



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

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THE BIG IDEA

We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Baptized: Mark 1:4-11;
(Acts 19:1-7)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | YouTube Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Snap Cards
- ACTIVITY** | Snap Jack!
- OBJECT LESSON** | Vanishing Coin
- SCRIPTURE** | Mark 1:4-11
- THE BIG IDEA** | We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.
- VIDEO** | Subscribe Now, Episode 2
- STORY** | When We Don't Want to Forgive
- OBJECT LESSON** | Heart of Forgiveness
- SCRIPTURE** | Acts 19:1-7
- REFLECTION** | Click Now!
- ACTIVITY** | Just Dance Party
- MEMORY VERSE** | Abbreviate
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Why did John baptize people with water?
- What happened when Jesus got baptized?
- What did God say about Jesus?
- Read Mark 1:8. John says that he baptizes with water, but how will Jesus baptize people?
- Is getting baptized by water enough to receive forgiveness?
- Describe a time when you needed to forgive someone. What about a time when you needed forgiveness?
- What does it mean to be forgiven?

ACTIVITY | Washed Away

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6 (NIV)



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR PRETEENS

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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.

OBJECT LESSON | Vanishing Coin

Show the kids what happens when you don't let go of bad feelings towards someone. Instead of the vanishing coin, use a large beach ball or other lightweight but bulky object to represent your bad feelings (e.g., grudges, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc.). When you refuse to let it go, you carry it around with you all the time, every day of your life. Ask the kids to try doing ordinary tasks while clutching the large ball, like trying to open up a book or tie shoelaces. It's hard when you don't let go!

RESPONSE | Click Now

Discuss with preteens about how content existing on social media forever might cause trouble. Maybe they were in a particular kind of mood so they posted something without thinking it through, but regretted it later. Remind them that sin has a similar capacity to hurt someone, and leave scars, the way things don't get deleted permanently online.

ACTIVITY | Just Dance Party

For preteens who are reluctant to dance, give them another option. Play "[Happy Day](#)" by Tim Hughes and encourage kids to think about what the lyrics are saying. It's a happy day because Jesus washed our sins away!



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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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 | Just Dance Party

Sometimes, noise and excessive stimuli can be overwhelming for kids with special needs. Explain beforehand what to expect in this activity, and provide headphones if they need them. Have a separate quiet corner or room available for kids to use if they need a "break" from the party.

MEMORY VERSE | Abbreviate

Creating abbreviations might be a little complex to do on their own. Write out the memory verse on a whiteboard. Then ask kids to identify the first letter of each word in the verse, then write those letters in sequence below the verse. After you get through the entire verse, have them recite it with you, while you point to both the word in the verse and the isolated letters below.

ACTIVITY | Washed Away

Some kids react adversely to having things on their hands or other parts of their body due to sensory reasons. One option for such kids would to do this activity without using paint. It might be beneficial to have leaders available to be the ones washing their hands and providing them with the compliments.



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

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THE BIG IDEA

We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Baptized: Mark 1:4-11;
(Acts 19:1-7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | YouTube Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play "[What A Beautiful Name](#)" by Hillsong Kids for the kids to sing along to.

ACTIVITY | Snap Cards

- Hi, friends! Have you heard about an app called, Snapchat?
- Let's take some fun snaps with each other!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare some props (download and print these free [printables](#)) and the Snap Cards printable. Encourage the kids to have fun posing together. Then, use a printer to print photos then glue them to the Snap Cards printable. Provide some fun stickers (like [these](#)) to have them decorate their snap! Optional: Download the "YouCam Fun" app. Photos can be printed or just used for kids to play with.
- Snapchat and other photo apps have these things called filters that can make our faces look silly, slimmer, and even get rid of some blemishes. And as cool and fun as that might be, that's not *really* who you are . . . and Jesus loves the real you!

ACTIVITY | Snap Jack!

