



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God uses unlikely people.

THE BIBLE

David Becomes King: I Samuel 16:1-13;
II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; (II Corinthians 12:9-10)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | "One of a Kind"
- ACTIVITY** | Unusual Charades
- ACTIVITY** | Unlikely Grocery Bag
- QUESTION** | Unlikely Choice?
- SCRIPTURE** | I Samuel 16:1-13; II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
- THE BIG IDEA** | God uses unlikely people.
- VIDEO** | Unusual, Episode 1
- QUESTION** | What is an underdog?
- OBJECT LESSON** | The Peel Deal
- SCRIPTURE** | II Corinthians 12:9-10
- VIDEO** | Wings of an Eagle
- REFLECTION** | Based on Looks
- MEMORY VERSE** | Erase the Verse
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - Why did Samuel immediately assume that Jesse's oldest son was the one whom God had chosen?
 - What did God tell Samuel about all of Jesse's sons?
 - Why did Jesse not call David into the house in the beginning?
 - Read II Corinthians 12:9-10. This verse says that we should be okay with our weaknesses. Why do you think that is?
 - What does it mean when we say God uses unlikely people?
 - What are some things we can do to see people for their hearts the way God does?
 - How can we have the kind of heart God looks for?
- ACTIVITY** | If I Were an Ant
- MEMORY VERSE** | Isaiah 55:8 (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.

MUSIC | "One of a Kind"

Consider using a song with motions like the [Cotton-Eye Joe](#), [Cha Cha Slide](#), [Church Clap](#), or other trending songs that might include kids of a wider age range.

ACTIVITY | Unusual Charades

Take this game to the next level by having only one or two guessers while the rest of the group acts out both the animal and the action at once, instead of doing the animal and action separately. So in the above example, they need to act out a shark brushing its teeth. Some other fun examples might include: a penguin sneezing, an elephant wearing roller skates, a unicorn doing the hula hoop, a mouse playing football, a crab watching TV.

QUESTION | Not good enough?

Insert a small challenge here and have the group vote on whether or not they think the volunteer could complete the challenge (i.e. balancing a spoon on their nose, juggling, holding their breath for a long time, etc.)

QUESTION | What is an underdog?

Choose a few popular movies or stories and have the group name some of the underdogs.

ACTIVITY | If I Were an Ant

Ask them to draw a picture of themselves doing something that feels impossible, but that they have always wanted to try!



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



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.

MUSIC | "One of a Kind"

Some kids may need your creative support when things get extra loud or exciting. Have a few pairs of noise canceling headsets on hand for anyone demonstrating a need. Modify any of the louder activities to be more sensory sensitive by playing music at a lower volume, dimming lights, or challenging kids to play in slow motion!

QUESTION | Unlikely Choice?

Use this question to reinforce the value that your team places on every person! Express your hopes and dreams for all of the kids in your group, including those with special needs.

Evaluate yourself and your team to see if you have lower expectations for kids with special needs. Kids should be provided with opportunities to do things independently as much as possible. Continue to push the limit in a healthy way with a ton of verbal praise and encouragement.

VIDEO | Wings of an Eagle

Be an advocate for kids with physical needs, whether they're movement or coordination delays or a physical disability that limits their movements. This video includes a typical ability to run. Prepare for tough questions and be ready to point out similarities in the story to the kids in your group.

Additionally, kids love multimedia resources, such as videos, apps, music, computer games, and so on. Use it to motivate kids to do things that are not preferred. Many kids are familiar with the phrase:

“First (the task that needs to be done), then (the activity/thing that is motivating to them)” – it’s a common term that educators and therapists use to help kids with special needs to get things done. Make sure you provide the motivator as soon as the student complies.

- For example, for this module you can say, “First Scripture, then Video”. Apply this to other times during your program (e.g., “First sit, then M&M’s.” The student sits and you provide M&M’s immediately).



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God uses unlikely people.

