



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

I can show God's love even when it's hard.

THE BIBLE

Loving Your Enemies: Matthew 5:40-48

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Hello Game
- **ACTIVITY** | Sort the Hearts

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Sing Along
- **THE BIG IDEA** | I can show God's love even when it's hard.
- **VIDEO** | Real Love, Episode 3
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 5:40-48
- **ACTIVITY** | Share the Treats
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Snack to Share
- **ACTIVITY** | Rain Play
- **ACTIVITY** | Feed the Face
- **MEMORY VERSE** | 1 John 4:11

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Give Love
- **ACTIVITY** | Heart Candy Game



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY KAREN ERNE

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.

MUSIC | Sing Along

Play one or two of the songs suggested. Hold hands with the kids and dance around. You could carry a smaller child in your arms to dance together. Tell the kids that they can be kind and show love to each other.

ACTIVITY | Rain Play

This activity is Before your group meets, put water, glitter, and blue food coloring in a two liter bottle. Be sure to seal the top on with hot glue. Roll the bottle for the kids to watch the glitter swirl around and talk with them about how God shows us love by giving us rain.

ACTIVITY | Feed the Face

Try this simpler version of the activity. Give the kids paper plates to put play food onto and pretend to make a meal. Talk with the kids about how their parents show them love by giving them good food.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KAREN ERNE



facebook.com/karen.erne



instagram.com/karensandmadecreations



Karen is a volunteer in the preschool area of Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. She has about nineteen years of experience as a Preschool Minister in local churches.

Karen's passion is connecting little ones to the truths of the Bible. Kids learn when they are playing, so Karen writes fun lessons that will help teachers show kids how much Jesus loves them.

Karen is a wife and a mom. She and her husband, Ed, have four kids aged ten through seventeen. Their family loves hiking, fishing, and fossil hunting together.

When Karen is not doing a Bible study with her church friends or helping out at her kids' school, she is often sewing. Karen makes stuffed animals, blankets, toys, and even clothes with her sewing machine.

If you'd like to chat about how your church can more strategically connect parents with ways to teach babies, ones, and twos about the Bible, reach out. She would love to connect with you!

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

TEACHING VIDEOS: Stephanie Whitacre, Elle Campbell.

TODDLER HACKS: Karen Erne.

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

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can show God's love even when it's hard.

THE BIBLE

Loving Your Enemies: Matthew 5:40-48

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Hello Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Greet every kid with a smile and a handshake as you say, "Hello." Put an emoji sticker on the child's hand or shirt. Then give that kid a strip of stickers to share with the other kids. Ask the kids to shake hands with everyone else and give them a sticker, too. Keep repeating the game of a hello handshake and a sticker until every kid has a bunch of stickers on their hand or shirt.
- It felt good when someone gave me a handshake and a hello. I have so many stickers to show how many times I got to say hello to someone. **Do you have a lot of stickers, too?** This reminds me of how much God loves us! We can show God's love by saying hello (wave hello).

ACTIVITY | Sort the Hearts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get conversation heart candies and pastel colored papers that match the colors of the candies. Lay out the colored paper and put one conversation heart candy onto each matching color to show the kids how to do the game (If you have really young kids and are concerned about choking hazards, you might want to use [stickers](#) instead). Then, give the kids a chance to sort the rest of the conversation hearts into color groups on the papers.
- **Did you think it was easy or hard to sort the candies?**

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Sing Along

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play music videos of songs about love and kindness! Here are some suggestions:*
 - “[1 John 4:7 \(Let Us Love One Another\)](#)” by The Rizers
 - “[Be Kind to One Another](#)” by Totally Tangerine
 - “[Kindness](#)” by The Juicebox Jukebox
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Play one or two of the songs above. Hold hands with the kids and dance around. Carry a kid in your arms to dance together. Tell the kids that they can be kind and show love to each other.*

THE BIG IDEA | I can show God’s love even when it’s hard.

- A big hug is a great way to show someone God loves them. Let’s stretch out our arms and then give ourselves a great, big hug as we say, “I can show God’s love even when it’s hard.”

