



# WEEK 3

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

subscribe  
now

### THE BIG IDEA

Jesus knows us.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael:**  
John 1:43-51; (Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18)

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | YouTube Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Friend Request
- ACTIVITY** | Know-It-All Page
- POLL** | Post a Poll
- SCRIPTURE** | John 1:43-51
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus knows us.
- VIDEO** | Subscribe Now, Episode 3
- QUESTION** | What Does It Mean to be A Friend?
- ACTIVITY** | New Friend Bingo
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 139:1-6,13-18
- ACTIVITY** | God Knows Me Mirror
- REFLECTION** | Privacy Setting
- MEMORY VERSE** | Friendship Slap Bracelets
- PRAYER**

#### SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
  - Who invited Nathanael to meet Jesus?
  - What did Phillip tell Nathanael to do when he was suspicious about Jesus?
  - Why was Nathanael amazed by Jesus?
  - Read Psalm 139:2. What does this verse say about how much Jesus knows us?
  - How does it make you feel knowing Jesus knows you so well?
  - Can you trust God more now knowing that God knows so much about you?
  - Phillip told Nathanael about Jesus. Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?
- ACTIVITY** | Tag A Friend
- MEMORY VERSE** | John 14:6 (NIV)



# WEEK 3

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS

subscribe  
now

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.

#### ACTIVITY | Know-it-All Page

Make two teams. One person from each team will take turns playing against each other to name a famous person, whose face you can show on a computer screen or on printouts. It can be a variety of celebrities and historical figures that a fifth grader should be familiar with. You could even throw in some pics of church staff members! When you reveal the photo, the first kid to raise their hand gets to answer. If you have a buzzer, even better! Place it between the two teams like on Family Feud. The team that gets the most answers right wins!

- **Do you know someone who could not only get all the answers right, but knows every single person who ever existed in the world?** That's right, God! (Jesus!)

#### ACTIVITY | God Knows Me Mirror

Have the kids create a self-portrait instead of decorating a mirror. They can write words that describe themselves and/or draw doodles that represent who they are. Have them write "Jesus knows me" somewhere on the page as the title of their self-portrait. Say: "Jesus knows you. Jesus knows everything about you—past, present, and future—and loves you!"

#### REFLECTION | Privacy Setting

When kids create a profile on social media, they get to decide what people can see and know about them (here's a good opportunity to remind kids who are active on social media that it's a good idea

to protect their privacy). Then have kids reflect more deeply on the things they might not want to share with anyone, and how comforting it is that there is someone they can share anything with – Jesus! Encourage kids to openly take their innermost thoughts to Jesus, knowing that He will not judge them but will rather comfort and guide them.

**ACTIVITY | Tag a Friend**

Ask the kids to think of a friend who might need prayer. Maybe they're going through a hard time. Maybe they don't know who Jesus is. Then have them draw a picture that will remind them to pray for this friend!



# WEEK 3

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

subscribe  
now

**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 | YouTube Praise**

Create simple and easy-to-follow gestures or hand motions to help kids actively participate.

#### **ACTIVITY | Friend Request**

Instead of having two kids race, let the kids with special needs try to guess another kid's name as fast as they can once the bed sheet is dropped. Have different kids stand behind the bed sheet opposite the kid trying to guess names. Have the kids who are "being guessed" to pose with a funny face for some laughs!

#### **MEMORY VERSE | Friendship Slap Bracelets**

Provide a peer buddy or another leader to assist with the writing portion, for those kids who might struggle with fine motor skills, as the bracelet is narrow and requires small print. Alternatively, you could even have the Big Idea written in block letters ahead of time so that kids can color them in.



# WEEK 3

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

subscribe  
now

### THE BIG IDEA

Jesus knows us.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael:**  
John 1:43-51; (Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

#### MUSIC | YouTube Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cue the following songs for the kids to sing along to.
  - ["You Know Me"](#) by Hillsong Kids
  - ["One in a Million"](#) by Elevation Kidz
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Create simple and easy-to-follow gestures or hand motions to help kids actively participate.

#### ACTIVITY | Friend Request

- On Facebook, you can ask someone to be your friend by first searching for their names before requesting they be added to your friends list.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to go around and introduce themselves. Then, split the kids into two groups. Sit the two groups on opposite sides of a bed sheet spread out on the floor. Ask two leaders to hold up the bed sheet so the teams won't be able to see each other. Each team selects one person to stand in front of the bed sheet, facing their invisible opponent. Once both teams are ready, drop the bed sheet between the two players. The first person to yell out the other person's name "approves the friend request" and joins the winning team. Repeat until every kid has had a chance to play.

