



WEEK 5

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

**BREAKING
NEWS**

THE BIG IDEA

When I am lost, God guides me.

THE BIBLE

Ezekiel: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
(Psalm 95:1-7)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **MUSIC** | Eyewitness Praise
- **ACTIVITY** | News Report
- **ACTIVITY** | Pinky Promise Rings
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Faithfulness Shirt
- **SCRIPTURE** | Isaiah 64:1-9
- **THE BIG IDEA** | I can be faithful like God is faithful.
- **VIDEO** | Breaking News, Episode 5
- **STORY** | Broken Promises
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Big Chair, Little Chair
- **SCRIPTURE** | I Corinthians 1:3-9
- **RESPONSE** | Always Faithful
- **REFLECTION** | Highlight Reel
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Say It with Cheer
- **PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - What can you tell me about Isaiah?
 - What does it mean to be faithful?
 - Who is your favorite prophet we heard stories about this month?
 - Let's look at I Corinthians 1:9. In your own words what do you think this verse means?
 - How have you seen God be faithful in your life?
 - How can we be faithful to God?
 - How can we be faithful to others?
- **ACTIVITY** | Make Your Own Newspaper
- **MEMORY VERSE** | I Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)



WEEK 5

HACKS FOR PRETEENS

BREAKING
NEWS

BY STEPHEN BAY

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 | Pinky Promise Rings

Open this activity with a poll and have kids answer by a show of hands. Remember to keep a tone that encourages honest sharing.

- **How many of you have ever made a promise?**
- **How many of you kept that promise?**
- **How many of you ALWAYS keep your promises?**
- **Who has trouble keeping promises?**

OBJECT LESSON | Big Chair, Little Chair

Elaborate by asking the kids why the average-sized chair is more trustworthy. Answers may include "It's bigger," "It's sturdier," "It's more durable," etc. Relate this to God—God is faithful and trustworthy because God is way bigger and stronger than any one of us!

MEMORY VERSE | Say It With Cheer

Ask the kids to count off by fours and assign each number a part of the verse. Group one will say "Be on your guard"; Group two, "Stand firm in the faith"; Group three, "Be courageous"; Group four, "Be strong." Then, move everyone around so that they're not standing in numerical order anymore. They'll need to pay attention to the entire verse as it's being recited in order to know when it's their turn to say their phrase. Repeat the entire verse a handful of times.

ACTIVITY | Mini Newspaper

Ask the kids to think about different ways God has been faithful, either in their lives or in the Bible. Then, write them out like news headlines on a sheet of paper. Give them creative freedom to draw pictures and sketch everything out like a newspaper layout. Encourage them to keep this sheet in their journals or Bibles so they can look back on it and be reminded of God's faithfulness.



WEEK 5

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

BREAKING
NEWS

BY CHRISTIN RICKMAN

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.

ACTIVITY | News Report

Encourage kids to participate by being a reporter and holding out the mic for the volunteers who are giving a recap. You could even give them simple one-liners to say like, "Tell us a Big Idea!"

OBJECT LESSON | Faithfulness Shirt

Instead of a t-shirt, you can have two kids hold on to an object that has faithfulness written on it (e.g., pool noodle or one handle each of a a tote bag) for kids who might be uncomfortable with feeling trapped in the t-shirt.

ACTIVITY | Mini Newspaper

Print out all five Big Idea graphics from your Programming folder, and cut them out. Make sure they are small enough to fit on the Mini Newspaper printable. Give each kid a set of Big Ideas and have them glue it to the mini newspaper in the correct order.



WEEK 5

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

**BREAKING
NEWS**

THE BIG IDEA

I can be faithful like God is faithful.

THE BIBLE

Isaiah: Isaiah 64:1-9
(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Eyewitness Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song, "[Faithful](#)," by Amber Sky Records.

ACTIVITY | News Report

- Are you ready for today's breaking news? All month long, we have been hearing about prophets in the Bible and the breaking news they had to share with the people.
- Before our time together begins today, I want to see if anyone can remember some details from the stories we heard this month and give a news report on it!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask if there are any kids who would like to volunteer to give a recap of this month's series. Give them a microphone — a real or pretend one— and encourage them to "report" on the stories they've heard.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Encourage kids to participate by being a reporter and holding out the mic for the volunteers who are giving a recap. You could even give them simple one-liners to say like, "Tell us a Big Idea!"

