



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God helps me learn from my mistakes.

THE BIBLE

Samson: Judges 16:4-30;
(Psalm 9:1-10)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Lead with Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Parade Charade
- ACTIVITY** | Keep the Float Afloat
- POLL** | Made by Mistake
- SCRIPTURE** | Judges 16:4-30
- THE BIG IDEA** | God helps me learn from my mistakes.
- VIDEO** | Take the Lead, Episode 3
- STORY** | Buyer's Remorse
- ACTIVITY** | Eraser Bingo
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 9:1-10
- RESPONSE** | "Beautiful Oops"
- ACTIVITY** | Parade Prep
- MEMORY VERSE** | Parade Parody
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What question did Delilah keep asking Samson?
- Why was giving Delilah the right answer a mistake?
- How did God help Samson one last time?
- Read Judges 16:24 and Psalm 9:3-5. In what ways are those prayers similar? Which prayer is the one made to the one true God who helps us?
- Are mistakes a good thing or a bad thing? Why do you say that?
- What is one mistake you made recently?
- What has God helped you learn from making that mistake?

ACTIVITY | DIY Balloon Float

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 6:8 (NIV)



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR PRETEENS

TAKE THE LEAD

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.

ACTIVITY | Keep the Float Afloat

List out different body parts (i.e. hands, feet, head, nose, etc.) on pieces of paper and have each preteen draw from the pile. Their challenge is to only use body part indicated on their paper to keep the balloons afloat.

RESPONSE | "Beautiful Oops"

Ask students about their own experiences with making mistakes and times where it actually was used for good!

ACTIVITY | DIY Balloon Float

Purchase [supplies](#) for balloon animals and allow students to try and make their own creations.



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

TAKE THE LEAD

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.

ACTIVITY | Parade Charade

Always encourage kids with special needs to volunteer. You know your students and think of who might want to volunteer. Then, think of which order/activity in this charade would be the best fit.

ACTIVITY | Keep the Float Afloat

If you have a kid with special needs who loves balloons so much, use it to shape their behavior. Use the phrase "first . . . then . . ." to reinforce the expected behavior (e.g., "first bible story, then balloon").

ACTIVITY | Eraser Bingo

This may take a while to write all down for kids with special needs. You may number each index card and have your students write just numbers or keywords. You can also create pre-filled Bingo boards they can use. Writing it for them is always an option but try other options first to help kids with special needs feel fully a part of the activity. Provide kids to do as much on their own as possible.



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God helps me learn from my mistakes.

THE BIBLE

Samson: Judges 16:4-30;
(Psalm 9:1-10)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Lead with Praise

- It's another week of, "Take the Lead!" Let's start off today's parade by praising God together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the kids in a time of worship with songs about our God who leads us! Pass out classroom instruments, such as bongos, maracas, tambourines, etc., and arrange the kids into a parade band. Lead the kids in playing their instruments along with worship songs like:*
 - *"Take Heart" by Jumpstart 3*
 - *"Won't Let Go" by Gateway Kids Worship*

ACTIVITY | Parade Charade

- A parade has many different elements: musicians, dancers, special guests, and lots of colorful decorations. Let's play a game that you know well, but we are going to throw in some extra elements. . . like a parade!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite five volunteers to come to the front. Instruct them all to face the right wall. Tap the first kid on the shoulder to turn around, and show them the word. The first kid then taps the next kid on the shoulder and acts out the word. The second kid taps the third kid, who is wearing headphones, and whispers the word to them. The third kid taps the fourth kid and writes the word. The fourth kid taps the fifth kid and draws the word. The fifth kid guesses the word! Some words you could use are marching band, balloon, popcorn, dancing, float, music, flag, Mickey Mouse, Santa Claus, cheerleaders, football, wave, etc.*

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Always encourage kids with special needs to volunteer. You know your students and think of who might want to volunteer. Then, think of which order/activity in this charade would be the best fit.

