



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

I can remember what God has done for us.

THE BIBLE

Crossing the Jordan River: Joshua 3:10-4:9

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Memory Match
- **ACTIVITY** | Stack It Up

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | My God is Big
- **THE BIG IDEA** | I can remember what God has done for us.
- **VIDEO** | Epic, Episode 4
- **SCRIPTURE** | Joshua 3:10-4:9
- **ACTIVITY** | Ark Run
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Ark Snack
- **ACTIVITY** | Memory Bracelets
- **ACTIVITY** | Twelve Friends
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Memory Stones

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Follow the Leader (of Israel)
- **ACTIVITY** | Protect the Twelve Stones



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY DARBY GEORGE

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 | Ark Run

- *Create an Ark of the Covenant by attaching two pool noodles to the sides of a box. Spray paint the entire creation gold for an added effect. Then allow toddlers to hold the "Ark" and walk around the room. Another option is to carry the Ark yourself, and give two groups each wave a piece of blue fabric while splitting off into either side of you, and pretend to be the Jordan River.*

ACTIVITY | Memory Bracelets

- Kids are making bracelets are reminders of what they learned today. For toddlers, instead of the suggested alphabet beads, you can use 12 grey beads that look like stones on the bracelet instead of the letter beads

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Hi, I'm Darby! I currently work in Columbus, Ohio with Cypress Church! I do everything birth-5th grade and I love every second of it! I've been serving and working with Cypress for over 10 years and I couldn't be more excited about what God has done and continues to do through the people here every single day. I have the opportunity to work with an amazing team of kids ministry leaders who push me to do better work every day and who I laugh with more than anyone else. We love kids, we love God, and we love helping kids love God. I am continually blessed to live out my calling by doing this work

each day! My family is the most important thing to me and I am blessed to have grown up knowing God and being pushed by my parents and siblings to know God more. If you bring me coffee, I'll be your best friend forever. I can always be bribed with chips and salsa. Nothing makes me happier than a freezing cold room, a comfy blanket, and a full pot of coffee.

If you'd like to chat with Darby about partnering with parents, what it means to lead children before having any of your own, or which is better: salsa or queso, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

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WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can remember what God has done for us.

THE BIBLE

Crossing the Jordan River: Joshua 3:10-4:9

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Memory Match

- In our story today, we are going to hear about men who remembered what God had done for them. To practice our memory skills, we are going to play a memory game!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, print the "Memory Match" graphics and attach them to a poster board. There should be two of each picture: stones, Ark of the Covenant, twelve men, Joshua, and the Jordan River. Lay the images upside down on the ground. Instruct the kids to flip over two cards at a time until they have matched all five pictures.*

ACTIVITY | Stack It Up

- Today, we are going to be hearing a Bible story about men who created a stack of twelve stones. We are going to create our own stack today out of cups!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the kids into teams. Give each team twelve cups to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Have each kid stack all twelve cups up into a pyramid. Once they finish, pass the cups to the next kid on the team until each kid has had a chance to make a stack. The team who gets all of the kids to stack the cups first wins!*

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | My God is Big

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play [this video](#) of "My God is Big" by LifeChurch and encourage the kids to sing and dance along.*

THE BIG IDEA | I can remember what God has done for us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, hide nine stones around the room. On each stone, place a different word from our Big Idea. Once the kids find all the stones, create a stack with the stones, then reveal the Big Idea.*
- Today, we are going to be talking about some different men who found stones and created a huge stack! I have hidden nine different stones around the room to help reveal our Big Idea for today! Let's see if we can find them all.
- Our Big Idea is: **I can remember what God has done for us.**

