



# WEEK 2

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



### **BIG IDEA**

I am safe because  
God watches over me.

### **THE BIBLE**

**The Lord is My Shepherd:** Psalm 23;  
(Philippians 4:6-7, 19)

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## LARGE GROUP TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | Telephone Charades
- **ACTIVITY** | Step by Step
- **QUESTION** | What Keeps Us Safe?
- **THE BIG IDEA** | I am safe because God watches over me.
- **VIDEO** | Sing, Episode 2
- **SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 23
- **VIDEO** | Being a Sheep
- **STORY** | What God Has Done for Me
- **SCRIPTURE** | Philippians 4:6-7, 19
- **ACTIVITY** | Collecting Sheep
- **REFLECTION** | People Who Watch Over Me
- **PRAYER**
- **MEMORY VERSE** | At the Opera

## SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - What is a shepherd?
  - What are some ways a shepherd takes care of the sheep?
  - How is God like a shepherd to each of us?
  - Read Psalm 23:6. What do you think it means that goodness and mercy will always follow you?
  - When are some times when you might not feel safe?
  - Sometimes, God can help us with the help of other people. What are some ways you can be helpful to others?
  - Which part of Psalm 23 do you like best?
- **ACTIVITY** | Jar O' Promises
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Psalm 95:1 (NIV)



# WEEK 2

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS



**BY ASHLEY SIDER**

### 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.

#### **ACTIVITY | Step by Step**

To make this game a bit more challenging, add obstacles around the object. Ask students to find the object, blindfolded, and to avoid the objects if possible. Other students could act as the objects if needed.

#### **SCRIPTURE | Psalm 23**

Provide kids with drawing supplies and have them visualize and draw the things described as you read Psalm 23.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

# ASHLEY SIDER



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Ashley works at Messiah College as the Assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Relations and serves her church by teaching Elementary Sunday School. Before her current role, she worked in Youth Ministry for several years, first as a volunteer, then assistant, and then director. She's also done some guest teaching in other churches and loves it!

When she was in middle/high school, her faith was deeply impacted by a short-term missions trip, which led her to go to college to learn more about cross-cultural ministry and the importance of learning about global differences. One of her favorite things to do is to create trainings for other groups going on

missions trips to help prepare them for their journey. She is an energetic, hardworking, easily excitable gal who was made to help inspire others. (Read: INTJ, Enneagram 3, and StrengthFinders Future/Strategic/Learner through and through.) Though she spends most of her free time reading, writing, and taking photos, she loves an unscheduled weekend at home, spending time outside and hanging with her husband and daughter in Pennsylvania.

If you'd like to chat further about the enneagram, using social media for your ministry, or picking a paint color for your front door, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

**ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Kellee Gentry.

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

**PRETEEN HACKS:** Ashley Sider.

**SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS:** Sue Spiesz.

**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 Synan, Josh McLemore, Amber Gaddis.



# WEEK 2

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



**BY SUE SPIESZ**

### *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.

#### **REFLECTION | People Who Watch Over Me**



Modeling is a powerful instructional tool for all kids, but especially for those with special needs. Give specific examples from your own life that answer the reflection questions. Your examples should be clear, and its wording should be concise and consistent.

#### **ACTIVITY | Jar O' Promises**

Have the promises already cut out for the students who may have difficulty with fine motor skills, and using scissors.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

# SUE SPIESZ

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My name is Susan, and I LOVE writing Special Needs Hacks for Grow Curriculum, and Student Ministries!!!!

For my profession, I teach Special Education to struggling preschoolers, and also teach school-aged students who are hospitalized, or home-bound.

One of my favorite jobs is teaching at the local college in the Exceptional Education Department!! So much fun!! I was so honored to be part of the launching of the special needs ministry at our church over 15 years ago, and now we help other churches in the area begin their own special needs ministries.

It's been an awesome experience! I have 4 amazing children who are crazy fun and outgoing! They range from 11 years old to 27!!

In my spare time I enjoy cycling and riding my jet ski on the great Niagara River! I've been caught zip lining in my backyard, and unicycling down my street. Life is fun around here!

Please feel free to reach out to me to chat about special needs curriculum and ministry. I'd love to hear from you!

**ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Kellee Gentry.

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# WEEK 2

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### **BIG IDEA**

I am safe because  
God watches over me.

### **THE BIBLE**

**The Lord is My Shepherd:** Psalm 23;  
(Philippians 4:6-7, 19)

## **LARGE GROUP TIME**

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

### **MUSIC | Worship**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Sing a few worship songs with your kids! Choose any song(s) you and your kids like, but you might want to include one or more of the following:*
- "I Am Not Forgotten" by Israel & New Breed ([video](#))
- "Goodness, Love, and Mercy" by Chris Tomlin ([video](#))
- "Surely Goodness" by Israel Houghton ([video](#))

### **ACTIVITY | Telephone Charades**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask for about five volunteers to stand in a line all facing the same direction (so the audience sees their profiles). Tap the last person in line on the shoulder, and show the phrase they need to act out to them and the audience only. You can write it on a piece of paper or a small dry erase board. Then have that person tap the next person in line. The first person acts out the clue. The second person then taps the third person in line, and copies what was acted out to them by person 1. This continues and the last person has to try to guess what the original clue was. This game works best with actions like riding a bike, ice skating, sweeping the floor, doing the dishes, playing the saxophone, etc.*
- Did you notice that even though our friends were trying very hard to follow exactly what they saw, the actions kept changing? Following is actually not an easy thing to do!