THE BIBLE

David Becomes King: I Samuel 16:1-13;
II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; (II Corinthians 12:9-10)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | "One of a Kind"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song, "[One of a Kind](#)," by Vineyard Kids and lead the kids in a dance party!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider using a song with motions like the [Cotton-Eye Joe](#), [Cha Cha Slide](#), [Church Clap](#), or other trending songs that might include kids of a wider age range.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** How about throwing a sensory sensitive dance party with music playing with low volume, dimmed light, with kids in place or in slow motion?
- Let's see those one-of-a-kind dance moves!! While we're dancing, let's listen to the words of this song and think about how they make us feel!

ACTIVITY | Unusual Charades

- **Does anyone know what "unusual" means?** That's right! Unusual means something that you might not really expect, something uncommon or unique! Let's play some charades in a very unusual way!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create two buckets of index cards, one containing different animals and one containing actions. Split the kids into two teams, and let two kids come up to the front at a time from each team. One kid draws from the animal bucket and the other from the action bucket. Have them each act out their cards for the group and their team has to guess what animal is doing what action by looking at their two actors (for example, person 1 might act out "shark," while person 2 is acting out "brushing teeth," so the answer is: "a shark brushing its teeth!").

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Take this game to the next level by having only one or two guessers while the rest of the group acts out both the animal and the action at once, instead of doing the animal and action separately. So in the above example, they need to act out a shark brushing its teeth. Some other fun examples might include: a penguin sneezing, an elephant wearing roller skates, a unicorn doing the hula hoop, a mouse playing football, a crab watching TV.*

ACTIVITY | Unlikely Grocery Bag

- On the way here, I made a quick stop at the grocery store and got a few things, like this (*Pull strange objects from the list below or make up your own list of things to pull out of a grocery bag*).
- Hey, wait a minute! That's not the sort of thing you buy at the grocery store! What on Earth? I wonder what's in all of these other bags?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill up a few brown paper or reusable grocery bags with some items you probably wouldn't find at the grocery store, such as a fancy shoe, a trumpet, a monkey wrench, a rolling pin, a big seashell, etc. Ask a few kids to take turns feeling the outside and guessing what's in the bag. If you are working with a small but mighty group, circle them up and have them pass the bag around and guess the "unlikely" item. If someone guesses the item correctly, award them with a prize or an enthusiastic high five. Continue the activity until all the items have been identified.*
- A word that's related to unusual is the word, "unlikely." When something is unlikely, it has little to no chance of happening or of being true.
- Those were some unlikely items to find in the grocery bags! Today, we are going to learn about an unlikely person whom God chose to do really big things!

QUESTION | Unlikely Choice?

- **Have you ever felt not good enough?**
- Maybe your mom thought you couldn't pour that juice without spilling it and you proved her wrong!
- Maybe you didn't get picked for a sports team because someone didn't think you were big enough to play!
- Sometimes, people around us or even those closest to us may not think we're the likely choice to do something, but that doesn't mean we can't do it! Let's go to the Bible and hear a story about a boy who knew exactly what it felt like to have people think he wasn't good enough.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Insert a small challenge here and have the group vote on whether or not they think the volunteer could complete the challenge (e.g., balancing a spoon on their nose, juggling, holding their breath for a long time, etc.)*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Use this question to reinforce the value that your team places on every person! Express your hopes and dreams for all of the kids in your group, including those with special needs.*