VIDEO | Real Love, Episode 3

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

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 5:40-48

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Summarize Matthew 5:40-48 in an understandable way. You can say something like this:*
- It is easy to show love to someone who is nice to you. It is hard to show love to someone who is mean to you. But we can choose to show love to someone even when it is hard.
- Jesus told us to “love your neighbor.” Jesus wants us to love the people around us. Jesus also told us to “love our enemies.” That means we are supposed to be kind to and respect people who are mean to us. We can pray for them, too.
- God shows love to people who are nice and to people who are not nice.
- We can choose to show love to people who are nice to us – that is easy to do. We can choose to show love to people who are mean to us – that is hard to do. **But we can show love even when it is hard.**

ACTIVITY | Share the Treats

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a bucket filled with small treats (such as small cookies, stickers, or toys). Sit with the kids in a circle. Hold the bucket of treats in your hand.*
- We can show God’s love when we share. I have some treats in this bucket. It would be easy to keep this whole bucket of treats to myself, but I want to show you God’s love. You can help me give these treats to everyone here. I can hold the bucket and give you a treat (*Hand a treat to the kid on your right*). Now, you can give a treat to the next kid. (*Encourage the kids to give a treat from the bucket to the kid next to them. When every kid has a treat, get the kids to repeat the Big Idea, I can show God’s love even when it is hard.*)

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hold your hands outstretched to the ceiling.
- You can hold your hands up like I do. We can look up to God and pray like this.
- God, we are so glad You give us good things to show us Your love. Help us to show God's love to people even when they are mean to us. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Snack to Share

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make a big bowl of snack mix with a few types of cereal, raisins, and even mini chocolate chips. Provide a zip top bag to each kid and help them scoop some snack mix into the bag. Tell the kids they can take home the zip top bag to share a snack with someone after church. Then, give each kid their own scoop of snack mix to eat during class.
- I don't know about you, but it's hard for me to share good things I have like toys or snacks. But God told us we should show God's love even when it's hard!

ACTIVITY | Rain Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a big, shallow basin to put water in. Add some strainers and scoops for the kids to play in the water with (Be sure to watch kids when they play with water to keep them safe).
- You can pour water through this strainer and make the water go down into this basin. Look! You're making it rain!
- **Do you like rain?** God gives good things like rain to everyone. God gives rain to people who act nicely and to people who act in a mean way, too. Because God loves everyone!
- **How do you feel when somebody does something nice to you like giving you a turn to play?**
- **How do you feel when someone is mean to you or doesn't let you play?**
- **Does God want us to share good things like a hello? How about snacks? Or toys?**
- I am glad God gives us good things like the soft, cool rain. It reminds me I can show God's love, too!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Before your group meets, put water, glitter, and blue food coloring in a two liter bottle. Be sure to seal the top on with hot glue. Roll the bottle for the kids to watch the glitter swirl around and talk with them about how God shows us love by giving us rain.

ACTIVITY | Feed the Face

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut an oval hole into a shoebox and draw eyes above the hole to make the box look like a face with a surprised, open mouth. You can make the box yellow to make it look more like an emoji face. Give the kids play food to feed into the box's mouth.
- This silly face is hungry! **What can we do to help?**
- Your parents share good food with you, like we did with this silly face. **What can you share?** You can share God's love when it's easy to do and hard to do.

- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Give the kids paper plates to put play food onto and pretend to make a meal. Talk with the kids about how their parents show them love by giving them good food.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 John 4:11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Review the sign language, the hand motions, or hum the tune to the song you made. See if the kids can supply the words!

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Remind the kids of today's story and the Big Idea. Be sure to write each kid's name on the coloring page. Play some of the worship songs from before while they color.

ACTIVITY | Give Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print copies of this week's printable. Give the kids heart stickers to stick onto all the grumpy/angry/unhappy faces.
- You can give love to these grumpy faces. These heart stickers will help you remember to show God's love to everyone. Grumpy people need to know God loves them.

ACTIVITY | Heart Candy Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put some candy conversation hearts in a bowl and put a muffin tin next to it. Show the kids how to use some big, plastic, kid safe tweezers or a small spoon to move the conversation hearts into the holes of the muffin tin.
- These heart candies help us remember to show God's love.

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