



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Wait and see, the Savior will change everything.

THE BIBLE

John Tells People About Jesus:
John 1:19-28; (Psalm 126)

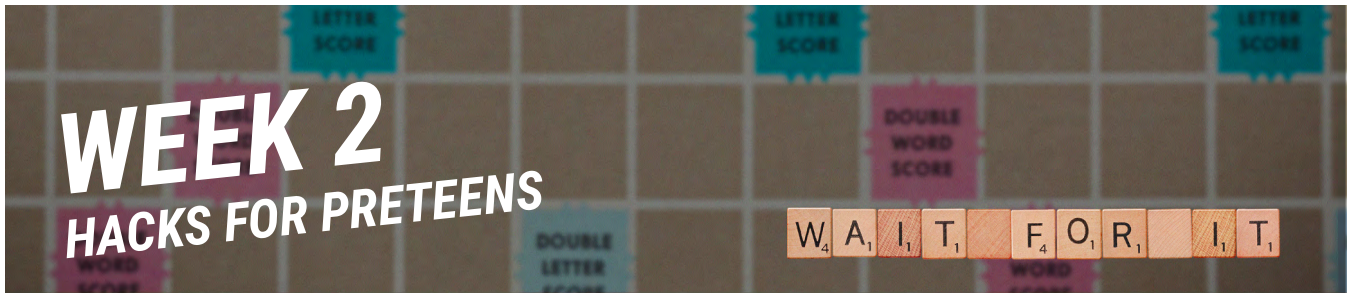
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Worship
- ACTIVITY** | Switch it Up!
- POLL** | I Wish I Could Change . . .
- STORY** | Waiting for Change
- SCRIPTURE** | John 1:19-28
- THE BIG IDEA** | Wait and see, the Savior will change everything.
- VIDEO** | Wait For It, Episode 2
- STORY** | Waiting for Change
- VIDEO** | The Waiting Game
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 126
- ACTIVITY** | Worth the Wait
- REFLECTION** | How to Change the World
- MEMORY VERSE** | Hungry Human Hippos
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - Who came to question John the Baptist?
 - Who are some people they thought John was?
 - Was John “the Messiah”? What will be different about the Savior when compared to John?
 - Read Psalm 126:3. What great thing has God done for us that fills us with joy, like this verse says? (Hint: What is today’s Big Idea?)
 - What change would you like to see in our world today?
 - Why do you believe Jesus cares about this?
 - How can you partner with Jesus?
- ACTIVITY** | Ready Prayer One
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 7:7 (NIV)



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.

POLL | What Are Some Things You Wish You Could Change?

Make this a question rather than a poll. Encourage kids to answer freely by keeping a safe space for them. Gently nudge them back on track if they veer off topic too much.

- **What do you wish you could change?** It could be about anything—about yourself, about school, or about the world!
- **Do you think it would ever be possible for these things to change?**

VIDEO | The Waiting Game

Show a [time-lapse video](#) of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. Explain how much time actually passed-- nine to fourteen days! It might have seemed like forever if you were to just sit there and stare at the cocoon during those days. Here's a suggested script for a discussion with your preteens:

- Wow, what a change! That wiggly little caterpillar turned into a beautiful, graceful butterfly!
- **This video only took two minutes, but do you know how much time *actually* passed?** It takes nine to fourteen days for a caterpillar to turn into a butterfly!
- **Can you imagine sitting there, staring at a cocoon for that long?** I bet it'd be pretty boring. Sometimes, waiting for something to happen can feel like forever!
- It's not always easy believing that something will change. We might feel impatient when we don't know what that change will look like. Instead, we can choose to wait with anticipation.

ACTIVITY | Ready Prayer One

Ask the kids to write prayer requests based on their discussion questions – what change would they like to see in the world today? Why does Jesus care about this? How can we partner with Jesus in prayer? Have them write on both the front and back of their headsets. Encourage them to keep it somewhere they'll see it regularly and lift these requests in prayer.



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.

MUSIC | Worship

For engagement purposes, prior to playing the video, prep a [light bulb](#) image. Have the kids either paint them yellow or color them with markers/crayons. Every time the word “light” is mentioned, in the song, have kids hold up their light bulbs.

STORY | Waiting for Change

Make your story interactive by prompting kids as you tell the story to provide you with an answer. For example, you could say, “I remember when I was a kid, my dad made me brush my teeth using a yucky minty toothpaste. If you could change the flavor of toothpaste to anything, what would you choose?”

