



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

I can take risks for God.

THE BIBLE

Rahab Helps the Israelite Spies: Joshua 2:1-15;
(Philippians 4:10-13)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | “You Make Me Brave”
- ACTIVITY** | Cup and Ball Hunt
- ACTIVITY** | Hide the Spy
- POLL** | Epic Risk-Takers
- THE BIG IDEA** | I can take risks for God.
- VIDEO** | Epic, Episode 3
- SCRIPTURE** | Joshua 2:1-15
- ACTIVITY** | Story Rope
- STORY** | A Risky Story
- SCRIPTURE** | Philippians 4:10-13
- ACTIVITY** | Secret Mission
- REFLECTION** | Epic News
- PRAYER**
- MEMORY VERSE** | Word Search

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - What risks did the spies take by going to Jericho?
 - What risks did Rahab take by protecting the spies?
 - What risks did Paul take by building new churches for God?
 - Read Philippians 4:13. What does this verse tell us about God’s response to your taking risks for God?
 - Why is it important to take risks for God?
 - When do you think it is okay to take a risk?
 - What is one risk you think you can take for God?
- ACTIVITY** | Remembrance Bracelets
- MEMORY VERSE** | 1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



BY HEATHER HENDERSON

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.

STORY | A Risky Story





Involve your preteens in this segment. Either have kids share a relevant story, or if no one has anything to share, have the kids craft a story that may require taking a risk for God.

REFLECTION | Epic News

Ask students to share some stories they know of situations that seem unjust—bullying at school, kids who live with food insecurity, etc.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

HEATHER HENDERSON

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Heather is currently a self-employed writer, speaker, coach, and ministry partner. In addition to writing this awesome series, she writes for several other publications regularly. She is also on the teaching rotation at a couple of churches in the Washington, D.C. metro region. She is on the board of directors for a foster home in Mexico and also for a youth conference held in the Mid-Atlantic region each year. Heather is a former youth pastor and associate pastor at a large and culturally and racially diverse church in Maryland. She has coached and led tons of volunteers and paid ministry staff over the years, and she is passionate about helping churches tell

people the good news of Jesus. She is also a strong advocate of women in vocational ministry and leads electives and workshops for women and girls and their advocates any chance she gets! Heather is married to her technology genius husband, and they have three kids, aged 10, 5, and 3. They live in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. with their dog June and their fish Pepperoni.

If you'd like to chat with Heather about church leadership, about women in vocational ministry, or about how to make the perfect apple pie, reach out. She would love to connect with you!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Abby Burg.

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

PRETEEN HACKS: Heather Henderson.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS: Abby Burg.

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 3

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



BY ABBY BURG

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.

SCRIPTURE | Joshua 2:1-15

If you have kids with reading disabilities, consider having the kids pair up to find the verse in their Bibles together. Provide reminders to the group as they find the verse (i.e. "The first book of the Bible is Genesis. Then comes Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, then Joshua," "The big numbers on the page are for the chapters and the little numbers are for the verses," etc.).

MEMORY VERSE | Word Search

For kids with fine motor challenges, provide markers or chunky crayons that are easier to grip as drawing utensils. For kids with reading disabilities, consider talking through strategies to complete the word search (e.g., "The word we're looking for starts with 's.' Let's find an 's' somewhere on this page.") and/or having the kids work in pairs, encouraging teamwork to complete the puzzle.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ABBY BURG

 [instagram.com/abbyjburg](https://www.instagram.com/abbyjburg)



Abby Burg has been living the adventurous life of the unexpected over the past decade. After seven years in both children’s ministry and executive ministries in upstate New York and her home state of Delaware, she has taken on a new endeavor in serving missionaries around the world through ReachGlobal, the international mission of the Evangelical Free Church of America. As a missionary kid herself, interacting with ReachGlobal staff has been a joyful extension of her ministry. Blending her training in Inclusive Childhood Education at Houghton College (class of 2012) with her heart for Jesus, she is passionate about making the Bible real to kids and believes that disciple-making should be active, full of fun, and sometimes a little messy. . . all while pointing to Jesus. Whether serving as a kids camp speaker, “pinch-hitting” on the children’s

church rotation, or training fellow kidmin leaders, Abby enjoys every opportunity she gets to advance the kingdom in the hearts of kids and those that lead them.

