



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

BREAKING NEWS

THE BIG IDEA

When times are tough, I can count on God.

THE BIBLE

Zephaniah: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Eyewitness Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Shoe Away the Storm
- ACTIVITY** | Listening Light

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17
- THE BIG IDEA** | When times are tough, I can count on God.
- VIDEO** | Breaking News, Episode 3
- ACTIVITY** | Terrible Day
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Sound Bites
- ACTIVITY** | Trust Chain
- ACTIVITY** | Traveling Hoop
- MEMORY VERSE** | | Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Picture Perfect
- ACTIVITY** | Newspaper Frame



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

BREAKING
NEWS

BY DESIREE BOARD

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 | Shoe Away the Storm

If you don't want the kids to remove their shoes, use a deck of matching cards instead. Ask all the kids to pick one card. Then, without a timer, encourage the kids to find their matching card.

THE BIG IDEA | When times are tough, I can count on God.

Ask an adult volunteer to read the Big Idea and then ask the kids to repeat it.

ACTIVITY | Trust Chain

Have an example chain already made with a certain color pattern. This will allow for the kids to follow the color pattern since reading might be difficult.

ACTIVITY | Traveling Hoop

Have toddlers hold up hula hoops for each other while one of them goes through. Give everyone a chance to go through the hoops.

MEMORY VERSE | I Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)

Assign an adult leader to each small group of kids and encourage them to work together to come up with moves for the verse. Then, ask them to present it to the other kids.



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

BREAKING
NEWS

THE BIG IDEA

When times are tough, I can count on God.

THE BIBLE

Zephaniah: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Eyewitness Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song, "[God is Greater](#)," and invite the kids to sing and dance along.

ACTIVITY | Shoe Away the Storm

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to stand in a circle. Instruct them each to take one shoe off and toss all of the shoes in the middle of the circle into a pile. When you say, "Go," everyone helps each other find each other's shoes. The only rule is that you cannot grab your own shoe. Everyone must pick up one shoe and return it to the rightful owner. Set your timer for thirty seconds and see if they can return all the shoes before the "storm" hits. Let them try again if they don't make it the first time.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** If you don't want the kids to remove their shoes, use a deck of matching cards instead. Tell all the kids to pick one card. Then, without a timer, tell the kids to find their matching card.
- Did you hear the news about the weather? They said a big storm is headed our way and it's important for everyone to have both shoes on before it arrives.
- Okay, everyone. We're going to need to work together on this. Let's see how quickly you can get your shoe back without getting it yourself!
- How many of you trusted that you would get your shoe back? Maybe you weren't even worried about it. You knew that somehow, you would have your shoe returned to you. You trusted!

ACTIVITY | Listening Light

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to line up side by side on one end of the room and tell an adult volunteer to stand on the other end. When the adult volunteer says, “Green light,” the kids start walking toward the volunteer. However, if the volunteer says, “Red light,” the kids must stop walking. If the kids don’t listen and are caught, they have to return to the start line.*
- In today’s story, we are going to see that there are consequences when we don’t listen.
- Let’s listen and see if we can make it to the finish line without consequence!

TEACHING TIME**SCRIPTURE | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Recruit an adult helper to play the part of Zephaniah. Provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the interview portion.*
- Today, we’re going to hear from a prophet named Zephaniah.
- Zephaniah was a prophet who lived in a place called, Judah. At that time, the people were paying more attention to other things and not God.
- Let’s hear what Zephaniah has to say!
 - **You:** Hi, Zephaniah! So, I hear you’ve got a special message from God. What has God told you to share with us?
 - **Zephaniah:** God has sent me to tell everyone that tough times are up ahead.
 - **You:** How come?
 - **Zephaniah:** Well, God isn’t happy when people put things before God. It makes God both sad and angry. So, God will take away everything that stands in the way of knowing God.
 - **You:** That sounds like really bad news!
 - **Zephaniah:** Yes, but if we let go of those things that break God’s heart, we don’t have to worry about anything. God will be happy. We can always count on God.
 - **You:** Phew. I’m glad there is good news. Thank you, Zephaniah, for those words from God.
- This sounds a lot like the breaking news from the stories we heard before! God told a prophet to warn everyone about what could happen because of their actions.
- Zephaniah called for the people to pay more attention to God instead of other things. That is something we can do, too. Whenever we are upset or when we don’t know what to do, instead of trying to find the answers ourselves, we can look to God first!

THE BIG IDEA | When times are tough, I can count on God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask two kids to run across the front carrying a banner that says, “Breaking News” while you play the sound effects from this [video](#).*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Ask an adult volunteer to read the Big Idea and then tell the kids to repeat it.*
- We interrupt these activities to bring you some breaking news. This is [Name of volunteer] with today’s Big Idea: **When times are tough, I can count on God!**
- Now, back to your original program.

VIDEO | Breaking News, Episode 3

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

ACTIVITY | Terrible Day

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, write a short story about a terrible day. Erase some words in your story, leaving some blanks. When it's time for the activity, ask the kids to help give you words for those blanks. Once all the blanks are filled, read the story to them (it should be pretty hilarious). End the story with the line, **when times are tough, I can count on God.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, please help us to remember the words of Zephaniah. Help us to trust you no matter what is happening around us. Help us to remember that when times are tough, we can count on You. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Sound Bites**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As the kids are eating their snack, use a microphone to ask the kids the following questions:
- **How was your week?**
- **Has there been a time that things were tough?**
- **What happened?**
- **Did you know you can count on God to help?**

ACTIVITY | Trust Chain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Trust Chain printable, and have kids trace each of the words. Then have them cut along the dotted lines to create four strips of paper. Help each kid make a paper chain with their strips, using tape or glue to connect the ends together.
- Let's make a paper chain to help you remember the Big Idea.
- Connect the edges of the first strip, "When times," to make a circle. Then, loop the second strip, "are tough," through the first one and connect the ends of that strip. Next, add the third strip, "I can," and then the fourth strip, "count on God."
- Now, you have a chain to remind you **when times are tough, I can count on God.**
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have an example chain already made with a certain color pattern. This will allow the kids to follow the color pattern since reading might be difficult.

ACTIVITY | Traveling Hoop

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to stand in a line, side by side while holding hands. When the adult volunteer says, "Go," the kids work together to pass the hoop from one end of the line to the other without letting go of hands. Set a timer and see how fast they can do it.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have toddlers hold up hula hoops for each other while one of them goes through. Give everyone a chance to go through the hoops.

- Counting on others and being someone others can count on is important.
- Let's count on each other to get this hoop from one end to the other!

MEMORY VERSE | I Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pair the kids for this activity. Share the memory verse with the kids. Then, tell them to turn to their partner and make up their own movements to go along with the memory verse. Ask a few kids to share their movements!

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Assign an adult leader to each small group of kids and instruct them to work together to come up with moves for the verse. Then, encourage them to present the moves to the other kids.

- Have you ever noticed that it's easier to remember something when you move to it? Let's do that with our memory verse!
- After I say the memory verse, turn to your partner and together, make up movements to go with the verse.
- The memory verse is, "**Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.**"
- Now that we've all done the exercise, does anyone want to show us the movements you came up with?

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Picture Perfect

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a photo booth that looks like a news anchor desk ([like this one](#)). Give the kids some props and ask an adult volunteer to take their pictures.

ACTIVITY | Newspaper Frame

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids a frame made out of card stock ([like this](#)). Tell the kids to color and decorate their frame with pieces of cut newspaper and other objects you may have. Once dried, encourage the kids to put a picture of themselves as a news anchor in the frame like from the photo booth activity above.

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