- Speaking of snaps, let's try another game that involves a differing kind of snapping.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups of 2-8 players. Distribute a deck of cards facedown

as evenly as possible among the players in each group. Each kid quickly places the top card from their stack onto the middle of the table, face up. Players take turns placing cards, and when a Jack is placed on the stack, the first player to snap or clap wins the pile. If the game is taking too long, you can set a time limit and count cards to determine a winner when time expires. The person with the most cards wins. Optional: Play any of the official educational “SNAP IT UP” card games rules.

- This game really put your reflexes to the test! You had to see a card with your eyes, your eyes told your brain what card it was, then your brain told your hands to snap or clap – and all of that happened so fast!
- Did you know that’s how easy it can be to ask for forgiveness from God? You have to recognize that what you’re doing is a sin, pray and ask God to forgive you and . . . snap! God forgives you!

OBJECT LESSON | Vanishing Coin

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a super easy vanishing coin trick by watching [this tutorial](#) (for those of you well-versed in illusions, show kids the classic [coin disappearing trick](#)).
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Use a large beach ball or other lightweight but bulky object to represent your bad feelings (e.g., grudges, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc.). When you refuse to let it go, you carry it around with you all the time, every day of your life. Ask the kids to try doing ordinary tasks while clutching the large ball, like trying to open up a book or tie shoelaces. It’s hard when you don’t let go!
- **Have you ever been hurt by someone? Has anyone ever hurt your feelings?**
- Let’s imagine this coin is a bad feeling and we want it to vanish.
- Forgiveness is letting go of the bad feeling you have toward someone who has done something wrong to you.
- Today, we will hear about how we can know true forgiveness.

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

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:4-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Summarize the Bible Story in Mark 1:4-11.
- John the Baptist was a very popular prophet who was baptizing people with water and teaching about forgiveness. But the people kept coming back to him over and over again because they continued to make poor choices and hurt each other.
 - **Have you ever tried your best to do something, but for some reason, you just could not make a good choice? Have you ever hurt someone even though you didn’t mean to?**
- John the Baptist knew that humans could not live a perfect life. There had to be a true Savior who could baptize us humans with the Holy Spirit, and who will forgive us of all our sins. And that person is Jesus!
 - **How would you act if you met Jesus?**
- When John the Baptist met and baptized Jesus, the sky opened up and God spoke and said, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

- **If the sky opened up and God was speaking about you, what do you think God would say?**
- In that moment, everyone knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was the true Savior of the world, who came to forgive all of our sins!

THE BIG IDEA | We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Select a kid to come and push a giant button that says, “[subscribe now](#)” on the stage or wall. Once they do, play the “subscribe now” video with the audio on, and show the slide containing today’s Big Idea.
- Thanks for subscribing to this week’s Big Idea!
- **We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.**

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 2

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

STORY | When We Don’t Want to Forgive

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids a story of a time when someone hurt you or was unkind to you. Did you want to forgive them? How did you forgive them?
- **What about you? Was there ever a time when you didn’t want to forgive someone because they were unkind to you?**
- We all have been hurt by someone. It’s not easy to forgive, but because Jesus forgives us, we can forgive others, too!

OBJECT LESSON | Heart of Forgiveness

- The thing is, we all need forgiveness, and Jesus is the only one who can forgive all of our sins.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, cut a white poster board and red cellophane into the shape of a heart. On the white heart, write “my heart” at the center in black crayon. Staple the red cellophane on top of the white heart. Then flip the red cellophane heart over so that it’s behind the white heart for now.
- **What are some things we might need forgiveness for?** [Write the kids’ responses on the white heart with a red crayon.]
- This red cellophane represents Jesus. [Flip the cellophane back down over the heart.]
- The sins we wrote are gone. You can no longer see them!
- **We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.**

SCRIPTURE | Acts 19:1-7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Acts 19:1-7.
- Being baptized with water, which was the kind of baptism John gave, is about asking God for forgiveness. It’s a way to show that you are truly sorry for any wrong you have done, and you want to start a clean, new life. Jesus didn’t need to be baptized because he had no sin, but he allowed John to baptize him anyway to show us that all humans need forgiveness.

