



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God's promises might take time.

THE BIBLE

Joseph's Dreams: Genesis 37:1-28

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Paradise Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Beach Bowling
- ACTIVITY** | Catch the Clownfish

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 37:1-28
- THE BIG IDEA** | God's promises might take time.
- VIDEO** | Promise, Episode 4
- ACTIVITY** | Turn Back Time
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Joseph's Coat Cookies
- ACTIVITY** | Green with Envy
- ACTIVITY** | Dream Big
- MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Joseph's Coat Play-Doh Mat
- ACTIVITY** | Tick, Tock, Time



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY DENA KITCHENS

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

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

ACTIVITY | Catch the Clownfish

For the younger kids who might find it challenging to aim a throw, place the clownfish toys around the room and give each kid a butterfly net to go around and catch the fish.

ACTIVITY | Green with Envy

Since the younger kids want to put everything in their mouths, you can make [this taste-safe slime](#) for this activity, just in case.

ACTIVITY | Dream Big

While the younger kids might be a little too young to plan for the future, we can help them dream about the possibilities! Collect a few "When I Grow Up" books and talk with them about what each of those futures might look like. You can even use flash cards or [matching cards](#).



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God's promises might take time.

THE BIBLE

Joseph's Dreams: Genesis 37:1-28

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Paradise Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play some fun worship songs for the kids to sing and dance along to! Review ["There are Promises"](#) and check out another fun song called, ["God Keeps His Promise."](#)

ACTIVITY | Beach Bowling

- Welcome back to our island paradise! Before we get into our Bible story today, let's play a couple of beach games!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up eleven (for Joseph's brothers) empty soda bottles and encourage the kids to take turns rolling a beach ball to try to knock them down.

ACTIVITY | Catch the Clownfish

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Wrap some tulle around a hula hoop to make it look like coral. Place the hoop on the floor. Line the kids up about four by six feet away from the hoops and challenge them to toss the [beanbag fish](#) into the center of the hoop.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Place clownfish around the room and give each kid a butterfly net to catch the fish.

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 37:1-28

- **INSTRUCTIONS :** *Set up an obstacle course as described below –see your Shop & Prep List for more details. Select a volunteer or team member to go through the obstacle course while you tell the Bible story.*
- Today, we are going to hear a story about Joseph. Joseph is a man who learned the hard way that God's promises might take some time to happen. Joseph had to be patient and wait.
- So, Joseph was part of a big family. He had eleven brothers! Can we count to eleven together? *[Count to eleven with the kids].* But Joseph was his father's favorite. As a matter of fact, Joseph's father, Jacob, had a special coat made for Joseph with lots of bright colors *[Toss a yard of brightly colored fabric over the volunteer's shoulders.]*
- Well, Joseph's brothers were not happy about that! They were jealous of the special attention Joseph was getting. Not only that, Joseph had dreams that showed he would have a special future.
 - First, he dreamed that his brothers' stalks of grain would bow down to him. *[Instruct the volunteer to run slalom style, like a skier would do, weaving among the pool noodle stalks. Pass out extra pool noodles to the kids and tell them to make the noodles "bow" as the volunteer runs by.]*
 - Then, he dreamed that the sun, moon, and stars were bowing down to him as well. *[Instruct the volunteer to crawl through the tunnel of stars.]*
- When Joseph told his brothers about his dreams, that made them even angrier. So, they planned to do a mean thing to Joseph.
 - One day, the brothers were tending the sheep out in the fields and Jacob sent Joseph out to check on them. *[The volunteer follows a winding tape path to the pit.]*
 - When Joseph's brothers saw Joseph, they put him down in a dry well while they ate their dinner. *[The volunteer climbs into the "pit."]*
 - Soon, some traveling merchants came by. The brothers got Joseph out of the pit and gave him to the merchants to take him far away to Egypt. *[The volunteer climbs out of the pit and follows a path to the back of the room.]*
- Poor Joseph. He had such big dreams, but now he is far away from home.
- But Joseph didn't give up on his dreams. He knew that those dreams came from God, and now all he had to do was wait for God to make them happen.

THE BIG IDEA | God's promises might take time.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write the Big Idea in large letters on a black poster board, using chalk markers in rainbow or neon colors. Tape large tropical leaves on top of the words. When it's time, remove the leaves one by one to reveal the Big Idea.*
- We don't always know when God's promises will happen, but we do know that they will be. . . at the right time. We just need to be patient and wait for God because **God's promises might take time.**

VIDEO | Promise, Episode 4

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

ACTIVITY | Turn Back Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS :** Allow the kids to go through the obstacle course as you repeat the highlights of the story. If the class is large, let others play with the closing activities until it is their turn.

PRAYER

- God, we know Your promises might take time. But we know You will keep Your promises because You always do. Thank You for keeping promises when the time is right.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Joseph's Coat Cookies

- Today, we heard about Joseph and his coat of many colors. Imagine your cookie is Joseph's coat. We're going to make it colorful like his was using sprinkles!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a gingerbread man cookie spread with icing. Let them shake colored sprinkles over the icing to decorate Joseph's coat.
- **Why were the brothers jealous of Joseph?**

ACTIVITY | Green Eyed Monster

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a handful of green slime or play dough and some googly eyes to make a little green monster to represent the feeling of not being happy for someone when something good happens to them.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Since the younger kids tend to put things in their mouths, you can make [this taste-safe slime](#) for this activity!
- When someone feels unhappy when something good happens to someone else, we sometimes say that it's because of the "green-eyed monster." Joseph's brothers had their own green-eyed monster come out when Joseph got special treatment from their father.
- **Why else were they mad at Joseph?** (Because of his dreams.)
- Joseph's brothers didn't act nicely because they were jealous. They didn't make a wise choice. But we can choose how we act toward someone when we are feeling jealous.
- **Has the green-eyed monster ever shown up in your life? Who have you been jealous of? Why?**

ACTIVITY | Dream Big

- Joseph had special dreams. **Do you ever remember your dreams?**
- **What is something you dream, or imagine, for your future?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paper with a big dream bubble. Encourage them to draw or write something about what they have dreamed for their future. Invite them to tell others what they drew.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Collect a few “When I Grow Up” books and talk with the kids about what each of those futures might look like. You can even use flash cards or [matching cards](#).

- Joseph had big dreams for his future. But so far in our story, things don’t look too promising for his future right now. He is being taken away from his home to a far away land.
- But remember how our Big Idea said **God’s promises might take time?**
- Joseph’s dreams will come true, but he doesn’t know when yet.
- Sometimes, it may seem like your dreams might not come true, but God’s promises might take time.

MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the same treasure chest and cards from the first week. Post the cards on a wall or board in order so the kids can see them. Help them read the verse together. Ask one kid to come pick one of the words and put it in the treasure chest. Then, read the verse together again, remembering the missing word. Continue putting words in the chest and repeating the verse until all cards are in the chest and the kids are saying the entire verse without cards.

PLAY TIME

While you’re waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute this week’s coloring page along with some crayons or markers. As the kids color, remind them of today’s Bible story and Big Idea. To reinforce today’s Big Idea, give them watercolor paint to use. As they wait for the paint to dry, remind them: God’s promises might take time.

ACTIVITY | Joseph’s Coat Play-Doh Mat

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide Play-Doh mats of Joseph in his coat with various colors of Play-Doh. Encourage the kids to design the coat with the Play-Doh.

ACTIVITY | Tick Tock Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a version of “Duck, Duck, Goose,” where instead of “duck,” kids will say, “tick, tock, tick, tock” and instead of “goose,” they can yell, “TIME!”

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.