ACTIVITY | Pinky Promise Rings

- Today, we are going to talk about how God is faithful to you and me. **Does anyone have an idea of what the word "faithful" means?**

- Faithful means that you can always count on someone. If God is faithful, that means we can always count on God.
- **Have you ever made a promise to someone?** Maybe you've even made a pinky promise! Those promises are real. Just like the promises God makes to us. We can trust God's promises. Before we get into today's story, let's make something that will remind us how God always keeps promises.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, cut pipe cleaners in half. Then, give the kids two different colored pipe cleaners. Instruct them to twist the different color pipe cleaners around each other and loop them around their pinky. To accommodate the different sizes of the kids hands, you might have to cut the excess off or tie it.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Open with a poll and have kids answer by a show of hands. Remember to keep a tone that encourages honest sharing. You can ask questions like: How many of you have ever made a promise? How many of you kept that promise? How many of you ALWAYS keep your promises? Who has trouble keeping promises?*
- Now, I bet you're wondering why our pinky rings have two colors on them. **Does anyone have any guesses?**
- One color represents God's faithfulness. God always keeps promises. The other color represents us! We need to be people who are faithful, too. But, we'll talk about that in a second!

OBJECT LESSON | Faithfulness Shirt

- When we are faithful, we work together. I need two volunteers to demonstrate working together in faithfulness.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write the word «faithfulness» on an extra large t-shirt. Ask for two volunteers – it might be a good idea to choose two smaller students for this one. Put the faithfulness shirt on both of them so that both heads are in the neck, and each has one arm in a sleeve. Tell them to work together to go through a simple obstacle course set up with things available in your environment.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Instead of a t-shirt, you can have two kids hold on to an object that has faithfulness written on it (e.g., pool noodle or one handle each of a tote bag) for kids who might be uncomfortable with feeling trapped in the t-shirt.*
- When we are faithful, we stick together. When the course got hard, the two friends worked together to make it through. That's how it is with God. With God by our sides, we can make it through anything.

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

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 64:1-9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Recruit the same or different adult volunteers to help with the skits, or play both parts yourself. Provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the characters to use. Print the scripture and roll it up like a scroll for Isaiah to read.*

- All month long, we have talked about prophets sharing breaking news with the people around them. The news was usually about people turning from their selfish ways and turning back to God.
- Today, we will hear some news from the prophet, Isaiah. We don't know much about Isaiah. But he did have a lot to say. His book in the Bible has 66 chapters! That's a lot of breaking news! Let's return to our favorite reporter who is interviewing Isaiah today.
 - **Reporter:** This is *[name of volunteer]* here with breaking news from another prophet, Isaiah. Well, Isaiah, thank you for being with us today. I understand your message today is in the form of a prayer to God. What do you have to say?
 - **Isaiah:** *[Read Isaiah 64:1-7.]*
 - **Reporter:** We have seen God's power before, and I see you're pointing out that we have done many things that do not please God, so we feel God is far away.
 - **Isaiah:** *[Read Isaiah 64:8-9.]*
 - **Reporter:** Ah, we need to ask God for forgiveness. We need to be faithful to God as God has been faithful to us.
 - **Isaiah:** That's right. God wants us to live faithfully.
 - **Reporter:** Thank you, Isaiah, for reminding us to be faithful to God, even when it is hard. This is *[name of volunteer]* signing off and reminding you to remain faithful.
- Isaiah's message is similar to the other prophets' breaking news, isn't it? God didn't think Israel's actions were all that great, according to Isaiah's message. But we see that Isaiah also reminds everyone of the good things God has done.
- Sometimes, when things are difficult, we have to remember the good things God has done for us and other people. They remind us that God is faithful and can be counted on no matter what. God will always come through.
- **What can we learn from Isaiah's breaking news?**

THE BIG IDEA | I can be faithful like God is faithful.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask two volunteers to run across the front carrying a banner that says, "Breaking News" and play the sound effects from [this video](#). Ask another volunteer to play the role of the breaking news reporter.
- We interrupt these activities to bring you some breaking news. This is *[name of volunteer]* with today's Big Idea: **I can be faithful like God is faithful!**
- We now return to your regularly scheduled programming.

VIDEO | Breaking News, Episode 5

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

STORY | Broken Promises

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story, or ask another adult to share a story, about a time when you broke a promise. Share how things might have worked out differently if you had kept your promise and how sorry you are that you broke the promise. Keep the story lighthearted.

