



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

LEGACY

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.

THE BIBLE

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch: Acts 8:26-40
(John 15:1-8)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Worship
- ACTIVITY** | Legacy Leg Race
- ACTIVITY** | Maze Race
- OBJECT LESSON** | Who is the Holy Spirit? - Part One
- SCRIPTURE** | Acts 8:26-40
- THE BIG IDEA** | The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.
- VIDEO** | Legacy, Episode 1
- STORY** | My Own Travel
- ACTIVITY** | Legacy Lotto
- SCRIPTURE** | Romans 15:13
- ACTIVITY** | Timeline
- REFLECTION** | Fill in the Blank
- MEMORY VERSE** | Verse Knockout
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do?
 - Who did Philip meet on the desert road?
 - What did Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch talk about?
 - Read Romans 15:13. How does this verse encourage us?
 - What does the Holy Spirit do for us?
 - What are some things you know about God already?
 - What are some things you want to know more about?
- ACTIVITY** | Legacy Locket
- MEMORY VERSE** | Romans 8:14 (NIV)



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



BY ASHLEY SIDER

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 | Maze Race

For an added challenge, have preteens walk through the maze while keeping the balloon afloat overhead with their straws. You can also time them to see who can complete the maze in the shortest amount of time possible.

OBJECT LESSON | Who is the Holy Spirit?

Instead of having a leader direct the fan, include your preteens in being a part of the object lesson by asking them to try and keep the balloon out of the bucket.

ACTIVITY | Legacy Lotto

For each column, have kids find one person who likes one of the items in that list, and another person who dislikes something on that list. Tell them they can't have the same person in the same column! To get "LEGACY," they need to find at least twelve different people to sign their boards.



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

LEGACY

BY EUGENIA LEE

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.

GENERAL TIPS

When kids sit in a large group, choose seating arrangements carefully to meet their needs. If a child needs to move around a lot, the back of the room with lots of space would be better. If a child has hearing or vision impairment, the front of the room near the speaker or screen may work better. For kids with sensitivity to noise, make sure they are not near the speakers. If a child has a behavior problem, such as touching other kids, consider having an adult volunteer sit between that child and other kids. For wheelchair users, make sure that the child has a clear pathway to move around, particularly being mindful of emergency exit routes.

ACTIVITY | Legacy Leg Race

Not all peer students are ready to be in the same team with kids with special needs. Be proactive and thoughtful about how teammates are chosen. Be understanding and empathetic to peer students who may not know how to interact with kids with special needs.

When you find a teachable moment, talk to typical peers about their feelings and set expectations about welcoming kids with special needs and treating them just like other friends. You can always talk with parents before activities like this to brainstorm the best ways to include and help the kids in your ministry!

Prepare an adult volunteer leader to accompany a child who may not feel confident in a team environment yet.

ACTIVITY | Legacy Lotto

Fill out the board for them ahead of time with words or pictures of common things your kids might like. Give kids stickers they can stick on their friends' boards instead of having to write their names.

ACTIVITY | Timeline

Give one prompt with a clear modeling of each step at a time. For example, "put your finger right here (for a starting point)", then give a wait time while kids do that. Once kids get that step done, then move onto the next step by giving the prompt, "draw a line from there", then draw a line. Make sure to give a reasonable wait time because many kids require extra time to process and follow through.

Depending on the level of kids' abilities, you might want to prepare a paper with the line and dots drawn for them and cutouts of images they can use to represent the people they want to add to the timeline.



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

LEGACY

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.

THE BIBLE

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch: Acts 8:26-40
(John 15:1-8)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the kids into an energetic, fun time of worship! You can sing your kids' favorites, but consider adding the following to your playlist:*
 - ["Follow You"](#) by Hillsong Kids
 - ["Follow Me"](#) by Yancy
- These songs invite us to follow God and to talk to God!

ACTIVITY | Legacy Leg Race

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into three to four teams, depending on how many kids you have. Within those teams, split the kids into pairs and have them tie one of each of their legs together to create a three-legged team. Each pair will then kick an inflated balloon from one side of the room to the other, then run back and tag the next pair in their team. The first team to get all their balloons successfully across the finish line wins.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Prepare an adult volunteer leader to accompany a child who may not feel confident in a team environment yet. You can always talk with parents before activities like this to brainstorm the best ways to include and help the kids in your ministry!*

- We are kicking off a brand new series called Legacy! **Does anyone know what a legacy actually is?**
- A legacy is something that is handed down from the past. Just like how you tagged your teammates to let them know it was their turn next. For example, someone’s legacy might be that they cared for animals or that their family is known for being kind and generous.
- We are going to spend this month talking about the legacy that Jesus has left for us . . . which is the Holy Spirit.

