Grow

WEEK 3
ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

LEGACY

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.

THE BIBLE

A New Apostle is Chosen: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
(I John 5:9-13)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **POLL** | Bracket of Best Things
- **ACTIVITY** | Pick Me
- **QUESTION** | All By Myself
- **SCRIPTURE** | Acts 1:15-17
- **THE BIG IDEA** | The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.
- **VIDEO** | Legacy, Episode 3
- **ACTIVITY** | Twelve Disciple Shuffle
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Who is the Holy Spirit? - Part Three
- **SCRIPTURE** | I John 5:9-13
- **STORY** | My Testimony
- **REFLECTION** | On The Inside
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Holy Spirit High Five
- **PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - Why did the disciples need to pick a new member for their team?
  - How did the disciples decide who to choose and what was his name?
  - Who helps us do God's work?
  - According to I John 5:12-13, who can have eternal life?
  - How can you help a friend find Jesus?
  - What stops you from being coached by the Holy Spirit?
  - How can you allow Jesus to coach you?
- **ACTIVITY** | Geared Up for God
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Romans 8:14 (NIV)

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

Grow

WEEK 3
HACKS FOR PRETEENS

LEGACY

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.

POLL | Bracket of Best Things

For items that are close in votes, ask for the groups to make a case for their choice and get some healthy debate going!

ACTIVITY | Pick Me

Provide instructions on how to make your own die or "cootie catcher". Have them write in different things they might be able to do for God in the future. Let them roll their die or play with the cootie catcher to see their responses!

QUESTION | All By Myself

Ask for examples of things that are impossible to do by yourself and ask for volunteers to try anyway! (e.g., scratching your back, talk on the phone, arm wrestle, etc.).

ACTIVITY | Geared Up for God

Print out two sheets per page so that the gears are smaller, and give each preteen 3-4 sheets of paper (6-8 gears in all). Let them think of 3-4 ideas for each category (now and later) and write each of them down. Give each of them a piece of poster paper, and have them create their own arrangement of gears.

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

Grow

WEEK 3
HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

LEGACY

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.

GENERAL TIPS

To encourage continued participation, always give immediate positive feedback. Kids with special needs will definitely show more of that behavior that you encouraged.

One way to reduce unwanted behavior is to not acknowledge them. Instead of saying "don't scream" when a kid screams, say "good quiet" when you catch the child being quiet. While you're not neglecting them completely, give purposeful attention to kids only for positive behaviors.

POLL | Bracket of Best Things

Do this conversation in small groups to help kids who could be overwhelmed or overstimulated in a larger and louder environment.

QUESTION | All By Myself

Kids with special needs might have a whole different set of things that they need help doing. Help them feel safe to ask for help. Invite the rest of the group into the conversation and discuss ways everyone can both offer and ask for help. In this way, you can establish a culture where asking for help and asking if someone needs help is encouraged. Conversations like this in large and small groups can teach kids to learn others' diverse perspectives.

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

SCRIPTURE | Acts 1:15-17

Let kids know ahead of time that there is a chance they might not get picked but that is okay. Give them pom-poms or noisemakers they can use to cheer on the people who do get selected.

This is especially relevant for kids with autism. It is okay to allow them to be upset. Help them overcome difficult situations by finding out a strategy with the families. Knowing their calming strategy ahead of time helps the volunteers to lead kids with more ease.

If kids do not have calming strategies, try using deep breathing techniques or counting. If they get upset, take them to a calming spot and give them calming strategies. Avoid talking about the situation when they're already upset because doing so often escalates the situation.

ACTIVITY | Geared Up for God

Cut the gears in advance for the kids or use a perforator to trace the gears and have them tear the paper along those lines.

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

Grow

WEEK 3
ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

LEGACY

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.