ACTIVITY | Keep the Float Afloat

- The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City is famous for its giant balloon floats! Did you know that one of those floats requires anywhere between fifty and a hundred people to keep it from floating away?
- Let's see how we do with keeping our balloon floats in the air.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into two teams and tell them to stand on either side of a line on the floor. Give each team about five to ten inflated balloons, depending on the size of each team. As the game starts, each team tries to get their balloons to the other team's side by gently lobbing it —no holding. The objective is to not let any balloons fall on the ground. The team with the least amount of balloons on the floor on their side wins! You can show the kids this [clip](#) of the Macy's parade!
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** List out different body parts (i.e. hands, feet, head, nose, etc.) on pieces of paper and have each preteen draw from the pile. Their challenge is to only use body part indicated on their paper to keep the balloons afloat.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If you have a kid with special needs who loves balloons so much, use it to shape their behavior. Use the phrase "first . . . then . . ." to reinforce the expected behavior (e.g., "first bible story, then balloon").

POLL | Made by Mistake

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Name or show images of the following items. Tell the kids to stand and wave their hands in the air if they think the item was made by mistake. If they don't think it was a mistake, tell them to remain seated. By the way, all of these things were made by mistake! Toss a [bead necklace](#) to everyone who answers correctly after every question.
 - Slinky
 - X-ray
 - Chocolate chip cookies
 - Safety pins
 - Microwave oven
 - Super glue
 - Fireworks
 - Potato chips
 - Ink-jet printers
 - Ice cream cone
 - Post-it notes
 - Chewing gum
 - Bubble wrap
- **Which of these "made by mistake" items surprised you the most?**
- At the time, the people who created these things thought they had failed at their original project, but they found ways to fix their mistake and turn them into something new!

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

SCRIPTURE | Judges 16:4-30

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids this [video](#) to introduce today's Bible story in Judges 16:4-30. Recruit a couple volunteers to help you with today's Bible story skit. For an added touch of drama, play a slow instrumental track in the background.
- Today's grand marshal is the last famous judge of Israel: Samson! We have members of his family here to accept the honor on his behalf.
 - **Manoah:** Hey, kids! My name is Manoah and this is my wife.
 - **Wife:** We are Samson's parents.
 - **Manoah:** Do you remember when he was born?
 - **Wife:** Of course, like it was yesterday. My Sammy was a real special baby. God gave us Samson when I thought I would never be able to have a baby.
 - **Manoah:** Yes, God had special plans for Samson. Samson never cut his hair. . .you know, everyone thinks it was his hair that made him so strong, but really, his long hair was his way of showing people that he would serve God his whole life.
 - **Wife:** And by telling Delilah about his hair, it was almost like he had forgotten his strength came from God and not from his hair. That's why his strength left him. But you know, when the enemy captured my Samson after cutting off his hair, God gave him one last push of strength and Samson put those Philistine bullies in their place!
 - **Manoah:** That's right. Look kids, my son made mistakes in his life. We did not always approve of his decisions or the people he hung out with.
 - **Wife:** What Manoah is trying to say is, Samson realized his mistakes and in the end, he did the right thing. We all make mistakes from time to time. But if you can learn anything from Samson's story, it's that it's never too late to do the right thing because God gives us all second chances.
 - **Manoah:** Exactly. Well, kids, thanks for listening to a story from a couple of old folks – (*Stops and looks at one of the kids.*) Hey, you look just like my Samson! Have you ever thought about growing your hair longer?

THE BIG IDEA | God helps me learn from my mistakes.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Like last week, string ten helium-filled balloons and weigh it down with a parade-themed object. On a dry erase or chalk board, draw as many spaces as the letters in today's Big Idea. Have the kids guess the letters, and if they choose a letter that is not in the Big Idea, cut one of the strings. See if they can guess the Big Idea before all the balloons float away! If you don't have balloons, use the dry erase or chalk board to draw a person holding ten balloons. Erase a string each time they guess an incorrect letter.
- You saved the parade by figuring out today's Big Idea: **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 3

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

STORY | Buyer's Remorse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story about a time when you bought something you really wanted at the time, but you later regretted it. Bring in that item, if possible!*
- This happens at parades, too! Sometimes, when you're at a parade, vendors walk by you, selling all sorts of things that you might want – food, candy, balloons, and things that light up. But many times, you end up wishing you hadn't spent that much money on it.
- Even though making mistakes is normal, it's not wise to keep making the same mistake over and over again. We need to learn from what we did wrong and correct it if we want to grow!