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 126

If possible, work with your team to turn this Bible passage into a song! Kids can either clap along or use instruments in the background. Try adding a line that is repeated after each verse so kids can participate in the song (e.g., “What joy!” or “We sing for joy!”). Consider pairing visual words with the words of the song, so there is a visual aid for those who might have struggles with auditory memory/learning.

OBJECT LESSON | Worth the Wait

Have the pots pre-filled with dirt. Let kids be responsible placing the seeds in themselves. This can be turned into a hands on arts and crafts activity as well. Allow kids to decorate some pots either before filling them.



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Wait and see, the Savior will change everything.

THE BIBLE

John Tells People About Jesus:
John 1:19-28; (Psalm 126)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today's song, [Light of the World](#), and engage the kids in worship.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For engagement purposes, prior to playing the video, prep a [light bulb](#) image. Have the kids either paint them yellow or color them with markers/crayons. Every time the word "light" is mentioned, in the song, have kids hold up their light bulbs.

ACTIVITY | Switch it Up!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Start a simple relay race across the room. But the leader has the power to change the way the kids can run! Encourage the kids to crab walk, run backward, run slowly, etc. This race isn't about winning, but about the challenge of switching the moves to complete the race.
- **How did it feel to have to "switch it up" over and over?** Sometimes, we can get comfortable with the way things are for us. But let's remember to be open to change, especially when the changes are to help make things better!

POLL | I Wish I Could Change . . .

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids to raise their hands if they would love to change any of the things mentioned below.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Make this a question rather than a poll. Ask the kids what they wish they could change. It could be anything – about themselves, about school, or about the world. Encourage them to answer freely by keeping a safe space for them. Gently nudge them back on track if they veer off topic too much.

- **Your height?**
- **How often you have to learn about math?**
- **The taste of Brussels sprouts?**
- **How long it takes to do homework?**
- **How many friends you have?**

STORY | Waiting for Change

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story about a time when you really hoped something could change. Make sure to keep the story fun and short.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Make your story interactive by prompting kids as you tell the story to provide you with an answer. For example, you could say, “I remember when I was a kid, my dad made me brush my teeth using a yucky minty toothpaste. If you could change the flavor of toothpaste to anything, what would you choose?”
- **What about you? Have you ever waited for change?**
- **Did the change happen in a way you expected?**
- **Did someone deliver the news that change would be happening?**

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

SCRIPTURE | John 1:19-28

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make two copies of the scripture. Choose three volunteers to each take part of the scripture and prompt them to read while you tell them today’s Bible story.
- **Let’s read John 1:19-25.** When we hear something that is hard to believe, we like to question it. After all, it is unbelievable! That’s what these leaders did when John explained to them who he was. But John made it very clear that he came to prepare the way for the Savior (Jesus)!
- **Now, let’s read John 1:26-28.** John knew that people would think he was important, but he was given a message that if the people just waited a little bit longer, the true Messiah, or Savior, would come and change everything!
- The people in this story (and us!) have something much better on the way – someone who will save everyone. And spoiler alert – John knew his very own cousin, Jesus, was going to be that someone!

THE BIG IDEA | Wait and see, the Savior will change everything.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the two giant dice from last week and have the kids take turns passing and rolling the dice. When they roll two of the same number, they get to uncover the Big Idea! Then, ask all the kids to say the Big Idea together.
- You did it! Now for one more roll . . . a drumroll!
- Today’s Big Idea is: **Wait and see, the Savior will change everything.**

VIDEO | Wait For It, Episode 2

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

ACTIVITY | Guess Who?

- It's time for a Guess Who challenge! You will be in teams, and your team has to listen to the other team's clue and figure out if they're describing Jesus, John the Baptist, or both!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the group into two teams. Give them 5-10 minutes and have each team come up with a list of things that describe John the Baptist, things that describe Jesus, and some that describe both! They can write things like: "I baptized people with water," "I ate locusts," "I was born in a manger," "An angel appeared to one or both of my parents," etc. Have teams call out a clue while the other team guesses John, Jesus, or Both. The team who guesses the most number of clues correctly wins! Provide pencil and paper so kids can jot down their clues.