- But Paul reminds us here that baptism by water is more of a symbol. It doesn't really wash away your sin. What we need is the true baptism of the Spirit, which is a kind of change that happens in your heart.
- The only one who can change our hearts and truly forgive sins is God, and God makes forgiveness available to us when we believe in Jesus, God's Son. And that's not all. Because we have been forgiven, we can learn to forgive others, as well.
- We can know true forgiveness only through Jesus.

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

RESPONSE | Click Now!

- Did you know that things posted online could live there forever? Once it's out there, it's almost impossible to take it back because someone somewhere has seen it . . . even if you delete it!
- That's kind of what happens when we sin. **Have you ever done something you wish you hadn't done and you felt badly afterward?** Even if you do feel sorry about it later, you can't undo the damage.
- But like we've been talking about, there is someone who can erase your sins forever. Jesus!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hand out a Click Now printable to each kid. Have them read the card and fill it out. (If your church offers baptism for kids, you can add that in as an option on the card before you print it.)*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Discuss with preteens about how content existing on social media forever might cause trouble. Maybe they were in a particular kind of mood so they posted something without thinking it through, but regretted it later. Remind them that sin has a similar capacity to hurt someone, and leave scars, the way things don't get deleted permanently online.*
- There's no button or link you can actually click, but praying to God can be just as simple. Aren't you glad **We can know forgiveness because of Jesus?**

ACTIVITY | Just Dance Party

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For any of the kids who have decided to follow Jesus, it's a celebration! Turn on the [Just Dance video](#)! Have some party streamers for the kids to play with while dancing. For kids who haven't indicated that they are ready to follow Jesus quite yet, it doesn't mean that they can't join in on celebrating, too. If you'd like, you could also use this time for small group leaders to connect with them and walk them through getting to know Jesus.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *For reluctant preteens, play "[Happy Day](#)" by Tim Hughes and encourage kids to think about what the lyrics are saying. It's a happy day because Jesus washed our sins away!*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Explain beforehand what to expect in this activity, and provide headphones if they need them. Have a separate quiet corner or room available for kids to use if they need a "break" from the party.*
- Let's dance and party because through Jesus, we can know forgiveness!

MEMORY VERSE | Abbreviate

- People use abbreviations for words so they can express themselves in a faster way.
- For example, the letters “LOL” stand for “laugh out loud.” **Do you know of any other ones?**
- Let’s see if you can create some other fun abbreviations for different groups of words in the memory verse!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the room into their small groups to work on their abbreviations together. Bring them back together at the end to share their best ideas with one another.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Write out the memory verse on a whiteboard. Then ask kids to identify the first letter of each word in the verse, then write those letters in sequence below the verse. After you get through the entire verse, have them recite it with you, while you point to both the word in the verse and the isolated letters below.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, Your faithfulness helps us look forward to waiting. You help us to patiently expect big changes. Thank You for sending Jesus to change everything! Help us to continue to partner with the Savior to make more change in this world. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME**DISCUSSION**

- **Why did John baptize people with water?**
- **What happened when Jesus got baptized?**
- **What did God say about Jesus?**
- **Read Mark 1:8. John says that he baptizes with water, but how will Jesus baptize people?**
- **Is getting baptized by water enough to receive forgiveness?**
- **Describe a time when you needed to forgive someone. What about a time when you needed forgiveness?**
- **What does it mean to be forgiven?**

ACTIVITY | Washed Away

- We all make mistakes and sometimes, our mistakes can be hurtful to a friend.
- Today, we will practice saying good things to each other.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids get in pairs or groups of three. Give each pair or group some washable paint, a piece of paper, a bucket of water, and a washcloth. Tell the kids to form a “thumbs up” sign with their hands, dip it in paint, then stamp it on the paper. Then, encourage them to wash the paint off each other’s hands and as they do, say one compliment about the other person.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *One option for kids with sensory concerns would to do this activity without using paint. It might be beneficial to have leaders available to be the ones washing their hands and providing them with the compliments.*



- Thumbs up to all of you for saying kind words and helping each other wash the paint off. Just like how the water washed away the paint, Jesus washes away our sins – and he doesn't even need a washcloth. **We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.**

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6 (NIV)

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