THE BIBLE

A New Apostle is Chosen: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
(I John 5:9-13)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the kids in worship, with fun songs like, "Tell the World," by Hillsong Kids.*
- We are not afraid to tell the whole world who Jesus is! People in our lives need to know they are loved by the same God who created them.
- God invites us to be the ones to let our family and friends know they are loved! So, let's tell the world!

POLL | Bracket of Best Things

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Project the Bracket printable on to a dry erase board, use a photo or document editor on your computer, or recreate the bracket on a poster. There should be eight items to start with, ending in one ultimate best thing ever. Get kids into eight group and have them each come up with one item that they consider the best thing ever (other than God, of course) – for example, toilet paper. Put each of their answers on the outermost boxes of your bracket. Then have kids vote between each of the connected pairs, and write the winning answer in the space provided. Then compare the next tier of responses, and keep working towards the middle until only one item is declared the "best thing ever!"*
    - **PRETEEN HACK:** *For items that are close in votes, ask for the groups to make a case for their choice and get some healthy debate going!*

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

- **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Do this conversation in small groups to help kids who could be overwhelmed or overstimulated in a larger and louder environment.*

- It can be really hard to choose the best thing ever, right? Maybe your suggestion made it in the top eight, but didn't make it to the final two. So, you had to choose between two other things.
- Today's Bible story is about a time when a team had to make a decision. They all might not have wanted to have to make this decision, but we will see how the Holy Spirit helped them with the tough choice they had to make.

ACTIVITY | Pick Me

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a popsicle stick to each kid and have them write their name on one end of the stick with a marker. Collect the sticks again and put them all into a can with the names facing down. Then make a variety of fun, positive, even silly statements about what kids might grow up to be or do in the future, and pick out names from the can (e.g., This person will grow up and travel the world. It's Grace!). Don't return the stick to the can. Keep making statements until all of the kids' names have been called. Some other statements you might make are: start a charity to save the environment, become a famous singer, find the cure for cancer, be the first person to land on Mars, set the world record for largest shoe collection, etc.*
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Provide instructions on how to make your own paper die or "cootie catcher". Have them write in different things they might be able to do for God in the future. Let them roll their die or play with the cootie catcher to see their responses!*
- Well, that was just a silly game and of course these sticks weren't really predicting the future!
- In today's Bible story, the people use a system called "casting lots" to help them make their decision. They didn't do this to simply rely on luck or chance. They cast lots to be fair to everyone and to make sure nobody was playing favorites.
- For example, let's say we needed a team captain. If I just called out one of your names, you might say it's not fair. But if I picked your name out of can (Take out a stick and read the name), then you'll know that I didn't pick you or leave you out on purpose.

QUESTION | All By Myself

- **What are some things you need help doing? What are some things you can't do by yourself, even if you tried?**
- Teamwork is really important. If you've ever acted in a play, sang in a choir, been on a sports team, or participated in a group project at school, you know how important it is to work together.
- God wants to make us part of a bigger story. But in order to do that, we need to work together with God and with each other.
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Ask for examples of things that are impossible to do by yourself and ask for volunteers to try anyway! (e.g., scratching your back, talk on the phone, arm wrestle, etc.).*
  - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Invite the rest of the group into the conversation and discuss ways everyone can both offer and ask for help.*

