



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

Love is the best choice.

THE BIBLE

The Greatest Commandment: Mark 12:28-34

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Pieces of My Heart
- **ACTIVITY** | Emoji Bowling

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Sing Along
- **BIG IDEA** | Love is the best choice.
- **VIDEO** | Real Love, Episode 4
- **BIBLE STORY** | Mark 12:28-34
- **ACTIVITY** | Find the Hearts
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Full Heart
- **ACTIVITY** | Together Puzzle
- **ACTIVITY** | Jesus Says, Be Kind
- **MEMORY VERSE** | 1 John 4:11

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Wave Ribbons
- **ACTIVITY** | All My Heart



WEEK 4

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.

ACTIVITY | Pieces of My Heart



Instead of making a mosaic type of craft here, give toddlers the same printable as the preschoolers or even a heart-shaped piece of paper to scribble with crayons on. Have them say, "I love God" as they do this activity.

ACTIVITY | Together Puzzle

Try this alternative activity: Put red paint into a zip top bag and seal the top shut with duct tape. When the kids push the paint around inside the entire bag, you can tell them that everyone can love God!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KAREN ERNE

 facebook.com/karen.erne
 instagram.com/karenshandmadecreations



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 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Love is the best choice.

THE BIBLE

The Greatest Commandment: Mark 12:28-34

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Pieces of My Heart

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before group time, tear up some red and pink paper into little pieces. Give each kid a copy of this week's printable. Tell them to glue the torn paper pieces onto their heart.
- You can make a great, big heart with all of these red and pink papers. Hearts make us think of love. You can choose to show love. The Bible tells us love is the best choice.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Give the kids the same printable or a heart-shaped piece of paper to scribble with crayons on. Have them say, "I love God" as they do this activity.

ACTIVITY | Emoji Bowling

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw (or print out) heart-eyed emoji faces on a few empty two liter bottles. Give the kids a ball to roll into the bottles. Help stand the bottles up again for the kids to bowl again.
- Every bottle has a silly heart face on it. Those hearts remind us to love God and to love other people. God wants us to show love.

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Sing Along

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play music videos of songs about God loving everyone! Here are some suggestions:
 - ["The Greatest Commandment"](#) by Hillsong Kids Jr.
 - ["Most Important Thing"](#) by Yancy

BIG IDEA | Love is the best choice.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids three overturned cups and then put a heart-shaped toy or paper under one cup. Make it obvious to the kids which cup the heart is under and ask the kids to choose the cup with the heart.
- **You chose the cup with the heart under it. Great job! Let's play that game again. Can you choose the heart again? Yes, you did it! Today, we are going to learn love is the best choice!**

VIDEO | Real Love, Episode 4

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

BIBLE STORY | Mark 12:28-34

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before group time, make a big heart shape on the floor with masking tape, and ask the kids to sit on the heart with you as you tell them the Bible story. Then, summarize Mark 12:28-34 so it's easy for the kids to understand. Here's an example you can use:
- **One day, a man asked Jesus a question. He asked Jesus, "What is the most important rule?" Jesus said the most important rule was to love God.**
- **But that's not all. We can't just love God a little bit. Jesus says to love God with all of our heart** (draw a heart in the air), **with all of our soul** (put your hand on your chest), **with all of our mind** (put your hand on your temple), and **with all of our strength** (put your arms up and flex).
- **Then, Jesus said the second most important rule is to love other people.** I know I want to show love to other people. **How about you?**
- I can choose to show love to God. I can choose to show love to people. Love is the best choice.

ACTIVITY | Find the Hearts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a shallow bin filled with shredded paper or dried beans. Hide some foam hearts in the bottom of the bin. Get the kids to search the bin for a heart and then run it to the other side of the room and put that foam heart into a bucket.
- **Now, this bucket is full of hearts. It has all of the hearts. Jesus said to love God with all of our heart. We have to love God the most, and then show love to the people around us because love is the best choice.**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to stand up and do some motions with you as you pray together.
 - **God, help me to love You with all my heart** (draw a heart in the air)
 - **with all my soul** (put your hand on your chest)
 - **with all my mind** (put your hand on your temple)
 - **and with all my strength** (put your arms up and flex).
 - **Help me to love others** (have kids put arms around each other's shoulders).

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Full Heart

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out another copy of this week's printable and glue a piece of parchment paper or baking sheet on top, so the heart outline is visible. Give the kids small crackers or oat cereal to put inside the outline of the heart.
- This yummy heart helps me to remember love is the best choice.

ACTIVITY | Together Puzzle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of a wooden puzzle or a piece of a picture you have cut into puzzle pieces. Get each kid to take a turn putting a piece into the puzzle until the whole puzzle is complete. Be sure every kid gets a turn.
- Everyone helped put in a piece of the puzzle. High fives for helping with the puzzle!
- **Does God want us to love Him with a piece of our heart or with all of our heart?**
- **Should we love God with a piece of our strength or all of our strength?**
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Put red paint into a zip top bag and seal the top shut with duct tape. When the kids push the paint around inside the entire bag, you can tell them that everyone can love God!

ACTIVITY | Jesus Says, Be Kind

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to stand up with you. Explain how to play Simon Says (such as, "We are going to play a game called, 'Simon Says.' In this game, you have to do everything I say when I say, 'Simon Says'. But if I don't say, 'Simon Says,' don't do what I say!").
- Simon says, give me a high five (*High five the kids*)
- Simon says, shake hands (*Ask the kids to start shaking hands with each other*)
- Give me a fist bump (*Hold out a fist, but then pull it away*) Simon didn't say fist bump!
- Simon says, give a hug. (*Ask the kids to give each other hugs*)
- That was a fun game of Simon Says! **Does a hug make you feel happy?** A hug makes me feel happy. You can make someone else feel happy with a hug, too. **Can you show someone you love them with a hug?** Yes, that is a very good way to show love!
- **What is another way to show someone you love them?** (You can give a fist bump, a high five, or shake hands.)
- You showed love when you gave a high five and when you shook hands and gave hugs. You can show people love. Love is the best choice.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 John 4:11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Go over the sign language and motions and/or song you have been working on together for the past few weeks. See if the kids can do it all on their own!

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Remind the kids of today's story. Be sure to write each kid's name on the coloring page. Ask the kids how they are going to show they love God, and how they are going to show God's love to others this week.*

ACTIVITY | Wave Ribbons

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a length of crepe paper streamer or ribbon to wave around. Play one of the worship songs from before so they can dance around and wave their ribbons!*
- Look at how strong you are when you dance and move. You can love God with all of your strength.

ACTIVITY | All My Heart

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the masking tape heart on the floor that you used for the Bible story time. Ask the kids to fill the heart shape by lining up blocks or books inside of it.*
- We can count all of the things you used to fill the heart. The things in this heart make me remember to choose to love God with all my heart. Love is the best choice.

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