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

SCRIPTURE | I Samuel 16:1-13; II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As you tell the story, ask for seven volunteers to be David's brothers, and a leader or another kid to be David. Include girls as volunteers, too! Create a sign that says "Nope!" on one side and "Yup!" on the other. Set aside a crown you will use at the end.*
- Samuel was sent on a secret mission by God to find the next king of Israel. The reason it was so hush-hush is that Israel already had a king. Talk about awkward, right? And he was a good-looking king, too, at least on the outside. But not so much on the inside.
 - At first, the king was pretty successful. The key to his success was that he listened to God!
 - But as time went on, the king thought he knew more than God. Do we think this made God happy? No way!
- So, God gave Samuel strict instructions to meet with a man named Jesse so that he could anoint one of his sons as king.
 - As soon as Samuel saw Jesse's first son (*Pull a kid from the group and invite kids to applaud.*), Samuel was sure that God had picked him to be king. He looked great!
 - But God said . . . (*Hold up sign*) "Nope!" **Let's see exactly what God said in I Samuel 16:7.**
 - So Samuel moved on to the next brother. He looked like he would make a great king, too! **But what do you think God said?** (*Hold up sign.*) Nope!
 - (*With each new kid, make a big fuss over how perfect they are, then read I Samuel 16:7 again.*)
- Samuel was thinking, "Oh, come on! This is driving me bananas! God said there would be a son, but none of these are the right one! There has to be one more!"
 - But guess what? Outside of Jesse's house the whole time, there was one son who Jesse hadn't even brought in (*Pull up the adult volunteer*). Jesse didn't think of David first. It would have been unusual to choose him in his mind. But God saw something different in David and Samuel did, too! But when Samuel met him, God said, "Yup!" Finally!
 - And Samuel declared him king by pouring oil on his head. It was a mark of kindness and a symbol of honor, a tradition practiced in ancient Greece, Egypt, Rome, and in the Hebrew Scripture. It is often called, "anointing."
 - We won't "anoint" our friend, "David," here, but we will let them wear this crown! (*Put crown on "David."*)
- From that point on, God was with David, the new king. David reigned for a very long time, and he was the greatest king Israel ever had!

THE BIG IDEA | God uses unlikely people.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Reveal a character who will be making appearances all month: Brick (can be any gender). Brick wears a muscle suit, flexes constantly, carries a huge, fake weight, kisses fake giant muscles, and takes every possible opportunity to brag about how awesome and brilliant and great they are. Of course, even though Brick seems to be a likely hero. Brick is actually not that tough after all and will be outwitted each week by a kid who reveals the Big Idea. Read the following script:*

- **Brick:** Hey, there, pipsqueaks. I'm Brick. I just got back from the gym. I was the strongest person there. And the smartest. And the best-looking. Obviously. I mean, look at me. I'm basically a born hero.
- **Leader:** Hey, Brick, we're really glad to have you here, but we're all special people in this room. We all have different gifts that God has given us.
- **Brick:** Yeah, sure, whatever, but I bring the most special stuff. I mean, look at me. I am an extremely likely hero. Speaking of which, does anyone need any rescuing?
- **Leader:** Well, we don't need rescuing, but if you'd really like, you can reveal this week's Big Idea. It's in this jar. *(Give Brick a empty jar with a relatively loose lid.)*
- **Brick:** Oh, ha! Easy peasy. *(Really ham it up trying to get the lid off the jar.)* Did you. . . is this a trick? Oof! Ugh! Erf! Did you glue it down? My hands must be slippery!
- **Leader:** Would anyone else like to try? *(Make sure to select a reader from among the volunteers.)*
- **Brick:** Oh, sure. Like this little kid can do it if I can't. Go ahead and try, kid. *(Kid will open jar easily.)* What?! How did you – I mean, you're welcome! You know, since I, uh, loosened it up for you and – oh! I think I hear someone in need of rescue! Gotta go! *(Runs off stage.)*
- **Leader:** Well, that sure was interesting, wasn't it? Hey, buddy, you might not be quite as muscle-y as our friend, Brick, but it turns out, you opened that jar just fine! I think you should read us this week's Big Idea!
- This week's Big Idea is **God uses unlikely people!**

VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 1

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

QUESTION | What is an underdog?

- **Who knows what an underdog is?**
 - An underdog is a character in a story or a situation who you don't expect to win. Underdogs are all around us. We see them in our favorite movies and television shows. We hear about them in sporting events. It's always the team or person that has little to no chance of beating the other one.
 - Sometimes, we might even feel like underdogs. But that's great news because God often uses the underdog!
 - David was seen as a true underdog in the eyes of his family, but he was the one who God chose to be king because of his heart. As we stay close to God, God will use us to do great things, too!
- God uses unlikely people.**

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Choose a few popular movies or stories and have the group name some of the underdogs.

OBJECT LESSON | The Peel Deal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the group two bananas, one yellow and one brown. Ask the kids, "Which banana looks better from the outside?" Peel them both and show them how the brown banana is actually just fine from the inside. Take a bite and then reread 1 Samuel 16:7b.
- Wow, I was able to enjoy this banana so much more when I saw what was on the inside. That's

what God sees! God sees all the way down to the inside . . . to our hearts! And that's what God looks for when it's time to find unlikely people to do big things!

