



# WEEK 1

## PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



### THE BIG IDEA

We obey God by putting God first.

### THE BIBLE

The First and Second Commandments:  
Exodus 20:1-6

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Road Trip Jams!
- ACTIVITY** | Road Trip
- ACTIVITY** | Balancing Act

### TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Exodus 20:3-4
- THE BIG IDEA** | We obey God by putting God first.
- VIDEO** | Road Trip, Episode 1
- ACTIVITY** | Two-Rule Race
- PRAYER**

### DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Road Trip Ready
- ACTIVITY** | Point to God
- ACTIVITY** | Create Your Own Map
- MEMORY VERSE** | Luke 10:27 (NIV)

### PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Mountain Climbing
- ACTIVITY** | "You Have Time" Challenge



# WEEK 1

## HACKS FOR TODDLERS



**BY KATHIE PHILLIPS**

### *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 | Road Trip**

Scatter around some essential items you might pack for a road trip (e.g., toothbrush, travel pillow, headphones, snack box, etc.). Ask the kids to help you find these items as you call them out.

#### **ACTIVITY | Balancing Act**

The younger kids may not have the coordination for this activity. So instead, encourage the kids to carry a ball from one leader to another or from a starting point to another designated location.

#### **ACTIVITY | Mountain Climbing**

For this mini obstacle course-type activity, set out a toddler-safe slide for the kids to climb up on or foam climbers and blocks, if available.



# WEEK 1

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

We obey God by putting God first.

### THE BIBLE

**The First and Second Commandments:**  
Exodus 20:1-6

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Road Trip Jams!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Turn up your car radio. . . it's time to worship God on the go! Play some fun worship songs like these:
  - ["Ten Commandment Boogie"](#)
  - ["Ten Commandments Song"](#)
  - ["Put God First"](#)

### ACTIVITY | Road Trip

- Welcome, friends! During the next few weeks, we're going to be going on a pretend road trip. But we need to pack a few things first . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Arrange the chairs in rows, two by two. Set out various classroom items and give each kid a bag or basket. Explain that everyone can choose three to four items to take with them on your pretend road trip. Then, gather the kids and walk them around the room for their 'road trip,' or allow them to sit in the chairs and pretend to drive them. Talk with them about things they might see while driving, such as trees, other cars, animals, restaurants, etc.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Scatter around some essential items you might pack for a road trip (e.g., toothbrush, travel pillow, headphones, snack box, etc.). Ask the kids to help you find these items as you call them out.

### ACTIVITY | Balancing Act

- Have you ever taken a road trip to . . . a circus? If you have, you may have seen a tightrope balancing act. It's kind of scary to see someone way up high in the air like that, isn't it? Especially when they're carrying so many things!
- Today, we'll hear why it's so important to obey God and to do the things God wants us to do. I know it can be so hard for us to do what God wants us to do and to put God first because there are so many other things we'd sometimes rather do. Just like with the tightrope performer balancing high up in the air, it can be very hard to balance it all.
- Let's try it for ourselves!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay out a preschool-sized balance beam or yardsticks and tell the kids to line up behind it. Give the first kid in line a ball and explain that the ball represents something they think might be important, such as their favorite book or game, ice cream, their pet, etc. The goal is to walk with arms stretched out in front and balancing without falling off or dropping the ball.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have the kids carry a ball from one leader to another or from a starting point to another designated location.

## TEACHING TIME

### SCRIPTURE | Exodus 20:3-4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Arrange the seating for today's group like a bus, with three seats on either side of an aisle and with many rows. Even if you can't fill all the chairs, have them set up to mimic bus seating. At the end of your teaching, lead the kids in a road trip chant! One side will say, "God first," and the other side will say, "No idols." Repeat several times.
- Load up the bus, because we are setting out on our pretend road trip to discover the Ten (*hold up ten fingers*) Commandments – that's another word for 'rules' – that God wants us to live by! The whole story is found in the Bible in the book of Exodus. Our first stop is a place called Mount Sinai.
- In this story, God is speaking to Moses, who was up at the very top of Mount Sinai to hear from God about the ways God wanted the people to live. Today, we are going to look at the first two (*hold up two fingers*) rules.
- **Let's read Exodus 20:3-4.** Read the verses from a preschool-friendly Bible.
- The first commandment God gave Moses was to not have other gods before the one, (*hold up one finger*) true God. That rule tells us that God is the most important. The second commandment or rule was similar: don't worship idols. Idols are images or objects that people pay more attention to than they do God.
- Guess what? With practice, we can put God first every day! That means that no one and nothing should be more important to us than God.
- Let's practice remembering these together right now: God first! No idols!

