



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God helps me learn from my mistakes.

THE BIBLE

Samson: Judges 16:4-30

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Lead with Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Parade Charade
- ACTIVITY** | Keep the Float Afloat

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Judges 16
- THE BIG IDEA** | God helps me learn from my mistakes.
- VIDEO** | Take the Lead, Episode 3
- ACTIVITY** | Feats of Strength
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Dumbbell Snacks
- ACTIVITY** | Knocking Down Pillars
- ACTIVITY** | "Beautiful Oops"
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Erase It
- ACTIVITY** | Mistake Makeover



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

TAKE THE LEAD

BY ABBY BURG

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 | Parade Charade

Play "I Spy" with objects around the room. If the kids make a guess that is close but not quite correct, be sure to praise them for it! For example, if the object you've chosen is a yellow race car on the other side of the room, but a kid guesses a yellow rubber ducky sitting on the shelf, tell them, "Good job finding something yellow! That's not the yellow thing I was thinking of, though. Let's see if the next person can guess it."

ACTIVITY | Keep the Float Afloat

Pay careful attention to any balloons that may pop or break. Pick up any broken pieces immediately to avoid potential choking hazards.

SNACK | Dumbbell Snacks

Put the snack items you've chosen onto the pretzel sticks ahead of time.

ACTIVITY | Erase It

- Let kids have fun drawing and erasing things on a [magnetic doodle board](#).

ACTIVITY | Mistake Makeover

Make a few [glue sponges](#) ahead of time to reduce the mess while still allowing the kids to enjoy being creative. Be sure to keep wipes handy to clean off those messy fingers!



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God helps me learn from my mistakes.

THE BIBLE

Samson: Judges 16:4-30

WELCOME TIME

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 either the noisemakers the kids made during week one or classroom instruments. Arrange the kids into a parade band. Lead the kids in playing their instruments along with the worship song, "[Won't Let Go](#)" by Gateway Kids Worship.*

ACTIVITY | Parade Charade

- When you're at a parade, there are lots of things to look at, like floats, banners, balloons, marching bands, and so much more! Let's play a game where you try to guess some things we might see or do at a parade!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite three volunteers to come to the front. Instruct them all to face the right wall until they get tapped on the shoulder. Tap the first kid on the shoulder to turn around do a simple action to represent a word of your choice (e.g., marching in place and playing the trombone, waving, dancing, etc.). Then, that kid taps the next kid and does exactly what you did. The second kid taps the last kid, and repeats the same motion. The last kid has to try to guess what it is!*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Play "I Spy" with objects around the room. If the kids make a guess that is close but not quite correct, be sure to praise them for it! For example, if the object you've chosen is a yellow race car on the other side of the room, but a kid guesses a yellow rubber ducky sitting on the shelf, tell them, "Good job finding something yellow! That's not the yellow thing I was thinking of, though. Let's see if the next person can guess it."*

ACTIVITY | Keep the Float Afloat

- The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City is famous for their giant balloon floats! Did you know it takes fifty to a hundred people to keep each float from floating away?
- Let's see how we do with keeping our balloon floats in the air.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids five to ten inflated balloons (or more depending on the size of your group). As the game starts, encourage the kids to try to keep all their balloons in the air at the same time. You can make this extra fun by playing music in the background. Feel free to show the kids [this clip](#) of the Macy's parade!

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Pay careful attention to any balloons that may pop or break. Pick up any broken pieces immediately to avoid potential choking hazards.

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Judges 16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open a Bible in front of you to Judges 16:4-30. Show the kids [this video](#) to introduce today's Bible story. Recruit a couple of volunteers to help you with today's Bible story skit. For an added touch of drama, play a slow instrumental track in the background.
- We've been talking about how many parades give someone the title of "grand marshal," or the leader of the parade. Usually, special leaders are given that honor.
- 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:** Hi! My name is Manoah and this is my wife.
 - **Wife:** We are Samson's mom and dad.
 - **Manoah:** Do you remember when he was born?
 - **Wife:** Of course! Just like it was yesterday. My Samson was a really 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. His long hair didn't have any special powers. It was just his way of showing people that he would serve God his whole life.
 - **Wife:** But when his hair got cut, he lost his strength. That was because my son forgot that he was strong because of God, not his hair. But you know, when the enemy captured my Samson after cutting off his hair, God gave him one last push of strength and he put those Philistine bullies in their place!
 - **Manoah:** That's right. Look, kids. My son made mistakes in his life. He sometimes trusted the wrong people.
 - **Wife:** And we all mess up from time to time. But if you can learn anything from Samson's story, it's that it's never too late to make the right choice 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:** Write the each word of the Big Idea on a balloon without inflating it. When it's time for the Big Idea reveal, blow up each of the balloons manually or with a pump. Have the kids read each balloon aloud with you. After you blow up all the balloons, you can tie them up and tape it to a surface, or you can throw it into the crowd and let kids toss it around as you say the Big Idea.
- Let's all say the Big Idea together: **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 3

