



# WEEK 5

## PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



### THE BIG IDEA

God's promises might take time.

### THE BIBLE

**Joseph's Dreams:** Genesis 37:1-28

#### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Paradise Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Hula Hoop Adventure
- ACTIVITY** | Beach Ball Toss

#### TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 40:1-41:40, 45:1-8
- THE BIG IDEA** | God keeps promises.
- VIDEO** | Promise, Episode 5
- ACTIVITY** | Gathering Grain
- PRAYER**

#### DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Bags of Grain
- ACTIVITY** | Joseph, May I?
- ACTIVITY** | Message in a Bottle
- MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

#### PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Joseph's Grain
- ACTIVITY** | Brothers' Travels



# WEEK 5

## HACKS FOR TODDLERS



### BY DENA KITCHENS

#### 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 | Hula Hoop Obstacle Course**

Keep the obstacle course simple. Tape a wavy course with hula hoops along the way. Instruct the younger kids to hop or jump in the hoops.

#### **ACTIVITY | Gathering Grain**

Carefully collect all the popped balloon pieces to prevent choking. You could substitute balloons for other objects the kids can collect, such as ball pit balls.

#### **SNACK | Bags of Grain**

Swap out the popcorn with corn puffs, pretzel sticks, or other easy-to-eat snacks that pose less of a choking hazard for the younger kids.

#### **ACTIVITY | Joseph's Grain**

Encourage the kids to pretend they are collecting grain before the famine comes by collecting cereal into cups or bowls using large scoops.



# WEEK 5

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

God keeps promises.

### THE BIBLE

**Joseph is Put in Charge:** Genesis 40:1-41:40; 45:1-8

## WELCOME TIME

#### MUSIC | Paradise Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play some fun worship songs for the kids to sing and dance along to! Sing ["There are Promises"](#) again, along with this fun song called, ["God Always Keeps His Promises."](#)

#### ACTIVITY | Hula Hoop Adventure

- Today is our last day in our island paradise! We have been hearing so many stories about God's promises. Let's play one last round of beach games!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, set up an [obstacle course](#) using hula hoops, tape, and any other items you have on hand.

#### ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Toss

- Let's keep having fun at our beach party with beach ball play!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups of two or three, each with a beach ball. Instruct them to toss the ball back and forth while you play fun beach music.

## TEACHING TIME

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid two paper plates, a yellow plate with a smiley face on it and a blue plate with a sad face. Tell them to hold up their plates at the appropriate times in the story,

saying, “yay” when they hold up the happy face and “aww” when they hold up the sad face. You or a volunteer can do it along with them.

- Last time, we learned about a guy named Joseph. His brothers had been mean to him and then sent him away with traders to work for others in Egypt. It was very sad. [Aww.]
  - So, Joseph went to Egypt and began working for a very important man named Potiphar. Joseph was a good and trustworthy servant for Potiphar. Potiphar trusted Joseph and put him in charge of everything in his home. [Yay!]
  - But Potiphar’s wife made up a story about Joseph that wasn’t true and he got put in prison. [Aww.]
- God was with Joseph, even in prison. Joseph was given a position of trust by the prison guard, and even helped interpret the dreams of some of the prisoners. [Yay!]
- After awhile, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had two dreams that he could not understand. Neither could any of his magicians. [Aww.]
  - One of the guys who worked for Pharaoh remembered Joseph because they had met each other in prison years ago. “I know someone who can help,” he told the Pharaoh. So, Pharaoh sent for Joseph. [Yay!]
  - Joseph told Pharaoh his dreams meant that they were going to have seven good years and seven very bad years. There would be no food in the land during the bad years. [Aww.]
  - So, Joseph told Pharaoh to save up extra food during the seven good years so they have enough for the seven bad years that would follow. Pharaoh did just that, and he got Joseph out of prison and gave him an important job to do! [Yay!]
- During the seven bad years, Joseph’s family back home was hungry. They didn’t have enough food to eat. [Aww.]
  - So, Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to buy food. When they got there, they bowed to the man in charge . . . Joseph! Joseph recognized them and forgave them for being mean to him a long time ago. [Yay!]
  - After that, the whole family moved to Egypt where Joseph could make sure they were well fed and healthy. [Yay!]
- It took some time, but God’s promises came true. Joseph became someone his whole family and everyone in Egypt admired and looked up to — just like he had dreamt a long time ago!

