



# WEEK 5

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



### THE BIG IDEA

God keeps promises.

### THE BIBLE

**Joseph is Put in Charge:** Genesis 40:1-41:40; 45:1-8  
(Psalm 26:1-3)

#### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP TIME

- **MUSIC** | Paradise Praise
- **ACTIVITY** | Hula (Hoop) Dancing
- **ACTIVITY** | Beach Ball Toss
- **QUESTION** | Where Were We?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 40:1-41:40; 45:1-8
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God keeps promises.
- **VIDEO** | Promise, Episode 5
- **QUESTION** | How long?
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Stressed for the Best
- **SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 26:1-3
- **RESPONSE** | Promise Wall
- **ACTIVITY** | Message in a Bottle
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Flip Flop Verse
- **PRAYER**

### SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - What were Pharaoh's dreams?
  - What did they mean?
  - What did he do about it?
  - Read Genesis 45:5. Joseph forgave his brothers. Why did he tell them not to be angry with themselves?
  - What are some of God's promises?
  - Have you ever experienced a promise being kept?
  - What helps you remember that God keeps promises?
- **ACTIVITY** | Promise Stickers
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)



# WEEK 5

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS



**BY MIKE SHELEY**

### 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.

#### **MUSIC | Paradise Praise**

Add these preteen favorites to your playlist:

- ["My Lighthouse"](#)
- ["Wanna Be Like Jesus"](#)
- ["Waymaker"](#)

#### **THE BIG IDEA | God keeps promises.**

Keep giving different preteens the chance to collaborate on making the Big Idea poster. This week, you might want to display all the posters from this series and recognize the preteens who helped out!

Give all these supplies to your preteens a week ahead of time and have them create your Big Idea banner. To help them out, share this link with them on ideas for doing chalk art lettering. Remind them that they don't have to be perfect. The goal is to create a visual that helps everyone see and remember the Big Idea for this week!

#### **QUESTION | How Long?**

Since most, if not all, of the kids in your preteen group will not have lived thirteen years yet, do a little research ahead of time about things that happened thirteen years ago. You can look up a bunch of items specific to a year on this site.

When you get to this portion of the lesson, share a few of the events that you found to help them process what happened thirteen years ago and how long that would be to wait . . . longer than any of their entire lives at this point! It will help put the concept of “thirteen years” into a little more perspective for them!

**RESPONSE | Promise Wall**

Turn this Promise Wall into a weekly Prayer Wall and leave it up for weeks to come.

As your preteens arrive each week, give them three options:

- Add a new yellow note for a promise God has kept, including an answer to prayer.
- Add a blue note for a promise from God which has not yet come true, including things they are praying for.
- If they see a blue note that should now be yellow, they can make a new yellow note, stick it to the top of the blue note, and move them to the yellow area.
- Take time each month and at the end of the year to look at and talk about how God is keeping promises!



# WEEK 5

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



**BY KIM DORPENYO**

### *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.

#### **MUSIC | Paradise Praise**

Use simple, repetitive actions for kids with special needs. If they cannot do the actions, have them jump up and down. Movement always helps memory and senses. Have noise-cancelling headphones available for kids sensitive to loud sounds. For kids using wheelchairs, have someone "dance" them during fast songs and hold up their hands during slow ones.

#### **ACTIVITY | Hula (Hoop) Dancing**

Provide separate hula hoops and put them in a line then have kids jump from hoop to hoop or actually hula hoop.

#### **ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Toss**

Provide noise-cancelling headphones if needed. Create a separate play area if necessary and have kids regularly toss the ball to each other.

#### **SCRIPTURE | Genesis 40:1-41:40; 45:1-8**

Many friends are visual learners. Provide a print-out of pictures for them to follow, or provide this week's coloring page for them to color while you tell the story. If they need to move, designate a separate area where they can re-enact or follow along with the story with their own set of visual pictures and maybe some action figures.



**THE BIG IDEA | God keeps promises.**

Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea.

- God (*point up*)
- keeps (*2 strong fists flexed in front of you*)
- promises (*pinky to pinky - like a pinky promise*)

**QUESTION | How long?**

Provide a sand timer for kids to flip and then have to wait for all the sand to go through before they can flip it over.