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

ACTIVITY | Feats of Strength

- We heard today about how strong Samson was. Let's see how strong you all are!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create several "feats of strength" activities for the kids like the ones in [this video](#). Some exercises the kids can try are deadlifts (picking up a pool noodle with balloons taped to each end), dumbbell curls (using a dumbbell made of an empty paper towel tube with balloons taped to each end), and the shot put (using a foam ball). You can also let the kids do feats that involve breaking an item, cup crushing, etc.
- Can you imagine how strong Samson had to be to knock down those columns with his bare hands? I'm really glad that, just like God helped Samson learn from his mistakes, **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for understanding that we all make mistakes. We need Samson-like strength to avoid making the same ones again. Instead of getting sad or frustrated with our mistakes, help us to see them as a chance to learn and grow.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Dumbbell Snacks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid some pretzel sticks on a paper towel or paper plate. Have them stick an additional snack item on each end of each pretzel stick (e.g. marshmallows, cubes of cheese, [Fudge Stripes cookies](#), etc.) to create "dumbbells."
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Put the snack items you've chosen onto the pretzel sticks ahead of time.
- **Who is the strongest person you know?**
- **What is the biggest or heaviest thing you've ever lifted?**
- **Have you ever made a mistake before? What did you do when you made the mistake?**

ACTIVITY | Knocking Down Pillars

- Let's try to make some pillars of our own to knock down!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide the kids with blocks and build two "pillars" or towers. Instruct one of the kids to stand between them and knock them over just like Samson did. You can do this repeatedly with a large group of kids or you can divide the kids into smaller groups to reduce the number of times the game needs to be repeated for each kid to have a turn being Samson.
- **What was special about Samson?**
- **What question did Delilah keep asking Samson?**
- **What happened when Samson told Delilah his secret?**
- **How did God help Samson one last time?**

ACTIVITY | "Beautiful Oops"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Grab a copy of "[Beautiful Oops](#)" by Barney Saltzberg and read it to the group, or show [this read aloud video](#). Next, distribute a copy of the "Beautiful Oops" printable to each kid. Have them spend time transforming some of these "mistakes" into something new. You could choose to do this activity as a group by projecting the printable image on to a dry erase board and drawing on them, or using a drawing tool on the computer.
- **Are mistakes a good thing or a bad thing? Why do you say that?**
- Mistakes happen. But instead of letting our mistakes get us down, we can find ways to fix them or turn them into good things!
- **Who can help us learn from our mistakes?** That's right, it's God. We can pray to God and seek out help from loved ones!
- **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set the memory verse to the tune of an existing melody and teach it to the kids. It can be a lullaby, pop song, or even a commercial jingle. When everyone has had a chance to learn it, march around the room while singing the new memory verse song.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids...

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Erase It

- Today, we heard all about a leader named Samson. Let's take turns being the leader in a round of, "Follow the Leader!"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and help them write the word, “mistake” in large letters with a pencil. Then give them a pile of mini erasers and have them outline the letters with eraser. Finally, let them take an eraser and have them erase the word completely!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Let kids have fun drawing and erasing things on a [magnetic doodle board](#).
- Remember our Big Idea for today: **God helps me learn from my mistakes.** That means God will help you not make the same mistake again!

ACTIVITY | Mistake Makeover

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, prepare some “mistake materials” (e.g. Bent or ripped pieces of paper, tape folded over onto itself, etc.) and a piece of poster board with the words, “God helps me learn from my mistakes” written on it. Invite the kids to decorate the poster board with the “mistake materials” to create their own “beautiful oops.”
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Make a few [glue sponges](#) ahead of time to reduce the mess while still allowing the kids to enjoy being creative. Be sure to keep wipes handy to clean off those messy fingers!
- I’m so glad that **God helps me learn from my mistakes.** Aren’t you?

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