



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

I can show God's love by being kind.

THE BIBLE

The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:31-37;
(John 13:35)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Worship Time
- ACTIVITY** | Nose Goes!
- ACTIVITY** | Bandage Relay
- OBJECT LESSON** | Messy Kindness
- THE BIG IDEA** | I can show God's love by being kind.
- VIDEO** | Real Love, Episode 2
- BIBLE STORY** | Luke 10:31-37
- VIDEO** | "The Good Samaritan"
- OBJECT LESSON** | Missing Senses
- SCRIPTURE** | John 13:35
- REFLECTION** | Kindness is a Domino Effect
- REFLECTION** | Simple Acts of Kindness
- PRAYER**
- MEMORY VERSE** | 1 John 4:11

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - Why did the lawyer ask Jesus a question?
 - Who was the "neighbor" in today's Bible story?
 - How did the Samaritan show kindness?
 - Read John 13:35. How will other people know you are a follower of Jesus?
 - Describe a time when someone was kind to you.
 - What are some ways you can show God's love through kindness to your friends and family?
 - What are some ways you can show God's love through kindness to people you don't know?
- ACTIVITY** | Kindness Chain
- MEMORY VERSE** | 1 John 4:11



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.

VIDEO | "The Good Samaritan"

Consider showing [this video](#) if you have preteens as it has content that might connect better with older students, while still telling the same message from Luke 10.

OBJECT LESSON | Missing Senses

This game involves sensory deprivation to demonstrate loving others to the best of our abilities. In addition to this activity, have preteen students compete to see who can blow the biggest bubble with bubble gum. The twist: they have to open the packages of gum while wearing oven mitts. If after two minutes no one has managed to open their package, allow them to remove the mitts, then continue the contest. Afterwards, point out where kindness was shown to them. Then talk about how being "numb" and not able to feel during this activity is like being numb to people around us and not showing kindness.

REFLECTION | Simple Acts of Kindness

More footage of kindness in action! Show a portion of [this video](#) to students where real acts of kindness have been recorded. Be sure to preview and select what you will show ahead of time, as the full version is ten minutes long. Then discuss what stood out to them and how it connects to their lives.




MEMORY VERSE | 1 John 4:11

Use [this website](#) (or download the app) to help students memorize this week's verse. You could also use this method for future memory verse activities. For the best level of encouragement, community and accountability, set up an account and create a group for your class. Then, share this with students so that they have these great tools to help them learn and memorize the verse, along with some fun ways to compete and encourage each other in the process of memorizing Scripture.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MIKE SHELEY



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Mike Sheley is the Middle School Pastor overseeing ministries for preteen (5th-6th grade) and young adolescent (7th-8th grade) students at Mount Pleasant Christian Church in central Indiana. He has been in student ministry for over twenty years, with more than twelve of those years in his current position. In his current ministry, preteens participate alongside middle schoolers for weekly programming, but have their own lessons and special events. However, part of the health of the ministry is due to the close friendship and working relationship Mike has with the children's ministry team.

Mike is married and has three kids - one in college,

one in high school and one in middle school. Mike has had the joy and challenge of ministering to all of his kids as their youth pastor during their preteen and middle school years.

Mike's odd jobs over the years have included working at the his local Apple Store, Target, and at a couple fast-food restaurants. He has a weird fascination with presentations and fonts.

If you'd like to chat with Mike about spiritual disciplines with preteens, parent ministry or developing better presentations, reach out! He would love to connect with you!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Lauren Wierzba.

TEACHING VIDEOS: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Linda Moon, Jared Callahan.

PRETEEN HACKS: Mike Sheley.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS: Eugenia Lee.

MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE: Sunny Brown.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Josh Gosney, Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

LAYOUT DESIGN: Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Stephen Switzer, Ali Anne, Eddie Irvin, Ari Raines, Kellee Gentry, Tim Syman, Josh McLemore, Amber Gaddis.



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



BY EUGENIA LEE

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.

ACTIVITY | Noes Goes!

I can almost hear our students' giggles as they engage in this activity! It may be difficult for some students with weak gross motor skills or balance issues. Make sure the room is clear without any obstacles and stay in close proximity to keep students safe in case they lose balance and fall. If a student has weak control of upper body extremity with limited control of arms and hands, have a peer buddy be his/her hands and arms and help with the Vaseline and cotton ball. If a student uses a wheelchair, make it a team or a pair activity for everyone so they can play as a team.

