



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL 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

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | "King of the Jungle"
- ACTIVITY** | Move the Sheep
- ACTIVITY** | Unlikely Ant

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | I Samuel 16:1-13; II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
- THE BIG IDEA** | God uses unlikely people.
- VIDEO** | Unusual, Episode 1
- ACTIVITY** | Special Oil
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Unique Butterfly
- ACTIVITY** | Jewels in a Crown
- ACTIVITY** | Unusual Charades
- MEMORY VERSE** | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Build a Castle
- ACTIVITY** | Looking at the Heart



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY KAREN ERNE

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 | Move the Sheep

Use white plastic balls or toy sheep instead of cotton balls to play the game.

ACTIVITY | Special Oil

Make multiple bottles of oil and water for the younger kids to play with so they won't need to share.

ACTIVITY | Jewels in a Crown

To avoid toddlers having to work with really small pieces, flip over the crown and have them decorate the non-glossy side with markers, crayons, glitter glue, and/or finger paints.



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



UNUSUAL

THE BIG IDEA

God uses unlikely people.

THE BIBLE

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

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | “King of the Jungle”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing and dance along to some fun songs during your worship time. Along with your kids’ favorite songs, consider adding, “[King of the Jungle](#),” by CJ and Friends to your playlist.

ACTIVITY | Move the Sheep

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Keep an eye on the kids to make sure they keep the cotton balls out of their mouths. Before the kids arrive, fill one bowl with cotton balls and leave the other bowl empty.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use white plastic balls or toy sheep instead of cotton balls to play the game.
- These little sheep feel soft. You can scoop a sheep with this big spoon and move it over to another pasture.
- Our Bible story is about how David was a shepherd who was taking care of sheep when God told him he would become something really amazing!

ACTIVITY | Unlikely Ant

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** 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. Yep, really!
- A leafcutter ant can lift twenty times its body weight! That’s like you picking up an entire piano by yourselves! That’s like me picking up a car! But the point is, the leafcutter ant is really, really strong, even though it might seem unlikely.

TEACHING TIME

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hold a Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story. Gather a pretend crown and a toy sheep to refer to when telling the story.
- God told a special man named Samuel that there would be a new king. God sent Samuel on a trip to show him who the new king would be. **Stomp your feet on the floor to pretend to travel with Samuel.**
- Samuel went to go see a man named Jesse. God told Samuel that one of Jesse's sons would be the next king. **I have a pretend crown here. Let's pass it around and look at it!**
 - Jesse had a lot of sons. They were big, strong men. Any of the oldest sons would make a great king by the looks of them. But the Bible tells us that God doesn't look at who is the biggest or the strongest. God doesn't base these kinds of decisions on looks. God looks at our heart.
- Samuel met each of Jesse's sons one by one. God said that none of those sons would be the king.
 - Samuel asked if Jesse had any more sons. Jesse said, "Yes, my youngest son, but he is out taking care of the sheep." Wait! (*Hold up a toy sheep.*) The king wouldn't take care of sheep. **Would God pick the youngest, littlest son to be a king?**
- David came to the place where Samuel was and God told Samuel that David would be the next king! Samuel used a special oil to show that God wanted David to be the king.

THE BIG IDEA | God uses unlikely people.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a [paper crown](#) to everyone while they say the Big Idea.
- Today's Big Idea is, **God uses unlikely people.**

VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | Special Oil

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Let kids pour oil, water, and food coloring into a water bottle using a funnel. Seal the top with duct tape or hot glue.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Make multiple bottles of oil and water in advance for the younger kids to play with so they won't need to share.
- This bottle has oil in it. You can see it moving in the water bottle. In the Bible, Samuel used special oil to show that David would be the next king.

PRAYER

- Dear God, you knew who would make a great king. You could see past someone's appearance right to their heart. I know you see my heart. Thank you for looking at the unlikely things in me and for choosing me too. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Unique Butterfly

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids decorate a clothespin while you set up the serving station. Help kids glue on small googly eyes on the clothespin, towards the top where the teeth of the clip are. Lead kids through the serving station and provide scoops (or leaders wearing gloves) for kids to fill up their [snack bags](#). You can have colorful cereal, jelly beans, goldfish crackers, and whatever else your kids love! Help them seal the bags, then clip the clothespin in the middle. You can also fold a 6-inch piece of pipecleaner in half, curl the ends, and clip it to the clothespin to create butterfly snack bags [like these](#).
- Did you know that there are over ten-thousand types of butterflies in the world? And each butterfly is beautifully handcrafted by God!
- God made each animal in unusual, and unlikely shapes and sizes, but it was all on purpose! Just like that, **God uses unlikely people**.

ACTIVITY | Jewels in a Crown

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide glue, [pom-poms](#), [adhesive jewels](#), foam stickers, and other items to decorate the crown they each received during the Big Idea reveal.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** To avoid toddlers having to work with really small pieces, flip over the crown and have them decorate the non-glossy side with markers, crayons, glitter glue, and/or finger paints.
- Let's decorate our crowns! A crown is special because it tells us who is in charge in a kingdom!
- **Who did God pick to be the king?**
- **Was David the biggest and oldest son?**

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:** Print and cut the Unusual Charades printable. Select one volunteer to come up and pick an animal card, without looking at it. They have to hold the card up to their forehead so everyone can see, and the entire group has to make the noise that animal makes. Let the volunteer guess what animal it is! Afterward, show them parts of [this video](#) of unusual sounds some animals make!
- Isn't it cool to hear all the sounds different animals can make? You wouldn't think that some animals can make the noise they do based on how they look – did you hear how cute those enormous rhinos can sound? It's unlikely, but it's true!
- David didn't look like much, but God chose him to become king. We might not seem like we can do anything big, but don't forget – **God uses unlikely people** all the time!

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids repeat the memory verse after you in small chunks while acting out an animal (e.g., flapping wings like a bird). Repeat this a few times, picking different animal motions each time (e.g., mimicking an elephant's trunk, walking like a penguin, hopping like a bunny, etc.).

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. Talk with kids about today's Bible story and Big Idea as they color. You could also have kids glue cotton balls to their picture to remember them that David took care of sheep.

ACTIVITY | Build a Castle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, cut the tops of empty toilet paper tubes to look like the tops of castles. Provide these along with large wooden or cardboard blocks.
- We can build a castle together. We can build the walls with these blocks. We can add some fancy turrets, too.

ACTIVITY | Looking at the Heart

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, cut out paper hearts and put them in a line on the floor of the classroom. Write the words of the Big Idea on each heart.
- The Bible tells us God looks at our hearts – it doesn't matter what we look like on the outside. Let's hop on these hearts to remind ourselves that what matters most is what is on the inside!
- **God uses unlikely people!**

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