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

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

SCRIPTURE | Acts 1:15-17

- **Have you ever been chosen to be part of a team?**
- Maybe you got to play on a basketball team you never thought you would. Maybe you were chosen to be the lead in the school play or were given the solo in the choir concert. It's a great feeling to be a part of a team. Especially if the team is *good!*
- It's time to travel to Acts 1, where we will find out how Jesus' friends figured out how they were going to add one more person to their disciple team.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the time travel device from previous weeks. Point your arrow to the plate with the corresponding Scripture and play this sound effect. Tell the Bible story in Acts 1:15-17. Choose eleven kids to be on the disciple team (use the popsicle sticks from the Pick Me activity!). Give them a set of same-colored t-shirts, buttons, and wristbands to put on to represent a team "look." Put out a spare uniform to be used later.*
    - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Let kids know ahead of time that there is a chance they might not get picked but that is okay. Give them pom-poms or noisemakers they can use to cheer on the people who do get selected.*
- Jesus had a team that was made up of twelve people, called the disciples. Judas, one of the disciples, chose to leave the team forever. After Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples and other followers were together in a room. Peter stood up and told the rest of the team that they needed to pick a new person to fill in for Judas.
- They nominated two new people. After praying, they did something to help them decide which one they should invite to the team. They cast lots.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose two more volunteers and have them play a quick game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." Tell the winner, "Welcome to the team, Matthias!" and tell the other kid, "Thank you for trying out, Barsabbas!" Tell the two kids to shake hands and congratulate each other. Then, tell the disciples to give Matthias his team uniform.*
- Guess what? Even though Matthias was chosen to be on the team with the other disciples, Barsabbas was still on the team, too.
- God wants us all on the team, too! The difference is, we don't need to cast lots or use any other method. There's no need to choose you over someone else or the other way around. Because of the legacy Jesus left, everyone can be chosen to do God's work.
- God has given us the Holy Spirit to coach us. The Holy Spirit guides us to make wise choices. The Holy Spirit gives us our own unique talents, gifts, and abilities, to share the good news of Jesus, and invite more people onto the team!

THE BIG IDEA | The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill the Big Idea canister with today's Big Idea words. Open the legacy pod and call up one kid at a time to pull out one sheet of paper or an index card at a time. Arrange the words into the correct order. Read the Big Idea out loud together.*
- **The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.**

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

- Not only that, the Holy Spirit helps us know what God's work is. We can work together with other members of God's family to do the things God wants us to do!

VIDEO | Legacy, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's teaching video.*

ACTIVITY | Twelve Disciple Shuffle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid the Twelve Disciple Shuffle printable and have them decorate and/or write their name on each of the person outlines. Then have them cut along the lines to create twelve trading cards. Have them walk around the room trading cards with people until they have eleven other cards in addition to one of their own.*
- The disciples were a team and they all had a part to play. Even though they were one short, their team became complete again when Matthias was chosen to join the team.
- Travel all over the world (this room) to make your own disciple team!
- No matter whose cards you hold in your hand, don't forget you are actually all on the same team!

OBJECT LESSON | Who is the Holy Spirit? - Part Three

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, gather four clear cups, a few pitchers of water, a large clear bin, and red, yellow and green food coloring. Line up the clear cups inside the bin.*
- Sometimes when people do God's work, you'll hear them referred to as being "filled with the Holy Spirit." **What do you think that means?**
- Before we become a follower of Jesus, we are like this cup. We are empty.
  - But when we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes and fills us up inside. *(Pour water from a pitcher into each of the cups. Fill it almost all the way to the top.)*
  - The cup looks the same from the outside, doesn't it? When we're filled with the Holy Spirit we might not look very different on the outside. But that doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit isn't there!
- But there are times when we get filled with other things that are not the Holy Spirit.
  - Sometimes, we might feel bitter when we don't get our way *(Add a few drops of yellow food coloring into the second cup).*
  - Other times, we might start to feel jealous when our friends start playing more with other people more than us or when our siblings get more attention from our parents *(Add a few drops of green food coloring into the third cup).*
  - Have you ever gotten angry? We all get mad but sometimes we get so angry that we say and do mean things. *(Add a few drops of red food coloring to the fourth cup.)*
- The amazing thing about the Holy Spirit is that even though we have yucky stuff inside of us, like these cups . . . *(Slowly pour water from the pitchers into each cup so that all the colored water spills out into the bin and the cup is filled with clean water again)* . . . it can be replaced with good things when we let ourselves be filled with the Holy Spirit again. The Holy Spirit helps us make wise choices, love others, and do God's work.