OBJECT LESSON | Missing Senses

As this activity requires students to diminish the use of certain faculties, be mindful of different sensory responses. Some students are under-sensitive, or under-responsive, to sensory stimulations and don't seem to be bothered by loud noises, bright lights, or touch—even pain. These students will seek stimulation so provide tools such as fidget toys, weighted blankets or vests, and pressure massage. For over-sensitive students, prevent potential sensory overload by providing "sensory breaks" to calm their senses. Consult with parents beforehand for further suggestions unique to their child.




MEMORY VERSE | 1 John 4:11

This activity requires kids to recite the memory verse as quickly as possible. Some special needs kids have difficulty with speech and saying the verse fast may be challenging. Some alternative activities for such students might be piecing together pieces of paper containing memory verse fragments. It may be word strips and putting them together. Or try a team or a pair competition. A team may say it unison or each person can take turns saying one word at a time. Having the student with special needs say the first or last word in the verse would make it easier to memorize the words and sounds as the team recites the verse together.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

EUGENIA LEE



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Eugenia Lee currently serves as a volunteer leader at Newsong Church in Santa Ana, CA. Having children of her own with special needs, she started leading a support group of parents with special needs children and collaborating with children's ministry. In time, she learned that she loved working with children with special needs and realized it was her calling. She has worked on accommodating and modifying curriculum for students with different needs as well as training 1:1 buddies for many years. Helping children with special needs gave her so much joy that she decided to pursue a teaching career in special education. In a few short weeks, she will be ready to have her own classroom at a public school!

She is also working on a volunteer training manual specifically geared toward layperson volunteers working with children with disabilities in any setting.

Eugenia and her husband live in Orange county, CA with their four amazing children. Home is her favorite place on earth: spending time with her family, cooking up some BBQ, and sharing good conversation with close friends.

If you have any questions about curriculum accommodations and modifications, engaging with parents of special needs children, training volunteers, and so on, feel free to get in contact with her via email, Instagram, or Facebook!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Lauren Wierzba.

TEACHING VIDEOS: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Linda Moon, Jared Callahan.

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WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can show God's love by being kind.

THE BIBLE

The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:31-37;
(John 13:35)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Worship together (using a live band or YouTube videos) by reviewing last week's worship playlist:
 - ["John 3:16"](#) by JumpStart3
 - ["Your Love"](#) by Sovereign Grace Kids
 - ["I Love You"](#) by Yancy
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Add these songs to the worship playlist for your preteens: ["Real Love"](#) by Hillsong Young and Free / ["Love Won't Let Me Down"](#) by Hillsong Young and Free / ["I Just Need U"](#) by TobyMac.

ACTIVITY | Nose Goes!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place two tables on opposite ends of the room, and on each table, place a bucket, cotton balls, heart stickers, and petroleum jelly (i.e., Vaseline). Split the kids into two teams and assign them each a table. When you say, "Nose goes!", everyone will put a heart sticker on each cotton ball. Once all the stickers are on, one kid at a time will rub some Vaseline on their nose and pick up a heart cotton ball with only their nose! They race to the other side of the room, drop the cotton ball into the other team's bucket, return, and tag the next team member. The first team to give all their cotton balls to the other team wins!
- God's love is something you can't keep to yourself – you have to give it away! And the best way

to do that is by being kind to others.

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Make sure the room is clear without any obstacles and stay in close proximity to keep students safe in case they lose balance and fall. If a student has limited control of upper body extremities (i.e., arms and hands), have a peer buddy be his/her hands and arms and help with the Vaseline and cotton ball. If a student uses a wheelchair, make it a team or a pair activity for everyone so they can play as a team.*

ACTIVITY | Bandage Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Separate the kids into new teams. Designate one team member to be the “wounded person.” The teams will race to “bandage” this person by wrapping them up completely in as much toilet paper as possible (Be careful not to cover their mouth or nose). Play upbeat background music to add extra fun and energy to your environment.*
- One way we can show kindness is by helping someone in need, like helping someone up after they’ve fallen down or helping someone look for something they’ve lost. There are so many ways to be kind!