Abby lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota with her high-school sweetheart and husband of nine years, Andrew. They love Saturday morning breakfast dates, ice skating, road trips, and writing post cards to their niece and nephew. Their lovable golden retriever, Charlie, is the most popular dog on the block with his trademark goofy grin and eagerness for belly rubs.

If you’d like to chat with Abby about creative worship experiences for kids, anything written by Henri Nouwen, or living life as an enneagram one, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon, Abby Burg.

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WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can take risks for God.

THE BIBLE

Rahab Helps the Israelite Spies: Joshua 2:1-15;
(Philippians 4:10-13)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | “You Make Me Brave”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance along with you.
- **What is your favorite part of this song?**

ACTIVITY | Cup and Ball Hunt

- Hey, friends! I’m so glad you’re here for our Epic adventures of God’s people in the wilderness. Today, we’re going to learn about more spies!
- Let’s start with a different kind of hide and seek game.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place cups upside down around the room with small balls hidden under half of them. Ask the kids to look under one cup at a time to find a ball. If they find one, ask them to remove it and place it under another cup. Set a timer for five or ten minutes to signal the end of the game.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If you have kids with limited mobility due to physical disabilities, consider having the kids work in partners. Partners can work together to decide which cup to look under and under which cup to hide the ball - if they’ve found one.

ACTIVITY | Hide the Spy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose one kid to be “it” and two people to be “the spies.” While “it” closes their

eyes and counts to 20, everyone helps the “spies” hide. When “it” is done counting, everyone tries to mislead “it” so that they can’t find the spies!

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids whose movement is impaired by a physical disability, alternatively you can play a hiding game while seated at a table. Have one kid designated as “It” close their eyes while another kid is given a small stuffed animal or object to hide in their lap. When “It” opens their eyes, they must guess who has the stuffed animal or object hidden in their lap.

- See how you worked together to hide the spies so that it was harder for the “it” person to find them? I know that’s not how you normally play hide-and-seek, but like we’ll learn from today’s Bible story, sometimes it’s necessary to break the rules to do what is right!

POLL | Epic Risk-Takers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make 4 paper signs with these statements: “I am cautious: I don’t like taking risks” / “I am calculated: I take risks after thinking it through” / “I am spontaneous: I take some risks” / “I am risky: I love taking risks!” Place them in 4 different corners of the room, and ask kids to stand in the corner that best describes them.
- **In which situations would it be okay to be spontaneous or risky?**
- **In which situations would it be better to be cautious or calculated?**

THE BIG IDEA | I can take risks for God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a bag of treats (such as small prizes, candy, etc.). Ask for a kid volunteer and ask them to choose “heads” or “tails.” If they choose “tails,” for example, tell them every time the coin lands on “tails,” they will get a small prize. After they have gathered quite the fortune (like five to ten items), tell them on the next flip, if it lands on “tails,” they will get double the amount they already have, but if it lands on “heads,” they will lose it all. Then, give them the choice to just walk away with what they have, or flip the coin to get double.
- What is it like to take a risk? It’s sometimes hard to decide because you don’t know what’s going to happen next! But when God is in the picture, we don’t have to worry. We learned to trust God last week, right? And when we trust God, a risk for God is worth it. That’s today’s Big Idea: **I can take risks for God.**

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

VIDEO | Epic, Episode 3

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

SCRIPTURE | Joshua 2:1-15

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find Joshua 2:1-15 in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it aloud.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If you have kids with reading disabilities, consider having the kids pair up to find the verse in their Bibles together. Provide reminders to the group

as they find the verse (i.e. “The first book of the Bible is Genesis. Then comes Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, then Joshua,” “The big numbers on the page are for the chapters and the little numbers are for the verses,” etc.).

