



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God promised us mercy.

THE BIBLE

God's Covenant with Noah: Genesis 8:15-22, 9:8-17
(Psalm 85:8-13)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LESSON OUTLINE

- MUSIC** | Paradise Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Crazy Animal Ball
- ACTIVITY** | Under the Rainbow Limbo
- OBJECT LESSON** | Make a Rainbow
- SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 8: 15-22, 9:8-17
- THE BIG IDEA** | God promised us mercy.
- VIDEO** | Promise, Episode 2
- ACTIVITY** | Animals of the Ark
- IMAGE** | Rainbows
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 85:8-13
- ACTIVITY** | Rainbow Scratch Art
- REFLECTION** | Mercy for Others
- MEMORY VERSE** | Verse Twist
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- How did God get Noah to save his family and the animals when the world was flooded?
- What promise did God give after they left the ark?
- How are we reminded of that promise?
- Read Genesis 9:13. What do you usually think of when you see a rainbow in the sky? Does this story make you think of a rainbow differently?
- What do you think mercy is?
- Describe a time when someone showed you mercy, or when you offered someone else mercy.
- Why do we need God's mercy?

ACTIVITY | Rainbow Prayers

MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)



WEEK 2

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 us mercy.

Discuss what "mercy" means more in depth with your preteens. Allow them to share their responses before talking to them about it. You might say something like . . .

- **Who likes when things are fair?** Right! Most of us like it when things are fair. That means if you do something good, you get a reward, while if you do something not-so-good, you won't. You might even get punished.
- Today we're using a word you might not be very familiar with. It's "mercy." Mercy is when you don't get the punishment you deserve. As strange as it sounds, it's a situation where you are glad that not everything is fair!
- For example, we learned last week how humans break the perfect Creation that God made, and we even break our relationships with God and other people.
- We deserve to be punished for that. When God doesn't punish us, that's God showing us mercy.

ACTIVITY | Animals of the Ark

Up the difficulty of the animals to act out, such as porcupine, anteater, sloth, walrus, llama, hyena, bat, buffalo, etc.

REFLECTION | Mercy for Others

Have each preteen write down on an index card the name of who they can show mercy to this week. Then, have them each find a partner. On the back of their index card, they are to write their partner's name and the name of the person their partner is going to show mercy to this week. Then have them pray for and with each other. Practice accountability by having preteens check in with each other to see how it went!

ACTIVITY | Rainbow Prayers

If possible, print out these Rainbow Prayer instructions in color or color/highlight them (making the text for "Red" actually red). Make the papers the size of a bookmark. Give them to students and challenge them to put them in their Bibles or tape them up by a mirror at home to remind them to pray this prayer each day this week.



WEEK 2

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 | Paradise Praise

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 | Under the Rainbow Limbo

Allow friends to crawl under the stick or step over the stick depending on their physical ability. If they don't want to play, ask if they want to hold the stick for the other kids.

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 8: 15-22, 9:8-17

Many friends 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.

Give the kids black paper and chalk and let them draw a rainbow while you tell the Bible story.

THE BIG IDEA | God promised us mercy.

Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea.

- God (*point up*)
- promised (*pinky to pinky - like a pinky promise*)
- us (*point to self or spread hands out in front of you*)
- mercy (*prayer hands*)

ACTIVITY | Animals of the Ark

This game is bound to get chaotic and noisy! Have noise-cancelling headphones available, if needed. For those that want to, designate a different area of the room for friends to play regular charades.

REFLECTION | Mercy for Others

Show pictures of people they can choose from, like an image of a woman that has the word “mom” under it (also dad, grandma, grandpa, teacher, pastor, aunt, etc.). Have friends point to the picture they choose.

MEMORY VERSE | Verse Twist

If Twister is too much contact, do the same thing but in a hopscotch form. Write each memory verse inside hopscotch spaces and have friends hop from word to word of the memory verse.



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God promised us mercy.