SCRIPTURE | II Corinthians 12:9-10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read II Corinthians 12:9-10. Then either show on a screen or print out a large [picture of a leafcutter ant](#).
- Does everyone see this little guy up here? We all know what that is, right? Yep, it's an ant!
 - This kind of ant is called a leafcutter ant, and it might not look all that special, but guess what? It's one of the strongest animals on the whole planet.
 - A leafcutter ant can lift twenty times its body weight! That's like a first grader picking up an entire piano by themselves! The point is, it's really, really strong, even though it might seem unlikely.
- The Bible passage we just read says that when we are weak, then we are strong. That makes no sense! Or does it?
 - When David was chosen to be king, it was God that made David strong enough to do the task that others thought he could not do. And God is with us, too.
 - Aren't you glad that no matter what other people think of us, God knows that we can do big things? I sure am.
- And if that little, bitty leafcutter ant can pick up twenty times its weight, there are endless possibilities for what God can do through unlikely people like you and me!

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

VIDEO | Wings of an Eagle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch this [video](#). Discuss with the kids what made Billy the unlikely winner of his Olympic race.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Be an advocate for kids with physical needs, whether they're movement or coordination delays or a physical disability that limits their movements. This video includes a typical ability to run. Prepare for tough questions and be ready to point out similarities in the story to the kids in your group.
- **What challenges did Billy face that made him and people around him think that he maybe shouldn't be running the race or that he wouldn't win?**
- **What do we think it was that made it possible for Billy to win at the end?**
- He had a lot of heart, didn't he?
- **What does God teach us about people like Billy?**

REFLECTION | Based on Looks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into smaller discussion groups, ideally with one leader per group, though the kids can self direct their discussions with roaming leaders helping to prompt them, if necessary. Begin the conversation by sharing a story of your own of a time that you felt judged prematurely, and then encourage the kids to share with their groups times they felt similarly, maybe having been judged on their outward appearance or their age or gender or ability.

- It really seems like most of us have had the experience of being judged unfairly based on what people think they can tell about us from the outside.
- We all make mistakes and judge other people unfairly. Even Samuel did that, and he was one of God’s special messengers! But remember what God said to Samuel when he did that? God looks at people’s hearts!
- No one knows what’s in people’s hearts . . . only God can. No matter what any of us look like on the outside, what matters to God is what’s on the inside. That’s how **God uses unlikely people** to do great things!

MEMORY VERSE | Erase the Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This can be done on a dry erase board or a digital screen. Tell the kids to read the verse. Then, erase the last word of the memory verse and repeat. Continue this until the verse is completely gone and the kids have successfully recited the memory verse from memory.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for making us all unique! You have placed something special in each and every one of us. Forgive us for not seeing that in one another as we should. Help us to love our friends the way you love them and not judge those around us based on their outward appearance. We know you can do amazing things in unlikely ways. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Why did Samuel immediately assume that Jesse’s oldest son was the one whom God had chosen?**
- **What did God tell Samuel about all of Jesse’s sons?**
- **Why did Jesse not call David into the house in the beginning?**
- **Read II Corinthians 12:9-10. This verse says that we should be okay with our weaknesses. Why do you think that is?**
- **What does it mean when we say God uses unlikely people?**
- **What are some things we can do to see people for their hearts the way God does?**
- **How can we have the kind of heart God looks for?**

ACTIVITY | If I Were an Ant

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Make a list of things that weigh approximately twenty times what an average elementary school kid weighs. These things weigh between about 1,000 to 1,500 pounds: a grand piano, a polar bear, a cow, a horse carrying a jockey, a giraffe, a motorcycle, a sailboat, two refrigerators. Tell the kids to choose one. Set out crayons and paper, and have them draw a picture of themselves holding it up above their heads!*
 ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Ask them to draw a picture of themselves doing something that feels impossible, but that they have always wanted to try!*

- Though it might be a silly way of showing it, this picture reminds us that with God, we are capable of big things, no matter how unlikely . . . just like David or even a leafcutter ant!
- **God uses unlikely people.**

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

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