### THE BIG IDEA | We obey God by putting God first.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pack some snacks inside a duffel bag or backpack to distribute to everyone. Prepare and fold up today's Big Idea road sign (check your Shop and Prep list for details) and put it on top of the bag.
- When you take a road trip, you have to take some stuff with you. . . and what better to bring along than snacks? Road trip snacks are the best. Who likes eating snacks while in the car? Me, too! And guess what? I brought some for everyone! [Rummage through bag.] Hmm. . . I know I put the snacks in here somewhere. . . wait, what's this? Oh! It's our Big Idea!
- What does it say? It says: **We obey God by putting God first.** Do you remember our chant from earlier? God first! No idols!

### VIDEO | Road Trip, Episode 1

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

### ACTIVITY | Two-Rule Race

- Today, we heard about two rules that God wants us to follow. Let's see if you can follow two rules in our game.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into two groups and have them line up back to back. Place a strip of painter's tape on the floor to mark each team's starting line and another strip about five feet away from each team's starting line. Explain that they should follow two rules: (1) walk fast down to their team's finish line (point out the blue tape) and (2) hop back to the back of their team's line. Doing anything else means they will need to go back to their starting line. Allow the kids to play a few rounds.
- Our game had just two rules, but sometimes it's hard to follow the rules, right? Sometimes, we forget and sometimes we just want to do what we want to do.
- The two rules we talked about in our Bible story today are two rules that we shouldn't forget: God first and no idols! Because **we obey God by putting God first.**

### PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us to love You and to do the things You want us to do. Amen.

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Road Trip Ready

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a bag of fish crackers.
- **What kind of snacks do you like to eat in the car?**
- Today, we went on a pretend road trip and learned about two rules God wants us to follow.
- **Are there any rules you have to follow when you're in the car? What are some of those rules?**
- **Why do we have to follow rules when we're driving in the car?**

- We may not know the reason for all the rules of the road, but they're there to protect us. And it's the same way with God – we may not understand all the rules right now, but God promises to protect us and we have to believe the rules are keeping us safe.

#### ACTIVITY | Point to God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to trace one of their hands on a piece of paper, then, help them cut it out. On the index finger, help them to write, "God." On the remaining fingers, help them write four other things that are very important to them. Afterward, with the exception of the index finger, fold down each finger toward the center, with the thumb going last, and glue them down. Attach a craft stick to the back.
- This finger that's left is the one we often use to indicate the number one or point to things. Just like how God should always be our number one, and our actions should always point to God because **we obey God by putting God first.**

#### ACTIVITY | Create Your Own Map

- Just because we put God first in our lives doesn't mean we can't love other things. It just means that those things aren't what's most important to us. And as we continue to take this pretend road trip together, let's make our own maps to guide us and to carry with us along the way!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out craft supplies and instruct the kids to decorate their map. Then, help them write a prayer to God, asking God to help them put God first.
- **Why is it important to put God first?**
- **What might make putting God first hard?**
- **What is one way you can show God your love this week?**

#### MEMORY VERSE | Luke 10:27 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Stand at one end of the room with a green circle and a red circle. When you hold up the green circle, the kids must walk quickly toward you. When you put up the red circle, they have to freeze on the spot and repeat the memory verse after you. Repeat until everyone makes it to the finish line where you're standing.

## PLAY TIME

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

#### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and the Big Idea as they color.

### ACTIVITY | Mountain Climbing

- In today's Bible story, Moses went up to Mount Sinai and heard God speak. Let's pretend that we are climbing a mountain!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set out a variety of things for the kids to climb over. At the end of their climb, place a sturdy, kid-sized step stool for them to stand on and have them recite today's two commandments: "God first" and "no idols."*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Set out a toddler-safe slide for the kids to climb up on.*
- **Who was God speaking to in today's Bible story?**
- **What did God talk to Moses about?**
- **What are the two commandments or rules we learned about today?**

### ACTIVITY | "You Have Time" Challenge

- When people or things are important to us, we give them our time and attention. God wants to be first in our lives and in order to do that, we have to give God our time, too.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Encourage the kids to complete a series of challenges within a certain amount of time. Challenges can include "Minute to Win It"-type games, such as stacking wooden or square blocks, moving small craft pom-poms from one cup to another, putting a puzzle together, etc.*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Do not time the kids as they do the activities.*
- We completed a lot in those one-minute challenges! That's a good reminder that no matter how busy we are, we can always set aside time to make God first in our lives, even when we don't have much time. Why? Because **we obey God by putting God first.**

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