**ACTIVITY | Step by Step**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place an object in a highly visible, but somewhat distant place. Explain that to win the game, all anyone has to do is get from where they are now to the other side and pick up the object. But in order to get there, they have to follow your step-by-step instructions (such as “Take two steps to your right,” “Spin around twice,” “Hop three times,” etc.). Do this until someone reaches the object.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** To make this game a bit more challenging, add obstacles around the object. Ask students to find the object, blindfolded, and to avoid the objects if possible. Other students could act as the objects if needed.
- Even though you had to follow a set of silly instructions to get to your goal, you knew you would get there, and that you were safe to do what was said. That’s because I was watching over you!

**QUESTION | What Keeps Us Safe?**

- What are some things that keep us safe?
- Do these things ALWAYS keep us safe?

**THE BIG IDEA | I am safe because God watches over me.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in a somewhat small font somewhere in the front of the room so it can’t be easily read from where the kids are sitting. Then, give a kid volunteer a pair of binoculars to see if they can find the Big Idea and read it aloud for the group.
- This week’s Big Idea: **I am safe because God watches over me.**

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

**VIDEO | Sing, Episode 2**

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

**SCRIPTURE | Psalm 23**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the passage in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide kids with drawing supplies and have them visualize and draw the things described as you read Psalm 23.
- **Does anyone remember who King David is? Does anyone remember what his job was before he became king?**
- That’s right, David used to be a shepherd. So he knows what he’s talking about when he describes how a shepherd takes care of their sheep in this psalm.
- The shepherd makes sure the sheep have food and water. The shepherd makes sure the sheep stay on the right paths. The shepherd protects the sheep from harm.
- God loves us and takes care of us the same way a shepherd loves and takes care of sheep. Sheep don’t always know how to take care of themselves, so they always need a shepherd looking out for them. We are all a lot like sheep because we need help sometimes, too. Good thing we have a great shepherd like God to take care of us!



**VIDEO | Being a Sheep**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch [this video](#), "On Psalm 23. . . and Being a Sheep," a creative poem based on Psalm 23.

**STORY | What God Has Done for Me**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a time when God helped you. Emphasize how you knew God was watching over you in this story.
- **Can you think of a time when God helped you?**

**SCRIPTURE | Philippians 4:6-7, 19**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- God cares about the things we are worried about. But instead of worrying, we can feel safe and secure because God watches over us!
- Whenever we have a problem, God can help us solve them! Whenever we need something, we can trust God to help us out.
- Sometimes, God's help doesn't look exactly as we'd expect, but we can always trust God will take care of us.
- I am safe because God watches over me!

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

**ACTIVITY | Collecting Sheep**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, spread out a bunch of cotton balls on the floor. Ask for two volunteers, and give each of them small bucket and a pair of chopsticks. Their job is to collect as many cotton ball "sheep" into their buckets as they can. Whoever has the most in their bucket wins!

**REFLECTION | People Who Watch Over Me**

- Think about the people God has put in your life to take care of you. **Who are they? And how do they take care of you?**
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Give specific examples from your own life that answer the reflection questions. Your examples should be clear, and its wording should be concise and consistent.

**PRAYER**

- Dear God, Thank you for being our shepherd and giving us everything we need. Help us to turn to you when we aren't feeling so great in our hearts, like when we are worried or scared or stressed or angry. We know we are safe because you watch over us.



### MEMORY VERSE | At the Opera

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Since this series is called, "Sing!" try different ways to sing the memory verse. This week, encourage the kids to sing the memory verse like an opera singer. You can use the same melody you made last week or a new one!*

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- What is a shepherd?
- What are some ways a shepherd takes care of the sheep?
- How is God like a shepherd to each of us?
- Read Psalm 23:6. What do you think it means that goodness and mercy will always follow you?
- When are some times when you might not feel safe?
- Sometimes, God can help us with the help of other people. What are some ways you can be helpful to others?
- Which part of Psalm 23 do you like best?

### ACTIVITY | Jar O' Promises

- One thing that can help us remember God will always take care of us is knowing the many promises God has made to us!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a copy of the printable and a mason jar. Have the kids cut out each promise, then ask each kid to look up one of the verses and read it aloud to the group, or you can read it for them. Have them put all their promises into their mason jar.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have the promises already cut out for the students who may have difficulty with fine motor skills, and using scissors.*
- **Which of these promises do you need most today? When are some times you might need to remember these promises?**

### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 95:1 (NIV)

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