VIDEO | Epic, Episode 4

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

SCRIPTURE | Joshua 3:10-4:9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before you begin, gather twelve flat stones that can be easily stacked. As you reach key points in the story, add a stone to the stack.*
 - **Stone 1:** During the time Joshua was in charge, The Ark of the Covenant was the most important thing in the life of the Israelites. The Ark was a symbol of God's promise to take care of the Israelites and lead them into the Promised Land. It contained the two stone tablets that the Ten Commandments were written on.
 - **Stone 2:** Our story takes place on the Jordan River. Joshua was leading the Israelites and they were carrying the Ark of the Covenant.
 - **Stone 3:** God was speaking with Joshua and told him the next day would be the day all of the Israelites would see God defeat their enemies.
 - **Stone 4:** God told Joshua to choose a leader from each of the twelve tribes of men that were with him. These twelve men were to be the ones carrying the Ark of the Covenant.
 - **Stone 5:** God said to Joshua that when they stepped into the river with the Ark, the river would split and they would walk on dry ground. As the twelve men stepped into the river, it split and all of the Israelites were able to pass through.
 - **Stone 6:** The twelve men Joshua chose were then told to each pick up a stone from the river bed.
 - **Stone 7:** Each of the men went into the middle of the river where the Ark of the Covenant rested and picked up a stone. They brought the stones back to where they were camping.
 - **Stone 8:** Joshua and the twelve men stacked all twelve of the stones to create something to remember their passage through the Jordan River.
 - **Stone 9:** Joshua went into the Jordan River and created another stack of twelve stones in the middle where the ground was dry.
 - **Stone 10:** The stones are still there today and are a reminder to everyone that God was faithful to allow the Israelites safe passage across the river.
 - **Stone 11:** God commanded Joshua to tell the men carrying the Ark to take it up on high ground above the river and as they placed it down, the water in the river began flowing again.
 - **Stone 12:** God did this to remind the Israelites that God keeps promises.

ACTIVITY | Ark Run

- Today, we learned about the Ark of the Covenant! This was incredibly important to the Israelites. They were commanded by God to carry it across the river, so today we are going to create our own Ark of the Covenant.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, create an Ark of the Covenant by attaching two pool noodles to the sides of a box. Spray paint the entire creation gold for an added effect. Spread out a blue bedsheet across the floor to create the Jordan River. Split the kids into two teams and tell them to stand on opposite sides of the river. Two kids from the first team will balance the Ark on their shoulders and run across the river. Once they reach the kids on the other side, they must pass off the Ark and those kids will run across the river to the other side. Ensure every kid has an opportunity to hold the Ark and run across the river.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Instead of doing a relay race, just allow toddlers to hold the “Ark” and walk around the room. Another option is to carry the Ark yourself, and have your toddlers split off into either side of you, and pretend to be the Jordan River. Give each group on each side a piece of blue fabric to hold and wave together.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, Help us to always remember how You love us and take care of us. All of the good things we have are because of You. Help us to never forget all You have done for us.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Ark Snack

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a graham cracker, yellow icing, and two pretzel sticks. Tell them to use the icing to stick together the graham cracker and pretzels to create an Ark of the Covenant. As the kids snack, ask:*
 - **How many men did Joshua choose to pick up stones from the Jordan River?**
 - **Why was the Ark of the Covenant so important?**
 - **Why did they stack stones from the river?**

ACTIVITY | Memory Bracelets

- We learned how important it is to remember all that God has done for us today! As another reminder, we are going to create bracelets!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, create one bag for each kid that is filled with letter beads spelling out, “Remember.” Give each kid a pipe cleaner and help them to put the letter beads onto the pipe cleaner to spell out, “Remember.” After the beads are on the pipe cleaner, twist it around their wrist and secure it at the end.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *You can use 12 grey beads that look like stones on the bracelet instead of the letter beads*

ACTIVITY | Twelve Friends

- In our story today, we heard of twelve men who picked up stones to remember and tell others about what God had done for them. Today, we are going to create our own memory stones.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, print out copies of the printable for each kid. Find a slightly bumpy surface like the pavement, and have the kids rub crayon over each stone to give it a rock-like effect. Then help cut out each stone.*
- Give these stones to twelve friends or family members so they can remember what God has done for them, too! If they don't know, tell them about today's story.

MEMORY VERSE | Memory Stones

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before activity time, place each word of the memory verse onto a different stone. Help the kids arrange the stones in the correct order of the verse. Repeat the verse many times to help them remember.*

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a coloring page along with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Remind them of today's story, memory verse, and Big Idea as they color!*

ACTIVITY | Follow the Leader (of Israel)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose one kid to be Joshua and tell the other kids to follow whatever Joshua does.*

ACTIVITY | Protect the Twelve Stones

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place twelve gray pom-poms onto a sheet or parachute. Help each kid hold onto the edge of the sheet or parachute. Move the sheet/parachute up and down and watch the pom-poms bounce around. Help the kids keep the pom-poms on the sheet/parachute.*

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