VIDEO | The Waiting Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this [Perfection game demo](#) from 1:47-3:08.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Show a [time-lapse video](#) of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. Explain how much time actually passed-- nine to fourteen days! It might have seemed like forever if you were to just sit there and stare at the cocoon during those days.
- In this video, you can see this game is set to a timer. At the perfect time, the whole board is changed around!
- Sometimes, it's not easy believing that one person can change everything. Sometimes, we feel impatient when we don't know what that change will look like. Instead, we can choose to wait with anticipation, just like the family in this video did!
- This is a reminder that if we wait, we might see great change.
- **When have you experienced a positive change in your life? What was it like to wait for it?**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 126

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a volunteer to read verses 1-3 and another volunteer read verses 4-6.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If possible, work with your team to turn this Bible passage into a song! Kids can either clap along or use instruments in the background. Try adding a line that is repeated after each verse so kids can participate in the song (e.g., "What joy!" or "We sing for joy!"). Consider pairing visual words with the words of the song.
- In Psalm 126, we get to read about God's faithfulness in keeping promises. **Does anyone know what the word "faithfulness" means?**
- Verse 3 says, "The Lord has done amazing things for us, what joy!" **What does God's faithfulness look like? To whom is God faithful?**
- Verse 4 uses the word, "restore." Restore means to bring something back to its original form. **Do you think restoring something requires some change? Can we trust God to bring change?**
- Yes, we can because God is faithful! Just **wait and see, the Savior will change everything.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?***OBJECT LESSON | Worth the Wait**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take a packet of seeds, a cup of dirt, and a small pot from the supplies pile. Put in half of the dirt in your pot before dumping in your seeds. When the seeds have been put in the pot, place the rest of the dirt on top. Sprinkle the dirt with a little water and you're finished! Reread Psalm 126:5-6. Optional: bring in a fully grown plant to show what your seed will become.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have the pots pre-filled with dirt. Let kids be responsible placing the seeds in themselves. This can be turned into a hands on arts and crafts activity as well. Allow kids to decorate some pots either before filling them.
- Notice how it takes time and tending for a plant to grow. When the changes happen, it sure is worth it.
- Seeds are planted in the cold, dark soil. We don't always know what the outcome will be, but we plant with faith. The water, sunlight, and soil feed the seed to change everything about it. Here, we can be reminded to **wait and see, the Savior will change everything.**

REFLECTION | How to Change the World

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the video, [How to Change the World](#) (stop at 2:40). After the video, ask the following questions . . .
- Kid President reminds us the world is changed by "little people living out big love!"
- **Which option to change the world is easiest? Does that mean it is the best option?**
- **If changing the world starts with you, do you think it happens right away? Why or why not?**
- There are many things that we can do to make good changes in our community. They will take time, but we can't give up just because we don't see the changes we want right away. Our world may not be perfect, and many people might be feeling hopeless sometimes, but **wait and see, the Savior will change everything.**

MEMORY VERSE | Hungry Human Hippos

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into four teams and assign each team a corner of the room. Tape parts of the memory verse on some ball-pit balls using the memory verse printable. Lay out all the ball-pit balls in the center of the room. One player from each team lies chest down on a scooter board and is wheeled to the center by their legs. The player on the scooter attempts to grab as many balls as possible with a basket and return them to their team's corner. You can either send the same player back to the center, or have the whole team rotate through being "hippos." Allow players to throw duplicate or blank balls back to the middle. The first team to collect all of the memory verse balls and put the verse in order wins!

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

- Who came to question John the Baptist?
- Who are some people they thought John was?
- Was John “the Messiah”? What will be different about the Savior when compared to John?
- Read Psalm 126:3. What great thing has God done for us that fills us with joy, like this verse says? (Hint: What is today’s Big Idea?)
- What change would you like to see in our world today?
- Why do you believe Jesus cares about this?
- How can you partner with Jesus?

ACTIVITY | Ready Prayer One

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare copies of handouts that have a virtual reality (VR) headset printed on them. Have kids color and create their VR headset and talk about something they want to see happen in their lives that they are going to have to wait a while for. Then have them cut out their headset, and help them attach an [elastic band](#) to fit around their head and staple it to their headset.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask the kids to write prayer requests based on their discussion questions – what change would they like to see in the world today? Why does Jesus care about this? How can we partner with Jesus in prayer? Have them write on both the front and back of their headsets. Encourage them to keep it somewhere they’ll see it regularly and lift these requests in prayer.
- Keep your headset close – you can put them on and pray for your request anytime! God will answer any prayer you have and it’ll change everything, just like our Big Idea says!

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

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