OBJECT LESSON | Messy Kindness

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask for one kid volunteer to help you pot a plant. Place the young plant into the pot and have the kid place soil on top of and around the plant.*
- For this plant to continue to grow, it needed to be re-potted into a new pot with new soil. We may have gotten a little messy putting the plant in its new home, but we did it because it was the right thing to do for the plant.
- Sometimes, being kind to others can be downright messy, but the best way we can show God’s love to others is by being willing to help them, even if it’s hard for us to do or at a time when we’d rather be doing something else. It may seem easier to walk away, but when we are kind and help others, the results can turn into something beautiful, just like this plant.

THE BIG IDEA | I can show God’s love by being kind.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have a kid or adult volunteer enter as the same character you created last week (it can be the same or a different volunteer as last week).*
- **Leader:** Hey, (character name)! You’re back! How are you? Are you feeling better? You were a bit emotional last week.
- **Volunteer:** I’m doing great! (*Speaks whimsically.*) I’ve had an incredible week sharing with my friends about how God loves everyone! Yesterday, I was in the middle of telling this to Ann when I slipped and. . . (*Starts wailing loudly.*)
- **Leader:** Oh, no. . . you’re crying again! What happened?
- **Volunteer:** (*Hysterically*) I got a boo boo!
- **Leader:** . . . a boo. . . boo. . . ?
- **Volunteer:** Yes, a BOO BOO! (*Talks very fast, while awkwardly reaching toward their back.*) It’s just been bothering me all day and I haven’t been able to reach it to put a Band-aid on it and I can’t find anybody to help me and–
- **Leader:** (*Interjects.*) This is perfect! I mean not for you, but it helps me reveal the Big Idea

today – **I can show God’s love by being kind.** Here, let me help you. (*Places Band-aid on Volunteer’s back.*)

- **Volunteer:** (*Breathes a sigh of relief.*) Ahhhh. . . thank you! You know what, this week I’m going to show God’s love by being kind, too! Gotta go! (*Sticks a Band-aid on Leader’s back and rushes out.*)
- **Leader:** But. . . I don’t need a Band-aid. (*Awkwardly reaches for the Band-aid on their back, then addresses kids.*) Can one of you help me, please?

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

VIDEO | Real Love, Episode 1

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

BIBLE STORY | Luke 10:31-37

- **Have you or anyone you know asked someone a trick question?** Well, that’s exactly what happened in our Bible story today. An expert of the law (i.e., a lawyer) put Jesus on the spot. Maybe the lawyer wanted to see how smart Jesus was. Or maybe the lawyer wanted to show off. But Jesus was ready for him!
- When the lawyer basically asks Jesus, “Who exactly is my neighbor?,” he was expecting Jesus to give him a controversial answer. Remember this was a time when the Israelites and Samaritans did not get along. So, depending on how Jesus answered, a lot of people might have gotten upset. But Jesus doesn’t answer. Instead, Jesus tells a story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prior to the Bible story, ask for volunteers to play the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan, and the injured man (you may also add a name card or fun costume pieces to distinguish each character). As you are reading Luke 10:32-35 aloud, indicate to each volunteer what you’d like them to do (e.g., “A priest happened to be going down the same road—okay priest, walk by!”).*
- The lawyer knew God wanted him to love his neighbor. But I guess he didn’t know “neighbor” meant everyone. What’s more, he didn’t know that to love someone is to show them kindness!

VIDEO | “The Good Samaritan”

- Let’s do a quick recap of today’s Bible story by watching this video.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) (or another video like it).
- Isn’t it interesting that the Samaritan decided to show kindness to someone he didn’t usually get along with? God’s love helps us to be kind to people we might not think to be kind to at first. When we realize God loves everyone, it just makes sense for us to love everyone, too!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider showing [this video](#) if you have preteens as it has content that might connect better with older students, while still telling the same message from Luke 10.