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Instead of having two kids race, let the kids with special needs try to guess another kid's name as fast as they can once the bed sheet is dropped. Have different kids stand behind the bed sheet opposite the kid trying to guess names. Have the kids who are "being guessed" to pose with a funny face for some laughs!*

### ACTIVITY | Know-It-All Page

- Nowadays, you can find almost anything or anyone online. You can see what famous people are up to on their social media pages. You can find out any information you want to know with just a few keywords and mouse clicks. So the internet might be a "know-it-all" . . . but how much do you know?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, list several different categories – such as types of animals, vegetables, etc. – on small sheets of paper. Place the paper inside a bowl. Ask a kid or a leader to come up to the front and pick a category. Then, take turns naming something from that category until the timer goes off. If something they say does not fit the category or they repeat a word, they lose!*
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Make two teams. One person from each team will take turns playing against each other to name a famous person, whose face you can show on a computer screen or on printouts. It can be a variety of celebrities and historical figures that a fifth-grader should be familiar with. You could even throw in some pics of church staff members! When you reveal the photo, the first kid to raise their hand gets to answer. If you have a buzzer, even better! Place it between the two teams like on Family Feud.*
- Great job showing us how much you know, everyone! But let me ask you this – **just because you know facts about someone, does that mean you actually know them?** Not always. We can know things *about* people without knowing them very well, or at all.
- Today we are going to talk about what it means to really know someone and also, for someone to really know us!

### POLL | Post a Poll

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the questions on the screen. Tell the kids to do a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" based on their answers to the questions.*
- **Do you have the Messenger Kids app?**
- **Do you have your own electronic device at home?**
- **Do you know the meaning of your name?**
- **Do your parents know your favorite subject in school?**
- **Does your teacher at school know your last name?**
- **Do you know that someone knows and cares for you?**

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

### SCRIPTURE | John 1:43-51

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up John 1:43-51 in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it together or summarize the story.*

- While Jesus was about to leave town, Phillip, a follower of Jesus, was so excited about Jesus that he told one of his friends, Nathanael, all about Jesus.
- Phillip told Nathanael that Jesus was the Savior they had been waiting for. And even though Nathanael was nervous, he decided to go meet Jesus for himself.
- **Do you think Phillip was a good friend for inviting Nathanael?**
- Before Nathanael even said a word, Jesus greeted him like an old friend and mentioned things about Nathanael that only Nathanael would know. Jesus said he saw Nathanael under a tree before Phillip went to talk to him.
- **How do you think Jesus knew this?**
- We don't know if Jesus actually saw Nathanael, and we're not even sure if Jesus is even talking about the same day. But we do know Nathanael is very surprised to hear this from Jesus.
- There was no internet back then, so Jesus couldn't have looked up facts about Nathanael, used satellite images, or anything like that. Nathanael knew the only way Jesus knew so much about him was that he had to be the Son of God, and the Savior everyone had been waiting for and talking about.

#### THE BIG IDEA | Jesus knows us.

- **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!
- **Jesus knows us.**

#### VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 3

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

#### QUESTION | What Does It Mean to be A Friend?

- Let's say someone sent you a friend request on a social media platform like Messenger Kids or Instagram. It says so-and-so wants to be your friend.
- **What are some reasons why you would "accept" the request?**
- **What are some reasons you might "ignore" the request?**
- We can make friends so easily online these days that we often forget what it means to be a good friend. Let's think together – **what does it mean to be a good friend?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give examples from your own experience of what it means to be a good friend. They can be things like . . .
  - Someone who you have fun with.
  - Someone who is nice to you.
  - Someone you get along with.
  - Someone who wants what's best for you.
  - Someone who knows you.
  - Someone who is safe to talk to.
  - Someone who teaches you things you didn't know.