ACTIVITY | Eraser Bingo

- Let's brainstorm together: **What are some common mistakes you can think of?** You know, things like spilling a drink, solving a math problem incorrectly, bad haircuts, stains on your clothes, falling asleep in class, spelling something wrong, singing the wrong note, tripping up the stairs, forgetting your homework, stubbing your toe, having food stuck in your teeth, getting sick in public, or forgetting someone's name?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write each of the fifteen to twenty ideas you brainstorm on separate index cards. Afterward, pass out the Bingo printable to each kid. Read from the cards, and tell the kids to fill out their Bingo boards by writing the word or phrase anywhere on their board. They can write the same word in more than one box, but they can only cross off one of them when it's called. Then, fold all the index cards, put them in a box, and begin the game! Pull out a card, and read it out loud. Kids can erase that word off their board. The first kid to erase five in a row and yell, "Bingo!" wins.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *This may take a while to write all down for kids with special needs. You may number each index card and have your students write just numbers or keywords. Alternatively, you can create pre-filled Bingo boards for them to use.*

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 9:1-10

- Today's Big Idea is, **God helps me learn from my mistakes.** That means even though we might be the ones making the mistake, God is the one who is going to help us fix them and learn from them.
- Listen to today's Psalm. **What are the things God does? What are the things we can do because of what God does?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Record yourself reading Psalm 9:1-10 and play it back for the kids, or ask another leader to read it while you listen attentively with the kids and occasionally say, "God" (like in verse four), and "we" (like in verse one).*

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

RESPONSE | "Beautiful Oops"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Grab a copy of [Beautiful Oops](#) by Barney Saltzberg and read it to the group, or show [this read aloud video](#). Then, distribute a copy of the Beautiful Oops printable to each kid. Encourage them to spend time transforming some of these "mistakes" into something new.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask students about their own experiences with making mistakes and times where it actually was used for good!

- Mistakes happen. But instead of wallowing in our failures and missteps, it's important we remember what caused the mistake, and avoid it in the future. And instead of letting our mistakes get us down, we can find ways to repurpose them and turn them into good things!
- **Who can help do that in our own lives?** That's right, it's God. We can pray to God and ask how we can learn from this experience, and seek out help from loved ones!
- **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

ACTIVITY | Parade Prep

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Instruct the kids to meet in the same groups as previous weeks. Make sure each group has a way to play this [video](#) and practice only the parts assigned to them previously. They will work on this each week and present it next week!

MEMORY VERSE | Parade Parody

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into small groups and instruct them to work together to say the memory verse to the tune of an existing melody. It can be a lullaby, pop song, or even a commercial jingle. When everyone is ready, line up the groups and have one group at a time march around the room while singing their new memory verse song.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for understanding that we all slip up and mess up from time to time. But we ask for Samson-like strength to learn from our mistakes and avoid making the same ones again. Thank you for helping us and for turning our mistakes into beautiful opportunities to grow. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What question did Delilah keep asking Samson?
- Why was giving Delilah the right answer a mistake?
- How did God help Samson one last time?
- Read Judges 16:24 and Psalm 9:3-5. In what ways are those prayers similar? Which prayer is the one made to the one true God who helps us?
- Are mistakes a good thing or a bad thing? Why do you say that?
- What is one mistake you made recently?
- What has God helped you learn from making that mistake?

ACTIVITY | DIY Balloon Float

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a balloon and tell them to blow it up. For easy tying, consider getting these [balloon ties](#) attached to string. Provide permanent markers, construction paper,

scissors and tape, and encourage the kids to create their own balloon animal float – check out [this image](#) for some inspiration. Try not to peel tape off of the balloon because it could pop.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Purchase [supplies](#) for balloon animals and allow students to try and make their own creations.

- **Have you ever accidentally let a balloon fly away before? What do you do so that doesn't happen again?** That's right, you weigh it down or tie it securely around your wrist. That's an example of learning from our mistakes!
- Remember, when you make a mistake, you're not doomed! You can always correct it, and most importantly, God will help you learn from it! **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

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