ACTIVITY | Maze Race

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a maze using painter’s tape on the floor. Each kid will be given a straw and a balloon. The kids blow on their balloons with their straws, trying to make it through without leaving the boundaries of the maze. Allow all of the kids to try to do this first without any help. The second time through, guide the kids by giving them step-by-step directions so they can go through the maze focusing on their balloon and not trying to watch where the maze is.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *For an added challenge, have preteens walk through the maze while keeping the balloon afloat overhead with their straws. You can also time them to see who can complete the maze in the shortest amount of time possible.*
- Life can be confusing. **Have you ever felt like your life is a maze?**
- The legacy of the Holy Spirit is to connect us to God. Just like it was easier for you to travel through the maze when someone was giving you directions, the Holy Spirit helps us to travel through life loving and serving God.

OBJECT LESSON | Who is the Holy Spirit? - Part One

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask for a volunteer to try and toss a balloon into a bucket. You will use a fan to try and blow the balloon away from the bucket while they try.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Instead of having a leader direct the fan, include your preteens in being a part of the object lesson by asking them to try and keep the balloon out of the bucket.*
- **Why was it so difficult to get the balloon into the trash can?**
- **Can you see the wind coming out of the fan?**
- **How do you know the wind is there?**
- **When you go outside on a windy day, can you see the wind?**
- **How do you know the wind is blowing?**
- The Holy Spirit is a lot like the wind coming from a fan or the wind outside on a windy day. Even though we can’t see it, it’s there.
- Just like the wind from the fan moved the balloon, the Holy Spirit moves us. The Holy Spirit guides and travels with us, helping us when we need to make important choices.

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

SCRIPTURE | Acts 8:26-40

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a time travel device to use for the Bible story every week this month! Cut out chunks of the rim of five plates ([gold](#), [silver](#), and/or [bronze](#)) to make them look like steampunk gears ([like this](#)). Print and cut out items from the Time Machine printable. Poke a hole in the middle of a [cake board](#) and attach the arrow with a [brad](#). Glue each of the Scripture circles onto a plate (note that they are in Roman numerals to fit the theme!). Attach the gears around the cake board in any order using brads or hot glue.
- Today, we're going to hear about one of Jesus' friends named Philip. Philip was a special friend of Jesus' called a disciple, or a follower Jesus.
- Let's use our special time travel device to take us to today's Bible story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Point the arrow on your "device" to the plate with the corresponding Scripture and play [this sound effect](#). Summarize today's Bible story in Acts 8:26-40.
- The Spirit of God told Philip to go to this place in the middle of nowhere, and Philip didn't ask why – he just agreed to go just like that! When he arrived, he met a person from Ethiopia. And this guy was really important because he was the treasurer – that's the person in charge of money – for the Queen of Ethiopia!
- The man brought with him on his trip to Jerusalem a big part of the Hebrew scriptures, which is what we call the Old Testament, and specifically, the book of Isaiah. He was reading it out loud.
- Even though he was well educated and worked for the queen, the man still didn't understand what he was reading – it didn't make any sense to him.
- **Have you ever read something you didn't understand?**
- Well, Philip heard the man reading, approached him and asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?"
- You see, Philip had heard the Holy Spirit's voice telling Philip to help someone. And even though he was a little nervous, he helped the man anyway because Philip knew this was what the Holy Spirit wanted him to do.

THE BIG IDEA | The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.

- Check this out! It's called a legacy pod.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a legacy pod by writing all the words of the Big Idea on individual index cards and putting them into a time capsule ([Something like this](#)). Open the legacy pod and pull out one sheet of paper or index card at a time with parts of the Big Idea written on them. Arrange the words into the correct order to reveal the Big Idea. Read the Big Idea out loud together.
- **The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.**

VIDEO | Legacy, Episode 1

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

STORY | My Own Travel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a time travel story about a time when you were growing up and you didn't understand something that was going on. You didn't understand it at the time, but looking back, it's easy to see how the Holy Spirit was helping guide the situation.*
- The man from Ethiopia was looking to understand God better. That's why God sent Philip – to help the man answer his questions and understand more about God!
- We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can see what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives!

