



# WEEK 5

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



### **BIG IDEA**

We can care about what God cares about.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Treasures in Heaven:** Matthew 6:19-24;  
(John 8:12)

#### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Escape from Treasure Island
- **ACTIVITY** | Treasure Hunt
- **QUESTION** | What does “generosity” mean?
- **THE BIG IDEA** | We can trust God with our gifts.
- **VIDEO** | Unboxed, Episode 5
- **SCRIPTURE** | II Corinthians 9: 1-15
- **ACTIVITY** | Treasure Collection
- **VIDEO** | Hangry
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 6:5-13
- **ACTIVITY** | Alphabet Gifts
- **RESPONSE** | Gift Catalog
- **PRAYER**
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Verse Square

## SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - Who was Paul writing the letter to, and why?
  - What kind of attitude should we have when giving?
  - How did the little boy trust Jesus with his gifts?
  - Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. What happens when you give cheerfully and not just because you have to?
  - Name some of your gifts that you can trust God with.
  - Why do you think God wants us to share our gifts?
  - What is one thing you think God can do with your gifts?
- **ACTIVITY** | Make a Care Package
- **MEMORY VERSE** | I Peter 4:10 (NIV)



# WEEK 5

## 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 | Treasure Hunt**

Involve your preteens by asking them to be the ones to hide the coins for the rest of the group. They can also stand around and help give clues to the younger kids if they're stuck.

#### **ACTIVITY | Treasure Collection**

Set up two treasure chests facing each other (about ten feet apart or more). Then split preteens into two teams. Have each team stand behind their team's treasure chest. Give each team a bucket of coins and have them try to get as many coins in the other team's treasure chest.

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, Lauren Wierzba.

**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 5

## 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.

#### **SCRIPTURE | II Corinthians 9: 1-15**



Have key words (e.g., Apostle Paul, Macedonia, Corinth, Jerusalem, Corinthians) written in large print for the children to see. As you are reading the words aloud, have the kids say the words aloud right after you. Speaking the words will engage the students, and help them to remember the key people and places.

#### **ACTIVITY | Make a Care Package**

Have a written description ready to give to the parent/guardian that includes: the purpose of this activity, the name of the missionary/charity that you are supporting, today's Big Idea, and a note to ask parents to pray with their kids. Encourage the parent/guardian keep these box in a place the child will see every day.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

# SUE SPIESZ

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I began a special needs ministry at my own church 16 years ago, providing a safe, loving, and nurturing environment for children with special needs so that the families could worship in an adult environment without worrying about their child. I am currently serving in a non-for-profit ministry that partners with local churches in helping them welcome families impacted by disabilities, and provide accommodations for their children with special needs. I absolutely love writing special needs hacks for the GROW curriculum, as this has been my passion for decades!

For my career, I am a special education teacher for little ones all the way through high school. I give in-

home and hospital instruction to children who have special needs, and/or health related issues. I also teach in the Exceptional Education Department at a local state college, graduate and undergraduate courses.

I have been so blessed with 4 amazing children, ages 12-27. My kids all love the Lord and serve Him in many capacities. My children have been involved with special needs since the time of their birth, from serving in the ministry, or being a special “buddy” on outings, to hosting numerous special needs picnics at their home.

When I am not busy in ministry, at work, or raising children, I enjoy spending my time OUTDOORS!

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

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# WEEK 5

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### **BIG IDEA**

We can trust God with our gifts!

### **THE BIBLE**

**Generosity:** II Corinthians 9:1-15;  
(John 6:5-13)

## **LARGE GROUP TIME**

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

### **ACTIVITY | Escape from Treasure Island**

- Welcome back! Last week, we learned about treasures on Earth and treasures in heaven. God cares about things that are forever, not things that can break or get lost, and we can care about what God cares about!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the board game printable and tape it together. Also print both the treasure images. Divide the group into teams and you can use different size coins as tokens. You will also need a die (try a jumbo one [like this](#)). To play, have one team roll the die and move as many spaces as indicated. To the team who gets to "X" first, say, "Wow, you guys got to the treasure first!" Then show them the image of the rusty treasure.*
- Oh no, you found the treasure first, but the treasure has gone bad! **Quick, remind me where can we put our treasure so that it doesn't get destroyed by moths and rats, or stolen by burglars?**
- That's right, when we place our treasures in heaven, we can trust God to keep them safe and for them to be used in the right ways at the right times. [Show the image of the sparkly treasure!]