THE BIBLE

God's Covenant with Noah: Genesis 8:15-22, 9:8-17
(Psalm 85:8-13)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Paradise Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing some worship songs with the kids that talk about God's mercy and compassion. Here are a few suggestions:
 - ["Who You Say I Am"](#)
 - ["Rise and Sing"](#)
 - ["Rainbow"](#)
- ✂ **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 | Crazy Animal Ball

- Welcome back to paradise island! So far, we've been talking about God's promises. Let's start our time together with a game!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write silly animal actions on a beach ball. Toss the ball into the group. After providing the following directions, toss the ball out to one of the kids.
- When you catch the ball, notice where your left thumb is. After you toss the ball to someone else, you must do that action until the ball comes to you again or until the game is over.
- Today's Bible story features every single one of these animals!

ACTIVITY | Under the Rainbow Limbo

- Have you ever heard the song, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow?” Well today, we’re going under the rainbow with a popular beach game . . . limbo!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Make a rainbow limbo stick by wrapping a stick or pool noodle with crepe paper streamers in rainbow colors. Enlist the help of two leaders, or older kids, to hold the limbo stick. Line up the kids in single file. Begin with the rainbow about four feet from the ground and encourage the kids to walk under the rainbow, bending backward. If they touch the rainbow, they must sit out the rest of the game. After the entire group has gone through, lower the limbo stick a few inches. Continue until no one can go under the rainbow without touching the stick.*
- **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Allow friends to crawl under the stick or step over the stick depending on their physical ability. If they don’t want to play, ask if they want to hold the stick for the other kids.*

OBJECT LESSON | Make a Rainbow

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use a [prism](#) and a focused flashlight to create a rainbow on the wall or poster board. Make sure to practice this ahead of time!*
- This rainbow is made with a flashlight and a prism. A prism is a shape with two identical ends and flat sides connecting the ends together. A rainbow you see in the sky is made with sunlight and water from rain and clouds.
- The rainbow is a sign of a special promise from God. Let’s talk about the promise God made after a flood destroyed everything.

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

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 8:15-22, 9:8-17

- Last week, we learned about what happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. As time went on, other people disobeyed God and eventually, a huge flood covered all the Earth.
- But God showed mercy to a man named Noah and his family, because Noah loved God. God told Noah to collect animals and his family on a huge boat – an ark – to ride out the flood.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and cut out the figures from the Bible story printable. Attach the cutouts to craft sticks. Turn on a projector or lamp and hold up each character in front of the light so it casts a shadow on the projector screen. You can even recruit some volunteers to help you hold some of them up as you tell the Bible story. Use the prism from before to make a rainbow at the end of the story.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Give the kids black paper and chalk and let them draw a rainbow while you tell the Bible story.*
- **Can you imagine how much water there was after it had rained nonstop for forty days and nights?** Noah, his family, and all the animals had been on the ark for a very long time before they were able to set foot on dry land again.

- One day, Noah sent out a dove from the ark to see if there was dry land anywhere. The dove flew around for awhile, but came back because it didn't find any dry land. Noah sent the dove out a few more times, and then one day, the dove never came back because it found land!
- Then, everyone came out of the ark: Noah, his family, and all the animals. Noah made an altar to thank God for saving them. But God did an even better thing.
- God put a rainbow in the sky and told Noah that the rainbow is a reminder that God won't allow a flood like that to happen ever again. God showed mercy to people – and God has not gone back on that promise!

THE BIG IDEA | God promised us mercy.

- **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. When it's time, remove the leaves one by one to reveal the Big Idea.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Discuss what "mercy" means with preteens. Check your Preteen Hacks PDF for a more detailed conversation guide.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea. Example: God (point up) promised (pinky to pinky - like a pinky promise) us (point to self or spread hands out in front of you) mercy (prayer hands).
- There are times when we will do things that God would not want us to do. But when we tell God we are sorry, **God promised us mercy.**

VIDEO | Promise, Episode 2

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

ACTIVITY | Animals of the Ark

- There are so many animals on Earth today. Can you imagine how many animals were on the ark with Noah? Let's make some guesses about some of them now.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a game of Reverse Charades! Write out a bunch of animal names on pieces of paper. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front. Stand in front of that person and show the rest of the group the first animal name. The entire group has to act out or make noises while the volunteer guesses the animal!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Up the difficulty of the animals to act out, such as porcupine, anteater, sloth, walrus, llama, hyena, bat, buffalo, etc.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS:** Have noise-cancelling headphones available, and for those that want to, designate a different area of the room for friends to play regular charades.