- **What is a risk?** In today’s Bible story, there is a lot of risk-taking happening!
- The two spies from Israel took a huge risk for God by sneaking into Jericho. Something terrible could have happened to them if they were caught by the king of Jericho. But they did it anyway, because they knew that their job of spying on the land was a very important one.
- Rahab also took a big risk for God by hiding the spies from the king of Jericho. She could have turned them in—that would have been the safer choice. She might have even gotten a reward for doing it. But somehow she knew that God was about to give Jericho over to the Israelites, and she wanted to do what was right in God’s eyes.
- Taking risks is tricky. You should never do anything dangerous or something that breaks the law—God would not be pleased with that! But you will find that there are times when you need to take a risk in order to do something that would please God.
- Let’s talk about it: **How do you know when it’s okay to take a risk?**

ACTIVITY | Story Rope

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass around a length of rope. Have kids work together to retell the story. Each kid tells one part of the story, and makes a knot in the rope. Then they pass it to the next kid, who says what happens next, then makes a knot.

STORY | A Risky Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story about a time when you, or someone you know took a risk for God. Try to make your story about something small that kids might be able to relate to.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Involve your preteens in this segment. Either have kids share a relevant story, or if no one has anything to share, have the kids craft a story that may require taking a risk for God.

SCRIPTURE | Philippians 4:10-13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find Philippians 4:10-13 in your Bible and read it aloud.
- Paul took a lot of risks for God. In this letter, Paul is telling his friends that he trusts God in everything. Because he trusts God, he knows that God will help him with whatever he is facing.

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

ACTIVITY | Secret Mission

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In advance, prepare the Secret Mission envelopes. Give one envelope to each kid or small group. Ask them to open the envelope and read the mission. After asking the following questions, compare missions and answers.
- **Would completing this mission involve taking risks for God? How?**

REFLECTION | Epic News

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ahead of time, find newspaper articles or print up online articles of current events which call for political or social justice action. Share these with the kids.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask students to share some stories they know of situations that seem unjust—bullying at school, kids who live with food insecurity, etc.
- **How could you take risks to work toward the Kingdom of God in these situations?**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a poster with the word “Kapow!” in the middle (something like [this](#)). Invite kids to write down different ways they each can take a risk for God. Read each one together before this prayer.
- God, we thank you for helping us to take risks for you. Help us to be wise to know which risks to take. Give us EPIC faith to do great things for you.

MEMORY VERSE | Word Search

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using an [online word search generator](#), create a word search puzzle containing key words from the memory verse in it. Give each kid a copy of the puzzle and a pencil. Ask them to find the words of the memory verse in the puzzle. Small groups of two or three kids can work together. When finished, read the memory verse together.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids with fine motor challenges, provide markers or chunky crayons that are easier to grip as drawing utensils. For kids with reading disabilities, consider talking through strategies to complete the word search (e.g., “The word we’re looking for starts with ‘s.’ Let’s find an ‘s’ somewhere on this page.”) and/or having the kids work in pairs, encouraging teamwork to complete the puzzle.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What risks did the spies take by going to Jericho?**
- **What risks did Rahab take by protecting the spies?**
- **What risks did Paul take by building new churches for God?**
- **Read Philippians 4:13. What does this verse tell us about God’s response to your taking risks for God?**
- **Why is it important to take risks for God?**
- **When do you think it is okay to take a risk?**
- **What is one risk you think you can take for God?**

ACTIVITY | Remembrance Bracelets

- Rahab let the spies out of the city by hanging a scarlet rope out of the window for them to climb down.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid three strands of red embroidery floss tied together at one end. Encourage them to either twist or braid the strands according to their ability. When finished, ask them to tie the bracelet they have just created around the wrist of one of the other kids, saying: "You can take risks for God."

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)

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