OBJECT LESSON | Missing Senses

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare the following items: 1) one item to smell, 2) one item to touch, 3) one item to see, 4) kitchen gloves, and 5) a blindfold. Have a few or all of the kids smell, touch, and see your items (you could set the three areas up as stations and have the kids rotate to each station). Ask the kids to describe their experience. Now, tell them to smell again while plugging their nose, touch while wearing gloves, and look while wearing a blindfold. Ask how this second experience was different from the first.
- There’s a difference between the act of doing something and doing something the best way you can. When we don’t fully use our senses, we miss out on fully experiencing things!
- When we continue to skip opportunities to show God’s love to others, we miss out on how great being kind can be!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Be mindful of different sensory responses. Some students are under-sensitive, or under-responsive, to sensory stimulations and don’t seem to be bothered by loud noises, bright lights, or touch—even pain. These students will seek stimulation so provide tools such as fidget toys, weighted blankets or vests, and pressure massage. For over-sensitive students, prevent potential sensory overload by providing “sensory breaks” to calm their senses. Consult with parents beforehand for further suggestions unique to their child.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have students compete to see who can blow the biggest bubble with bubble gum. The twist: they have to open the packages of gum while wearing oven mitts. If after two minutes no one has managed to open their package, allow them to remove the mitts, then continue the contest. Afterwards, point out where kindness was shown to them. Then talk about how being “numb” and not able to feel during this activity is like being numb to people around us and not showing kindness.

SCRIPTURE | John 13:35

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** If the kids have Bibles, have them open up to John 13:35. If not, read the verse to them.
- Last week, we learned God loved the whole wide world –that means EVERYONE – so much, that God’s own son, Jesus, was sent to save us. Isn’t God’s love truly amazing?
- We love God, but God loved us first. We did nothing to deserve God’s love, but God loves us anyway. In the same way, we should love others no matter who they are, and show kindness without expecting anything in return. And when we do, everyone will know we are followers of God!

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

REFLECTION | Kindness is a Domino Effect

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask one of the kids to line up a tin of dominoes for you while you are talking with the group. This task is probably better suited for one of your older kids.
- **Share a story about a time when someone was kind to you and how that made you want to**

be kind to others.

- Sharing God’s love is like a domino effect: by showing someone God’s love through kindness, we inspire them to do the same. And they inspire other people. And so on and so forth. (Conclude by choosing a volunteer to gently knock over one domino to demonstrate the effect.)

REFLECTION | Simple Acts of Kindness

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a video to show about simple acts of kindness from the following: “[5 Simple Acts of Kindness](#)”, [this heartwarming Thai life insurance video](#), or “[Kindness Boomerang](#).” Instruct the kids to look for all the ways people are showing kindness to others. After the video, encourage kids to share their observations by discussing the following questions:
- **What were some of the acts of kindness you saw in the video?**
- **Which of the acts of kindness seemed easiest? The hardest?**
- Showing kindness doesn’t always have to be a huge thing. We can be kind to others even in the smallest ways.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Show a portion of [this video](#) to students where real acts of kindness have been recorded. Be sure to preview and select what you will show ahead of time, as the full version is ten minutes long. Then discuss what stood out to them and how it connects to their lives.

PRAYER

- Dear God, being kind to others can sometimes be hard to do. Please help me to be like the Good Samaritan and help those who are in need. I want to show Your love to everyone by being kind!

MEMORY VERSE | 1 John 4:11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Engage kids in some friendly competition with each other by reciting the memory verse as fast as they can. You could do this informally by letting everyone say it at once, or you could use a stopwatch to time each person (You could even give a prize to the person who can say it the fastest).
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Some students have difficulty with speech and saying the verse fast may be challenging. Some alternative activities for such students might be piecing together pieces of paper containing memory verse fragments. It may be word strips and putting them together. Or try a team or a pair competition. A team may say it unison or each person can take turns saying one word at a time. Having the student with special needs say the first or last word in the verse would make it easier to memorize the words and sounds as the team recites the verse together.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Use [this website](#) (or download the app) to help students memorize this week’s verse. You could also use this method for future memory verse activities.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Why did the lawyer ask Jesus a question?
- Who was the “neighbor” in today’s Bible story?
- How did the Samaritan show kindness?
- Read John 13:35. How will other people know you are a follower of Jesus?
- Describe a time when someone was kind to you.
- What are some ways you can show God’s love through kindness to your friends and family?
- What are some ways you can show God’s love through kindness to people you don’t know?

ACTIVITY | Kindness Chain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare strips of construction (or standard) paper that are roughly 1” wide and 8.5” long. Give each kid a strip of paper and have them write one way they can show kindness this week (students are welcome to make more than one, if they’d like). Take the finished strips and loop them together using glue, tape, or a stapler to fasten the ends of each strip together. Consider displaying your chain somewhere in your ministry space.
- What happens when a link in a chain snaps? The entire chain is broken! Let’s keep our chain intact by showing God’s love this week and being kind to everyone.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 John 4:11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month’s memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we’ve provided.