**RESPONSE | Promise Wall**

Pair friends up with a leader or peer buddy who can walk them through formulating their responses. They can write it for them or they can draw pictures together.



# WEEK 5

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

God keeps promises.

### THE BIBLE

**Joseph is Put in Charge:** Genesis 40:1-41:40; 45:1-8  
(Psalm 26:1-3)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

#### MUSIC | Paradise Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing and dance in worship to some songs about God's promises! Here are a few we like:
- ["Hope"](#)
- ["Promises"](#) (Crossroads Kids)
- ["Promises"](#) (Desperation Band)
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Add these preteen favorites to your playlist: ["MyLighthouse"](#) / ["Wanna Be Like Jesus"](#) / ["Waymaker"](#)
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use simple, repetitive actions or have them jump up and down. Have noise-cancelling headphones available for kids sensitive to loud sounds. For kids using wheelchairs, have someone "dance" with them!

#### ACTIVITY | Hula (Hoop) Dancing

- Today is our last day in our island paradise where we have been learning about God's promises. Let's celebrate by doing the hula. . . hoop!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have everyone stand in a circle holding hands with a hula hoop looped over one person's arm. Challenge them to pass the hula hoop around the circle without letting go of hands. Turn on some fun island music (like [this one](#)) while playing!

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide separate hula hoops and put them in a line then have kids jump from hoop to hoop or actually hula hoop.

### ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Toss

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather kids into groups of four. Each group gets one beach ball and two beach towels. Have the kids pair up to hold each end of the beach towel, then toss the ball back and forth from one pair to another. Count how many times they can toss and catch the ball without dropping it. If you do not have enough supplies for all the kids, have groups take turns while the rest cheer them on.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide noise-cancelling headphones if needed. Create a separate play area if necessary and have kids regularly toss the ball to each other.

### QUESTION | Where were we?

- What dreams did Joseph have?
- What happened to him because of those dreams?
- How did the future look for Joseph?

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

### SCRIPTURE | Genesis 40:1-41:40; 45:1-8

- After Joseph got to Egypt, he remained true to God. He had his ups and downs, but eventually ended up in prison. This is where we resume our story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find Genesis 40:1-41:40 and read it. This is a long passage, so if you have a great storyteller, enlist them to either read the passage expressively, or to retell it. You can also recruit some leaders to improv along as you read or summarize the Bible story.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a print-out of pictures for them to follow, or provide this week's coloring page for them to color while you tell the story. Or designate a separate area where they can re-enact or follow along with the story with their own set of visual pictures and maybe some action figures.
- Now, Joseph's future looks bright! His God-given gift has put him in a position of power. And, just as the dreams predicted, after seven years of plenty there were seven years of famine. Because of Joseph's good planning, there was plenty of grain stored up.
- Back in Canaan, Joseph's family were hungry because of the famine and his brothers, the ones who had thrown him in the pit and sold him to traders, came to Egypt to buy grain. They did not know that the one in charge was their brother, the one they had treated so poorly.
- **What would you have said to the brothers if you were Joseph?** Let's read what Joseph says when he is reunited with his brothers, in Genesis 45:1-8.
- Joseph forgave his brothers! He told them that God had been in control all along. Because Joseph trusted in God's promises, the family was saved! They all moved to Egypt where they lived for many more years.

**THE BIG IDEA | God keeps promises.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in large letters on a black-colored poster board, using chalk markers in rainbow or neon colors. Position large tropical leaves in front to cover up the words. You can place pots in front of the poster and put the leaves in the pots, or tape the leaves to the poster. At the appropriate time, remove the leaves one by one to reveal the Big Idea.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Keep giving different preteens the chance to collaborate on making the Big Idea poster. This week, you might want to display all the posters from this series and recognize the preteens who helped out!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea. Example: God (point up) keeps (2 strong fists flexed in front of you) promises (pinky to pinky - like a pinky promise).
- We learned a lot about promises this month. We learned that God promises to fix what was broken, God promised us mercy, God’s promises are for now and for later, and God’s promises might take time. But none of these are just empty words, because **God keeps promises!**