ACTIVITY | Legacy Lotto

- We are going to get to know each other better by playing a game called, "Legacy."
- You will travel around the room to try to find people who can put their name next to something they like from the board you fill out. Once you have one person for each letter, yell, "Legacy!"
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Legacy Lotto printable. In the blank spaces, have them write four things they like in each column that begin with the letter of that column (e.g., lemonade, lollipops, lizards, labradors for column "L"). Once they complete their board, they will go around and try to find other people who like the same things on their list, and get them to write their name in the corresponding boxes. This activity will be played kind of like "Bingo" except that instead of trying to get five-in-a-row, kids will try to get one item from each column, in any order. Once they have a six different friends' names listed in each of the six columns, have them yell "LEGACY!"*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *For each column, have kids find one person who likes one of the items in that list, and another person who really dislikes something on that list. And tell them they can't have the same person in the same column!*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Fill out the board for them ahead of time with words or pictures of common things your kids might like. Give kids stickers they can stick on their friends' boards instead of having to write their names.*
- This game helped us to get to know each other a little better. What can we do to get to know God better? We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us. **The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.**

SCRIPTURE | Romans 15:13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Romans 15:13.*
- A man named Paul was trying to help all the new churches get started. Paul's legacy is that he wrote letters to these churches, which were later put in the Bible.
- Paul wanted to encourage church leaders because they were only just learning what it meant to be followers of Jesus.
- Paul shared with them that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are filled with joy and peace. And that gives us power to do what Jesus wants us to do . . . which helps us know God better.
- **The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.**

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

ACTIVITY | Timeline

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and some colored pencils. Show them an example of a timeline.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Issue clear prompts while modeling it for them, and give them a lot of time in between each step. You could also prepare a paper with the line and dots drawn for them and cutouts of images they can use to represent the people they want to add to the timeline.
- It's amazing how the Holy Spirit impacts every part of our lives. Sometimes, we don't even notice it.
 - First, draw a line all the way across your paper like this, with three dots.
 - Over the first dot, draw a picture of the person who invited or brought you here today. That happened in the past.
 - Under the second dot, draw a picture of yourself here, where you are right now.
 - Over the third dot draw a picture of someone you know who you can ask to come with you next time. That will happen in the future.
- Now, we have the past, present, and future. Go back and draw one big heart over all three pictures. God's Holy Spirit directs our lives and connects the past to the present, and the present to the future.

REFLECTION | Fill In the Blank

- Now, turn your paper over, and I'm going to ask some questions out loud. I want you to think about the question and write or draw your answers. Don't say anything out loud. I want you to have some private time just between you and God.
- Remember, **The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God.**
- Write down these questions:
 - **What is something I already know about God?**
 - **What is something else I want to learn about God?**
 - **How can knowing more about God can help me be more like Jesus?**
- Maybe this is a lot to think about right now. So every night this week, I want you to look at these questions and think about the answers. And just like Paul told the Romans, the God of hope will fill you with joy and peace, and you can fill in the answers to these questions whenever you want to.
- Next week, you can share your answers with your small group!

MEMORY VERSE | Verse Knockout

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write one word from the memory verse onto upside down [cups](#). Line up the cups in order on a table (you might want to spread them out over two tables if possible). Have kids read and recite the verse together once. Then have kids take turns tossing bean bags to knock

a cup off the table. Each time one cup gets knocked over, put it away and have them recite the whole verse and supply the missing word. Keep going until all the cups have been knocked over and the group is able to recite the whole verse without any cups present.

PRAYER

- Dear God, Thank you for wanting to know us and for allowing us to know you more through the Holy Spirit. Help us to want to know you more and more each day and share what we know with others. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do?
- Who did Philip meet on the desert road?
- What did Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch talk about?
- Read Romans 15:13. How does this verse encourage us?
- What does the Holy Spirit do for us?
- What are some things you know about God already?
- What are some things you want to know more about?

ACTIVITY | Legacy Locket

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to create their own legacy locket necklace to help them remember today's Big Idea. Pass out [circle pendants](#), [necklace chains](#), and [fine point Sharpies](#). Instruct the kids to decorate their pendant with either today's Big Idea or a drawing of a [compass](#).
- Every time you look at your legacy locket, you can remember that the Holy Spirit shows us which way to go and what choices we should make. **The Holy Spirit helps us want to know God!**

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 8:14 (NIV)

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