- This reminds us how important it is to keep our promises to each other and to God. We need to be faithful just as God is faithful to us.
- Remember, God is faithful and can be counted on no matter what. God will always come through.
- **I can be faithful like God is faithful.**

OBJECT LESSON | Big Chair, Little Chair

- Okay, I'm going to show you guys something. I'm going to sit down in one of these chairs.
- **Which chair do you think would be able to hold me the best?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use two chairs for this activity, one that is very small and one that is average-sized.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Elaborate by asking the kids why the average-sized chair is more trustworthy. Answers may include "It's bigger," "It's sturdier," "It's more durable," etc. Relate this to God – God is faithful and trustworthy because God is way bigger and stronger than any one of us!
- The chair that is more my size would be best! It would be more trustworthy.
- God is trustworthy and faithful. But we need to be faithful, too! God gives us an example of faithfulness that we can follow.

SCRIPTURE | I Corinthians 1:3-9

- So, what does it mean exactly for us to be faithful? Let's see what the Bible has to say.
- I will read I Corinthians 1:3-9. At the end of each verse, I will pause and I want you to say, "We thank You, God."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up I Corinthians 1:3-9 in your Bible and encourage the kids to find it in their Bibles, too. As you read it, ask the kids to respond.
- These verses remind us how faithful God is. They also tell us how we can be faithful, too.
- When we live the way God wants us to live, it's like we're making a pinky promise to God. The way we remain faithful to God is by doing the very things we've talked about during the past month: worshiping sincerely and letting God guide us.

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

RESPONSE | Always Faithful

- I don't know about you, but talking about God's faithfulness and living in such a way that I can be counted on makes me feel really happy! Let's sing a song all about faithfulness!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play "[Always Faithful](#)" by Lifeway Kids. Invite the kids to listen to the words and move as the song tells them to.

REFLECTION | Highlight Reel

- We've sure heard a lot of breaking news this month! Let's talk a little bit about some of the highlights of the month.
- First, we heard about the prophet, Micah, and the example he set for doing what's right.

- Next, we heard about the prophet, Amos. He taught us about worshiping God with a sincere heart.
- Then, we talked about trusting in God when times are tough. We heard that from the prophet, Zephaniah.
- Last week, we heard about the prophet, Ezekiel. He reminded us that God guides us when we are lost.
- **Can anyone remember what we talked about today?**
- That's right! We talked about the prophet, Isaiah, and his reminder of God's faithfulness.

MEMORY VERSE | Say It With Cheer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids repeat each phrase of the verse after you like a cheer and then say it all together.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask the kids to count off by fours and assign each number a part of the verse to recite. Then, move everyone around so that they're not standing in numerical order anymore. They'll need to pay attention to the entire verse as it's being recited in order to know when it's their turn to say their phrase. Repeat the entire verse a handful of times.
- We've been working on this verse all month and now we can celebrate by saying it like a cheer! Now, after I say each part of the memory verse, you repeat it after me.
- **Be on your guard;** (pause for response)
- **Stand firm in the faith;** (pause for response)
- **Be courageous;** (pause for response)
- **Be strong.** (pause for response)
- Good job! Now, let's say it all together.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for all you've shown us this month. Today, help us to remember how faithful you are to us. Help us to also be faithful to you in the way that we live. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What can you tell me about Isaiah?**
- **What does it mean to be faithful?**
- **Who is your favorite prophet that we learned about this month?**
- **Let's look at I Corinthians 1:9. In your own words, what do you think this verse means?**
- **How have you seen God be faithful in your life?**
- **How can we be faithful to God?**
- **How can we be faithful to others?**

ACTIVITY | Mini Newspaper

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each a kid a copy of the Mini Newspaper printable, and have them fold into fourths so that the newspaper header shows. Have kids create a mini newspaper by writing on each page all the Big Ideas they have learned this month, and adding illustrations.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask the kids to write out “articles” about different ways God has been faithful, either in their lives or in the Bible. Encourage them to keep this sheet in their journals or Bibles so they can look back on it and be reminded of God’s faithfulness.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Print out small copies of all five Big Idea graphics from your Programming folder, and cut them out. Give each kid a set of Big Ideas and have them glue it to the mini newspaper in the correct order.
- Most news we hear these days tend to be negative. Looking back on all the breaking news we’ve heard the prophets, were they all bad news? Not really, if you think about it. God was just giving the people a wake-up call, for people to turn back to God before it’s too late.
- So, it’s really all good news – each prophet’s news showed us that God is faithful no matter what’s happening, and no matter what we do. Keep your mini newspaper in a place you can see it easily to remind yourself to be also be faithful!

MEMORY VERSE | I Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)

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