**VIDEO | Promise, Episode 5**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s teaching video.

**QUESTION | How long?**

- **Do you know how long Joseph waited for God to keep the promises made to him?**
- Joseph waited THIRTEEN years. Most of you aren’t even thirteen years old! As Joseph’s circumstances just kept going from bad to worse, it would have been easy to give up and think God had forgotten about him. It took a very long time for the dreams Joseph had to come true. But Joseph knew God keeps promises.
- **When was the longest you ever had to wait for something?**
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Do a little research ahead of time about things that happened thirteen years ago. You can look up a bunch of items specific to a year on [this site](#). It will put the concept of “thirteen years” into a little more perspective for them!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a sand timer for kids to flip and then have to wait for all the sand to go through before they can flip it over.

**OBJECT LESSON | Stressed for the Best**

- Joseph went through a lot of bad times before he saw the future he had dreamed of. His brothers tossed him into a well and then sold him to traders. In Egypt, he even ended up in prison (even though he did nothing wrong!). But even through the rough times, he knew God would keep promises.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each child a sheet of paper and tell them to scrunch it up into a ball. Have them straighten it out. Look at the creases and lightly rub a crayon across the paper to make the creases show up.



- Look at the pretty design in the paper caused by the stress of you crumpling it. This paper reminds us that even in hard times, God is with us and can make something beautiful happen. The color reminds us that God is with us and **God keeps promises.**

### SCRIPTURE | Psalm 26:1-3

- INSTRUCTIONS: Find Psalm 26:1-3 and read it.
- Even though Joseph did not write this psalm, we can easily imagine this to be the kind of prayer Joseph might have prayed when he was sitting in prison.
- This passage talks about God’s “unfailing love” and “faithfulness,” which is another promise that God keeps: to love us and be with us always.
- **How do you think Joseph was able to keep waiting for God’s promises for all that time? What kept him going?**

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

#### RESPONSE | Promise Wall

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place a sign on a wall that says God’s Promises. Give each kid yellow and blue sticky notes and something to write with. As you give them instructions, allow them to write their responses and post them on the wall under the sign.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Turn this Promise Wall into a weekly Prayer Wall and leave it up for weeks to come. Have your preteens update this wall as they arrive each week.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a leader or peer buddy who can walk them through formulating their responses. They can write it for them or they can draw pictures together.*
- Think about God’s promises in your life, in your family’s life, in the life of the church, or in the world. On the yellow sticky notes write promises that God has kept. Put them up on our wall of promises.
- Now, on your blue sticky notes write promises that have not come true yet. Remember that if God made those promises, God will keep those promises, too. Put your blue notes on the wall of promises as well.

#### ACTIVITY | Message in a Bottle

- We might never experience as much unfairness as Joseph did. But sometimes we find ourselves in the midst of trouble.
- If you were stranded on a deserted island – instead of an island paradise – and you had no other way to communicate, you might send a message in a bottle and float it out to sea, in hopes that someone will find it and come rescue you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid paper and crayons. Tell them to write “God keeps promises.” on their paper and decorate it. When finished have them roll it up and put it inside a bottle. (Optional: use a funnel to add a small amount of sand and/or seashells in the bottle.)*
- These bottles will help us to remember that **God keeps promises!**



### MEMORY VERSE | Flip Flop Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and cut the memory verse printable. Get as many volunteers as there are flip flops cutouts, and tape them to the bottom of one of their shoes (with the word showing, of course). Have kids try to stand in a line, in the order of the verse, by looking at the bottom of each other's feet.*

### PRAYER

- We love you God. You are the God who keeps promises. Help us remember that when things seem rough, you are always there, you always keep your promises.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- What were the Pharaoh's dreams?
- What did they mean?
- What did he do about it?
- Read Genesis 45:5. Joseph forgave his brothers. Why did he tell them not to be angry with themselves?
- What are some of God's promises?
- Have you ever experienced a promise being kept?
- What helps you remember that God keeps promises?

### ACTIVITY | Promise Stickers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a page of a few blank stickers. Have them write "God Keeps Promises" on them and decorate them.*
- Stickers help us remember important things. Make a few stickers to remind you and others that **God keeps promises**. You can wear one and give the others to your friends or family to help them remember.

### MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*