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in large letters on a black poster board, using chalk markers in rainbow or neon colors. Tape large tropical leaves on top of the words. When it’s time, remove the leaves one by one to reveal the Big Idea.
- We heard a lot about promises this month. We talked about how 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. And all of these things are true because do you want to know why? **God keeps promises!**

**VIDEO | Promise, Episode 5**

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

**ACTIVITY | Gathering Grain**

- After Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant, he was put in charge of gathering and storing food for the years of famine. Joseph knew that **God keeps promises!** Help us gather the grain like they had to do in Egypt.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spread a lot of balls or balloons throughout the room and place a few “silos” in strategic places – these may be empty, tall trash cans or tall boxes. Instruct the kids to gather the balls and put them in the boxes. To make it more fun, include a countdown of years and months.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Carefully collect all popped balloon pieces to prevent choking. You can substitute balloons for other objects the kids can collect, such as ball pit balls.

**PRAYER**

- Dear God, thank You for keeping the promises You made. Help us to remember even when things seem difficult, You will keep Your promises. Teach us how to keep the promises we make, too, so we can be more like You.

**DISCUSSION TIME**

**SNACK | Bags of Grain**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a small bag of popcorn.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Swap popcorn out with corn puffs, pretzel sticks, or other easy-to-eat snacks that pose less of a choking hazard.
- The Egyptians, with Joseph’s help, gathered extra grain and food during the good times so that when times got bad, they could get bags of grain and not go hungry. Let’s eat our own bags of grain.
- **What are some bad things that happened to Joseph while he was in Egypt?**
- **What were some good things that happened to Joseph in Egypt?**

**ACTIVITY | Joseph, May I?**

- In the end, Joseph ruled over his brothers, just like his dreams had shown. Pretend you are one of Joseph’s brothers and you have to ask permission before you can move forward.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Position the kids in a line across the room from you. If available, place the brightly colored fabric used earlier across your shoulders to signify that you are Joseph. Play the game like, “Mother, May I?” Call on one or more kids and tell them to move toward you a certain number of steps. They must say, “Joseph, may I?” before they move or they have to go back. Play until all the kids reach you.

**ACTIVITY | Message in a Bottle**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write “God keeps promises.” on pieces of paper. Give the papers and crayons to the kids and tell them to decorate the pages. Show them how to roll them up and put them inside bottles.

- Sometimes, we are in the midst of trouble like Joseph was when he was in prison. We might not have as bad times as Joseph, but we might feel like we need something to give us hope.
- If we were trapped on a deserted island instead of an island paradise, we might put a message inside a bottle and put it out to sea so someone will come help us. When we feel like that, it helps to have a message of hope.
- These bottles will remind us that **God keeps promises.**

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the same treasure chest and cards from previous weeks. Add the new card in the bottom of the chest. Pull the word cards and display them in order, saying the verse as you do. Then, hand out the verse cards for the kids to string on yarn to make a treasure necklace.
- Let's look at our treasure one last time. [Read the verse as you pull out the cards.]
- Wait! There's more treasure in here! Look! Here are some jewels you can use to make your own treasure necklaces.

## 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 crayons or markers. As the kids color, go over today's Bible story and Big Idea.

#### ACTIVITY | Joseph's Grain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a small bin or sand table with corn. Provide spoons or small scoops and small bags. Encourage the kids to fill the bags with the grain.  
✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use cereal and cups instead of corn and bags.

#### ACTIVITY | Brothers' Travels

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a table with sand and provide peg dolls or small dolls for the kids to re-enact the brothers traveling through the desert to get to Egypt.

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