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

SCRIPTURE | I John 5:9-13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read I John 5:9-13 (NIV).*
- One day, we get to live in Heaven forever because God gave us Jesus. These verses remind us we will live forever with Jesus and we should share this great news with everyone!
- The word that keeps coming up in this Bible passage is the word "testimony." A testimony is a true story about God, especially about what God has done for you. When you share your testimony with others, you are doing God's work!

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

STORY | My Testimony

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Share your testimony of how you came to know Jesus and started serving in ministry. Or share a story about how you led someone else to Christ. Help kids craft their own one-sentence testimony after you share your story.*
- The one thing everyone can do for God is to share our testimony about God with others. When you share about Jesus and people can see Jesus through you, you might make people wonder about what makes you different and maybe make the choice to follow Jesus, too!
- Let's all practice sharing our own stories about God. **Complete the following sentence: Because I know God, I _____.**

REFLECTION | On The Inside

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put a tiny bit of each of the following ingredients into individual sauce cups and label it with the corresponding emotion it represents: hot sauce (anger), lemon juice (bitterness), pesto sauce (jealousy), balsamic vinegar (pride), and grape juice (fear). Pour all the items into the same cup as you discuss each characteristic.*
- **What are some ways that anger can hold us back from doing God's work? What about bitterness? Jealousy? Pride? Fear?**
- I'm not sure if you think this looks yummy or not, but truth is, you can't always tell how good something is based on its appearance. You can only know for sure when you taste it.
- **Who wants to taste this?** Just kidding!
- In the same way, no matter how we appear on the outside, people will know what is going on inside of us by our actions. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us get rid of all the things inside us that block us from doing God's work.

MEMORY VERSE | Holy Spirit High Five

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Review the memory verse signs you've been practicing in small group. Then play some upbeat music and encourage the kids to move around the room, giving high fives to everyone they see. When the music stops, whoever they are about to high five recites the memory verse (in sign language) with them. Continue playing until the song ends.*

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

PRAYER

- Dear God, help us to be brave so we can share the most important message in the world with others. Help us remember that because we have the Holy Spirit, we can do your work! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Why did the disciples need to pick a new member for their team?**
- **How did the disciples decide who to choose and what was his name?**
- **Who helps us do God's work?**
- **According to I John 5:12-13, who can have eternal life?**
- **How can you help a friend find Jesus?**
- **What stops you from being coached by the Holy Spirit?**
- **How can you allow Jesus to coach you?**

RESPONSE | Geared Up for God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the Geared Up printable, pencils, scissors, and crayons or markers. Inside the first gear, have them write one thing they could do for God when they're older. Inside the second gear, have them write one thing they could do for God this week. Let them color then cut out their gears. Put up the gears on a wall, making sure you interlock them with neighboring gears (like this).*
    - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Give each preteen about 6-8 half-size gears. Let them think of 3-4 ideas for each category and write each of them down. Give each of them a piece of poster paper, and have them create their own arrangement of gears.*
    - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Cut the gears in advance for the kids or use a perforator to trace the gears and have them tear the paper along those lines.*
- **The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.**
- Remember our activity from earlier when we predicted what you would do in the future? Those were all made up but the one thing that is not made up is that you can definitely work for God in amazing ways later on!
- **Think about yourself in the future — if you knew you could do one thing for God when you grow up, what would you want to do?** Maybe you would . . .
    - Care for people who are sick.
    - Be a part of a group that helps orphans find families.Become a teacher.
    - Take care of parks and other outdoor spaces.
    - Be a first responder.
    - Become a mom or a dad.
    - Help people who don't have permanent homes.
    - Listen to people who are hurting.
    - Invent a solution for a big problem.

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org

- But wait – we don't have to wait until the future to do God's work. **What is one thing you can do for God right now?**
- The Holy Spirit gives us all our own unique gifts and abilities. To do something big for God, we don't have to be a pastor or have the entire Bible memorized. We can all do God's work in whatever we do, especially since the Holy Spirit helps us every step of the way!

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 8:14 (NIV)

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

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2021 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org