### **ACTIVITY | Treasure Hunt**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This activity is customizable based on the number of kids in your group. If there are ten kids in your group, multiply that number by three, and your total is thirty. Use this number to determine how many gold coins to hide around the room before the kids arrive.*



✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Involve your preteens by asking them to be the ones to hide the coins for the rest of the group. They can also stand around and help give clues to the younger kids if they're stuck.*

- There are gold coins hidden in this room, and everyone must find three coins each. If you find more than three, you can give them to someone who hasn't found three yet. Ready? GO!
- **Did everyone find three coins on their own? Did anyone get help from somebody?**

**QUESTION | What does "generosity" mean?**

- **What does it mean to be generous?**
- **Can you give some examples of being generous?**

**THE BIG IDEA | We can trust God with our gifts.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Unbox the last Big Idea box. You could put slips of paper with each word of the Big Idea inside the box for this next part. Then, split the kids into seven groups. Give each group one word from the Big Idea, "We can trust God with our gifts." Point to each group one at a time, and encourage them to yell out their word as loudly as they can. Point to the groups faster and faster each time so it sounds like a complete sentence!*

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

**VIDEO | Unboxed, Episode 5**

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

**SCRIPTURE | II Corinthians 9: 1-15**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce the story of Paul and then ask one kid to read the "letter" from Paul below. You can write the letter on parchment paper for effect.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have key words (e.g., Apostle Paul, Macedonia, Corinth, Jerusalem, Corinthians) written in large print for the children to see. As you are reading the words aloud, have the kids say the words aloud right after you. Speaking the words will engage the students, and help them to remember the key people and places.*
- In today's story, Paul is in a place called Macedonia, encouraging a church in an area called Corinth to donate some of their treasure to help a church in another place called Jerusalem. The church in Jerusalem needed help, and the churches in Macedonia and Corinth promised to help, but the Corinthians seemed to have changed their minds about it. Let's see what Paul wrote to them.
- "Dear friends in Corinth. Your excitement for Jesus is so catchy. . . your friends here in Macedonia are excited, too! You both promised to give a gift to your friends in Jerusalem, who could really use some help right now. That's why I'm sending some of the Macedonians to visit you and to help you prepare your generous gift. Please don't feel grumpy about giving. Choose to be happy instead! When you give generously, you're not just helping others, you're showing God your thankfulness. When you give to help others, they'll praise God and pray for you, and God will always take care of you. What an amazing gift! Love, Paul."

**ACTIVITY | Treasure Collection**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have each kid hold out the three gold coins they got from the Treasure Hunt activity earlier. Set up a treasure chest about ten feet away from the start line. Encourage the kids to take turns tossing their coins, one by one, into the treasure chest from the start line.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Set up two treasure chests facing each other (about ten feet apart or more). Then split preteens into two teams. Have each team stand behind their team's treasure chest. Give each team a bucket of coins and have them try to get as many coins in the other team's treasure chest.*
- I'm sure some of you wanted to hold on to your gold coins, which I totally get! But where did you get the gold coins? Did you earn them? Not really, right? I was sharing them with you but the coins actually belong to me.
- We want to keep nice things for ourselves. But the Bible teaches us that there's a better idea. God wants us to share these good things, including the gifts God gives us, with others. Because all the gifts are from God anyway!

**VIDEO | Hangry**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Explain to the kids that "hangry" means you're so hungry that you feel angry. Ask them if any of them have ever felt that way before and if they know why it happens. Watch [this video](#).*
- Hunger doesn't just affect your body. It affects your brain and your feelings, too. When you were hangry, hopefully, it only lasted a little while.
- But there are others in the world who are hungry all the time, because they don't have access to good nutrition and plentiful food supply. God cares about them and wants us to help them.