- Let's go over our list. Based on what we discussed, **is Jesus a good friend?**

### ACTIVITY | New Friend Bingo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to go around the room and find other kids that fit the description on each of the boxes. Then, ask the kids to mark it on their Bingo card. The first person to complete five in a row yells, "Bingo!" and wins! The only catch is that their Bingo must consist of all different people. If you have time, play until someone fills their entire board!
- **Did you find out anything new about your friends?**
- **Did you find you had some things in common with your friends?**
- Getting to really know someone can take a long time. But we have someone that knows us because He's known us our whole lives! **Jesus knows us.**

### SCRIPTURE | Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split your group up into two or more smaller groups. Assign one group verses 1-6, and the other group verses 13-18 (you can have them use their own Bibles or print the passages out for them). Give each group a piece of poster paper and some markers and have them write or illustrate key words or phrases that show what God knows about us, and what we know about God. Give them time to share their posters.
- **What are some things we know about God from this Scripture?**
- **What are some things God knows about you based on this Scripture?**
- You know what the great thing about God knowing everything about us is? We don't have to hide anything from God. God knows what we are thinking and understands us the best!

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

### ACTIVITY | God Knows Me Mirror

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Decorate handheld mirrors with fun stickers and pompoms. Then, with letter stickers or markers, write, "Jesus knows me!" on top of the mirror.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have the kids do a self-portrait instead of decorating a mirror. They can write words that describe themselves and/or draw doodles that represent who they are. Have them write "Jesus knows me" somewhere on the page as the title of their self-portrait.
- **Do you like looking at your reflection?**
- Look into your mirror and carefully examine your face. God made each feature on your face on purpose. Our world has different standards for what they think makes someone attractive, but know this – each of you are unquestionably beautiful because you are God's creation.
- Keep your mirror with you and remember that Jesus doesn't just know you. He knows all about you and loves you so much.



### REFLECTION | Privacy Setting

- On Facebook Messenger Kids, there is a privacy setting that allows our parents to look at all the friends who want to talk to us online. This is there so kids are safe and it allows adults to keep things private from strangers.
- Close your eyes and think about something you have never told anyone, or something only very few people know.
- Jesus knows that secret. Jesus knows when you feel pain or when you are sad. Jesus knows when you feel happy or when you are confused. Jesus knows everything that has happened to you and can see your future, too. Jesus knows everything!
- You can trust Jesus because **Jesus knows you.**
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have kids reflect more deeply on the things they might not want to share with anyone, and how comforting it is that there is someone they can share anything with – Jesus! Encourage kids to openly take their innermost thoughts to Jesus, knowing that He will not judge them but will rather comfort and guide them.*

### MEMORY VERSE | Friendship Slap Bracelets

- Let's write the memory verse for a friend who needs an encouraging reminder that Jesus knows them.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to write the memory verse on the [blank slap bracelet](#). Encourage them to decorate the other side.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a peer buddy or another leader to assist with the writing portion, for those kids who might struggle with fine motor skills, as the bracelet is narrow and requires small print. Alternatively, you could even have the Big Idea written in block letters ahead of time so that kids can color them in.*
- Let's take a moment to pray for the friends we want to give these bracelets to.

### PRAYER

Dear God, I am so glad I can turn to you when it seems no one else would understand. Thank you always having known me and being such a good friend to me. Please show me how I can be a good friend to others. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **Who invited Nathanael to meet Jesus?**
- **What did Phillip tell Nathanael to do when he was suspicious about Jesus?**
- **Why was Nathanael amazed by Jesus?**
- **Read Psalm 139:2. What does this verse say about how much Jesus knows us?**
- **How does it make you feel knowing Jesus knows you so well?**
- **Can you trust God more now knowing that God knows so much about you?**
- **Phillip told Nathanael about Jesus. Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?**

- How can we be more like Mary while waiting?
- Why do you think it is important for us to praise God while waiting for the impossible?

#### ACTIVITY | Tag A Friend

- When you post a photo on certain social media sites, you can click on a person's face and "tag" them. When you tag them, you are inviting them to see the photo with you. You're telling them, "I like having you in the picture!"
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids a half-sheet of cardstock paper. You can also prepare some goodie bags the kids can take to give to their friend.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask the kids to think of a friend who might need prayer. Maybe they're going through a hard time. Maybe they don't know who Jesus is. Then have them draw a picture that will remind them to pray for this friend!
- On one side, draw a picture of yourself with a friend.
- Draw a square box around your friend's face to "tag" them, and write the friend's name next to the box.
- Underneath the photo, write "Tag! You're Invited!"
- Flip over your card and write a message to your friend.

#### 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.