



WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God gives unexplainable joy.

THE BIBLE

David Dances Before the Ark:

I Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | "Joy, Joy, Joy"
- ACTIVITY** | Move the Ark
- ACTIVITY** | Monkey Yoga

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | I Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
- THE BIG IDEA** | God gives unexplainable joy.
- VIDEO** | Unusual, Episode 2
- ACTIVITY** | Happy Faces
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Dancing Animals
- ACTIVITY** | Explosive Joy Craft
- ACTIVITY** | Waves of Joy
- MEMORY VERSE** | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Bubbling with Joy
- ACTIVITY** | Joyful Noise



WEEK 2

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 Ark

Duct tape the pool noodles to the box and have toddlers circle around the room in pairs carrying the "ark" in between them over their shoulders.

ACTIVITY | Explosive Joy Craft

Let kids spread the paint with their fingers instead of using a straw.

ACTIVITY | Joyful Noise

Play [this fun version](#) of "No More Monkeys" or a favorite song that they can play and dance along to.



WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God gives unexplainable joy.

THE BIBLE

David Dances Before the Ark:

I Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | “Joy, Joy, Joy”

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

ACTIVITY | Move the Ark

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide kids into two sides of the room. Give two kids from one side two pool noodles and a shoebox. They have to get the box from their side to the other side by placing the box on top of the noodles and rolling the noodles across the floor. Once they reach the other side, the next two kids on that side can roll the box back. This continues until everyone has had a chance to try moving the box in pairs.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Duct tape the pool noodles to the box and have toddlers circle around the room in pairs carrying the “ark” in between them over their shoulders.
- Great job moving this box! Today we are going to learn that King David was also moving something very special and it made him really happy!

ACTIVITY | Monkey Yoga

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play some soothing music as a transition to the message. Invite kids to pretend they are monkeys who love yoga. Guide them in a series of stretches that will help them relax and be ready for the Bible story.
- Are you ready to do something fun? We’re going to pretend we are monkeys! (Make a monkey sound.) But these are not just any monkeys, they are monkeys who love to do yoga. Isn’t that unusual?

- Everyone find a space to stretch out. Lift your hands slowly above your head. Imagine a monkey in slow motion reaching for a banana. Reach!
- Now, put your arms out wide. Slowly stretch them as far as you can stretch them. Imagine a monkey swinging in the trees with it's arms so wide.
- Finally, sit with your legs crossed and fold your hands politely in your lap. Imagine a monkey doing this! These are some really well-behaved and unusual monkeys!
- **Are you ready to hear the Bible Story now?** Make your best monkey face to show me you're ready!

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hold a Bible in your lap while you tell the Bible story. Have a [treasure box](#) on hand to use while telling the story.
- King David and his people wanted to move a special box called the Ark of the Covenant. God wanted them to take care of this special ark. (Show the kids the treasure box.)
- The ark held the words God had spoken to Moses in it. Those words were called the Ten Commandments. It was so special because it held God's words and was a place where God presence could be found.
- King David told the people to put the ark onto a cart to help move it. They rolled the cart along to move it far across the land. (Move your arms in rolling movements.)
- When they were traveling, everyone was so happy. David even started dancing. I bet it was so surprising to see the king dancing! (Encourage everyone to dance together for a few seconds.)
- The people helped move the ark all the way to the new place God wanted it to be. There, King David thanked God. He even gave the people bread and cakes to celebrate!

THE BIG IDEA | God gives unexplainable joy.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, use pieces of construction paper or card stock to create a giant anaconda. Use rectangular pieces of paper for the body and draw stripes on it. For the head and tail, use a sheet of paper with the ends cut into a semicircle. Write each word of the Big Idea on one of the sheets of paper. Ask the kids to help build the Big Idea with you on the floor.
- This big, long snake is called an anaconda. And do you see what we have written on the snake? It's our Big Idea for this week! Our Big Idea is: **God gives unexplainable joy.**
- Shout that with me! **God gives unexplainable joy!**

VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 2

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

ACTIVITY | Happy Faces

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids make masks out of paper plates, paper, foam, and felt scraps, or purchase ready-made masks [like these](#). If the kids want to wear the mask, use yarn to tie it around their heads.

- You can pretend to be an animal today! The top half of your face is covered but I can still see your smiles. **Can you all show me your best happy face?**
- **God gives unexplainable joy!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, You make me so happy. You give me joy that I just can't handle. I smile when I think of you, God. Thank you for your unexplainable joy. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Dancing Animals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a pop-tart or two and allow them to use [animal cookie cutters](#) to shape their pop-tarts.
- David was so happy about God's ark that he danced with everything he had! **Can you make your animals do a joyful jig, too?**

ACTIVITY | Explosive Joy Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids drop small dollops of wet liquid watercolor paint onto a piece of paper or paper plate, then use a straw to blow on the paint in different directions to create a "firework." As they add different colors, the fireworks will touch and the colors will blend.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Let kids spread the paint with their fingers instead of using a straw.
- **God gives unexplainable joy.** But that joy doesn't just stay inside of us. Joy is explosive and it spreads!

ACTIVITY | Waves of Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make sure every kid gets a [scarf](#) or streamer to wave. Play upbeat worship music while the kids play.
- We can wave our scarves to show our joy! King David showed God his joy with dancing. God makes me happy and I want to show God my joy, too! **God gives unexplainable joy.**
- **Who danced?**
- **Why were King David and the people happy?**
- **What did David give the people to eat to celebrate?**

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach kids how to sign this month's memory verse using the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided. You could also create your own hand motions, if you'd like.

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. When the kids are all done coloring, help them roll up their coloring page diagonally like a trumpet and make trumpet noises!*

ACTIVITY | Bubbling with Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a station where kids can play with bubbles or bins filled with dishwashing liquid.*
- *God's unexplainable joy is something we shouldn't keep inside . . . we can let it bubble over!*

ACTIVITY | Joyful Noise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give the kids [instruments](#) and noisemakers to play. You could even ask an adult to hold a guitar and let the kids take turns strumming the strings.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Play [this fun version](#) of "No More Monkeys" or a favorite song that they can play and dance along to.*
- *Let's show God how happy we are! When you are happy with God, you are filled with joy! We can show our joy with our instruments!*
- **God gives unexplainable joy!**

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