
- **What do you think God will do to fix what is broken?**
- **What can we do to help?**
- Remember, **God promised to fix what was broken**, and we can help, too!

MEMORY VERSE | Memory Verse Waterfall

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into small groups, preparing as many water pitchers and bowls as there are groups. Fill the pitchers with water. Tell the kids to take turns in their groups pouring the water slowly from the pitcher into the bowl, while the rest of the group says the memory verse before the water runs out! Project or write Joshua 21:45 somewhere for the kids to see, or you can print the memory verse poster provided.
- In our island paradise, there are waterfalls. Waterfalls happen when water builds up and overflows. This kind of thing can happen in our hearts, too, when we know what's written in the Bible.
- As we pour water from pitchers into bowls, let's say today's memory verse.

PRAYER

- Dear God, we know You keep Your promises. Thank You for promising to fix what is broken and helping us learn how to do the same. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What are some of the things God created?
- Where were the first humans living?
- What did the first humans do to disobey God?
- Read Psalm 145:9. How does God show compassion to all of creation?
- We have all done something that messed up the beauty of God's creation. Can you think of something you have done?
- What has God done to fix it?
- What have you done to fix it?

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Here are some follow-up questions for preteens: What is one way you might have broken your relationship with . . . God? Another person? Creation? Do you have any thoughts on how God fixes what we have broken?

ACTIVITY | Back to Paradise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a copy of the Back to Paradise printable that they can write on and decorate. Tell everyone to cut out their "petal" and attach it to the poster paper to create a wonderfully unique flower!
- There are many things in this world that are broken. **Can you name some things?**
- **Write down one thing you can do to make this world a better place.**
- Look at this cool flower we made together! Let's thank God this week for keeping the promise to fix what is broken!



MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*