**SCRIPTURE | John 6:5-13**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or paraphrase John 6:5-13.*
- Once, Jesus was speaking to a large crowd – more than five thousand people! – and Jesus asked his disciples what they should feed them. The disciples looked at one another. None of them had a clue. Where would they get all the money? Where would they get that much food?
- Then, a little boy came up to one of the disciples, Andrew, with all that he had in his lunchbox – five small pieces of bread and two small fish. That was barely enough food for one person! But Jesus took the boy's gift of the fish and bread, gave thanks to God, and started to pass out the food to the crowd.
- Do you know what happened next? Not only did Jesus give five thousand people enough to eat, there were twelve baskets of bread left over when they were done!
- The little boy trusted God with what he had. Then God did something amazing with it. That's what it's like to trust God with our gifts!



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

**ACTIVITY | Alphabet Gifts**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to take turns going through each letter of the alphabet starting with A, and name something good God has given them that starts with that letter. Do this as many times as time allows.*
- We came up with a lot of things, didn't we? But there is still way more good things God gives us that we haven't even thought of. These gifts show how much God loves us and cares for us. Imagine all the wonderful things God can do when we give our gifts back to God!

**RESPONSE | Gift Catalog**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the kids a gift catalog (such as a kids fundraiser magazine, or even an online store catalog). Have them cut out a few of the items and glue them on to a piece of paper. Next to each item, have them write down who they would gift that to.*
- Look through this catalog and think about someone who might appreciate something from here. It can be for someone you know, such as your parent, sibling, teacher, etc.

**PRAYER**

- Thank You, God, for all the gifts You've given us. Please take our gifts and use them however You'd like. We can trust You, God, with our gifts, so please take them and do great things with them, like Jesus did with the little boy's fishes and bread.

**MEMORY VERSE | Verse Square**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Number each corner of your room from one to four. Stand in the middle of the room with your eyes closed, and give the kids ten seconds to choose a corner to run to. When time is up, call out a number. Everyone who is standing in that numbered corner must recite the memory verse! Repeat as many times as desired.*

**SMALL GROUP TIME**

**DISCUSSION**

- **Who was Paul writing the letter to, and why?**
- **What kind of attitude should we have when giving?**
- **How did the little boy trust Jesus with his gifts?**
- **Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. What happens when you give cheerfully and not just because you have to?**
- **Name some of your gifts that you can trust God with.**
- **Why do you think God wants us to share our gifts?**
- **What is one thing you think God can do with your gifts?**

### ACTIVITY | Make a Care Package

- For the past few weeks, we've talked about unboxing gifts from God. Today, we're going to create a box of gifts to give to others!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare empty boxes for kids to decorate (such as shoeboxes, or cardboard parcel boxes—if you are preparing this lesson early enough, you could even ask the kids to bring boxes from home!). Give the kids arts supplies, such as markers, Washi tape, stickers, paint, and glitter glue and tell them to decorate their boxes. As a group, decide who you want to bless with a care package – it can be a cause your church supports, the seniors ministry in your church, homeless outreach, a women's shelter, military, etc. Once you have chosen your recipients, brainstorm a list of things that should go in the box. You can 1) have the kids take their boxes home, fill it, and bring it back the following week, 2) keep the boxes, and purchases all the necessary items and have kids fill the boxes next week, or 3) have kids bring an item from the list to add to the boxes next week. Make sure to research all restrictions on shipping policies if you are planning to mail these.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have a written description ready to give to the parent/guardian that includes: the purpose of this activity, the name of the missionary/charity that you are supporting, today's Big Idea, and a note to ask parents to pray with their kids. Encourage the parent/guardian keep these box in a place the child will see every day.*
- I can't wait to help some people with these care packages, can you? This week, remember to pray for the people who will receive the care packages. Next week, we will prepare the items we came up with today, and we will spend some time filling up all your boxes! And remember this week's Big Idea: We can trust God with our gifts!

### MEMORY VERSE | 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

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