IMAGE | Rainbows

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** If possible, show this video during the following discussion.
- We usually see rainbows after it rains, like after a big storm. The water in the raindrops or clouds are needed for light to reflect and be scattered through them.

- Just like a rainbow follows a big, scary storm, God reminds us of the promise of showing us forgiveness and compassion even when we don't obey God.
- A rainbow reminds us that **God promised us mercy**. Let's thank God for showing us mercy while we look at all these cool rainbows!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 85:8-13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find Psalm 85:8-13 and read it.
- **What are some words that stuck out to you from this psalm?**
- **What do those words tell you about God?**
- Only a God who is full of things like love, faithfulness, righteousness, peace – and more! – would be willing to show mercy to people who keep doing things God doesn't want them to do.

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

ACTIVITY | Rainbow Scratch Art

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [scratch art heart](#) and a stylus. You can also do this activity by [making your own scratch art paper](#).
- **What happens when there is no light?** That's right, it's dark and it's hard to see. That's what it's like when we make mistakes and poor choices . . . we need the light to show us the way God wants us to go.
- The good news is **God promised us mercy!** That means even when we lose our way, God forgives us and encourages us to start again.
- Use the stick to write your name on the heart.
- **Do you see the rainbow colors?** Did you know that you can't see a rainbow if there is no light? When we obey God, God's light can shine through us. . . like a rainbow! **God promised us mercy!**

REFLECTION | Mercy for Others

- Whenever we see a rainbow, we are reminded God promised us mercy.
- But there is another side to mercy, too. If God promised us mercy, God also promised mercy to other people.
- That means we are expected to show mercy to others as well. When we show mercy, we forgive others for the hurtful things they have said or done.
- **Can you think of anyone who you can show mercy to?**
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have each preteen write down on an index card the name of who they can show mercy to this week. Then, have them each find a partner to share their responses. Then have them pray for and with each other. Practice accountability by having preteens check in with each other next week to see how it went!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Show pictures of people they can choose from, like an image of a woman that has the word "mom" under it (also dad, grandma, grandpa, teacher, pastor, aunt, etc.). Have friends point to the picture they choose.

MEMORY VERSE | Verse Twist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write each word of Joshua 21:45 on the circles of a Twister mat ([like this](#)) in no particular order. You can write some words twice. Call up a couple volunteers. Use the spinner (ignore the colors) to tell the kids which arm or foot they need to use to touch the next word in the memory verse. (e.g., Player 1: Right hand –“Not”; Player 2: Left foot –“one,” Player 1: Left hand –“of,” etc.)

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Write each memory verse inside hopscotch spaces and have friends hop from word to word of the memory verse.

PRAYER

- Hi, God! Thank You for making everything and for promising to show us mercy. Every time we see a rainbow in the sky, we remember how much love You love us. Help us remember to love and show mercy to others just like You do!

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Why were Noah, his family, and the animals inside an ark?
- What promise did God give after they left the ark?
- How are we reminded of that promise?
- Read Genesis 9:13. What do you usually think of when you see a rainbow in the sky? Does this story make you think of a rainbow differently?
- What do you think mercy is?
- Describe a time when someone showed you mercy, or when you offered someone else mercy.
- Why do we need God’s mercy?

ACTIVITY | Rainbow Prayers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a small handful of rainbow-colored candies or cereal. Tell them to eat one piece at a time, using the colors to direct their prayer.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** If possible, print out these Rainbow Prayer instructions in color or color/highlight them (making the text for “Red” actually red). Make the papers the size of a bookmark. Give them to students and challenge them to put them in their Bibles or tape them up by a mirror at home to remind them to pray this prayer each day this week.
- **Red:** Ask God to show mercy for something you said or did that was unkind.
- **Orange:** Pray for God to help you show mercy to someone who has been unkind to you.
- **Yellow:** Ask God to show mercy for something you have done to harm something in the world God created.
- **Green:** Pray for God to help you take care of God’s creation.



- **Blue:** Ask God to show you how much you are loved when you are feeling down or “blue.”
- **Purple:** Thank God for the promise of mercy!

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.*