



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God's does unexpected things.

THE BIBLE

God's Promise to David:

II Samuel 7:1-14a; (Psalm 89:20-37)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | "Way Maker"
- ACTIVITY** | Scavenger Safari
- ACTIVITY** | Honeybee Hive
- STORY** | Who Likes Surprises?
- SCRIPTURE** | II Samuel 7:1-14a
- THE BIG IDEA** | God does unexpected things.
- VIDEO** | Unusual, Episode 3
- QUESTION** | How does it feel to get an unexpected gift?
- OBJECT LESSON** | Secret Hammer
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 89:20-37
- REFLECTION** | God in a Box?
- ACTIVITY** | Animal Crossing
- MEMORY VERSE** | Animals on Parade
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did David want to do for God?
- How was God's plan different from David's?
- What did God promise David?
- Read Psalm 89:29. What do you think this means about making David's "line" last forever? Do you think God had a purpose for more than just David? If so, what do you think that purpose is?
- What does God keeping the promise to David mean for us?
- Why is it important that we not put a limit on what God can do?
- When has God done the unexpected in your life?

ACTIVITY | Sea Otter Chain

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



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 | Honeybee Hive

Choose a more difficult configuration that involves stacking or various cup color combinations. You could even make it a race and have preteens take one cup at a time to the finish line and build their structures there.

STORY | Who Likes Surprises?

Ask if there has been a time when they have really surprised someone else (either in a good way or a bad way). It can also be joyful to be the one who gets to deliver the surprise!

OBJECT LESSON | Secret Hammer

Ask for examples of other multi-use tools that would be really helpful. They can even be ideas that haven't been invented yet!



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



UNUSUAL

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 TIP

Show kids with special needs a visual schedule to know what to expect during times when they'd be required to sit for extended periods of time. Use timers to interval 5-minute sitting times and 1-minute breaks.

MEMORY VERSE | Animals on Parade

You can ask kids to be the ones to make sure everyone is matched up to the correct picture. Also, many kids with special needs like routine. Don't hesitate to repeat a memory verse activity from previous weeks they enjoyed instead.

ACTIVITY | Sea Otter Chain

Include kids with special needs in this simple small group activity with minimal adult assistance. Whenever possible, help kids build independence.



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God's does unexpected things.

THE BIBLE

God's Promise to David:

II Samuel 7:1-14a; (Psalm 89:20-37)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | "Way Maker"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this song, "[Way Maker](#)," by Allstars Kids Club and lead the kids in worship.
- Sometimes, it doesn't seem like there will be any change to our circumstances or that there's no way out. But we serve a God who can turn anything and everything around!

ACTIVITY | Scavenger Safari

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out multiple copies of the images from the Scavenger Safari printable. Fold each page in half and tape or staple it, so that each side of the paper has a different animal on it. Hide the images around the room with only one side showing – to make it more challenging, choose the same animal to show across multiple copies (e.g., for the paper containing the sloth and the ostrich, only show the sloth for all copies of that page). Give each kid a checklist and have them check off their page when they spot the animal (they don't to grab a copy for themselves). As kids try to check off the animals from their list, let them figure out on their own that some animals are on the back!
- This game seemed really easy at first, right? But did you expect that some of the animals you were looking for were on the back of the ones you could see?
- Unexpected things can happen at any time, even when we think we definitely know how something will turn out!

ACTIVITY | Honeybee Hive

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split kids into teams of three or four. Lay out six plastic cups upside down and tell kids they are going to have to make a beehive (i.e., stack the cups like a pyramid), but there's a catch – they're bees, so they can't use their hands! They can only use the tool provided: a rubber band with 3 or 4 long strings attached to it. Let kids figure out how they're going to use the tool to stack the cups. If after a certain amount of time there are teams who haven't figured it out, show the groups how each person needs to hold one string and work together to place the rubber band around a cup and move it together.
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Choose a more difficult configuration that involves stacking or various cup color combinations. You could even make it a race and have preteens take one cup at a time to the finish line and build their structures there.
- In this week's Bible story, we're going to hear more about King David, and something that he wanted to build.

STORY | Who Likes Surprises?

- **Can you think of a time when something really, really surprised you?**
- Sometimes, surprises are great, right? But other times, they're not so great.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a personal story about a time when you weren't happy about a surprise.
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask if there has been a time when they have really surprised someone else (either in a good way or a bad way). It can also be joyful to be the one who gets to deliver the surprise!
- Good or bad, life has a way of throwing us the unexpected. Let's learn about something unexpected that happened to King David.
- What does everyone think . . . **Will this be a good or bad surprise?**

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

SCRIPTURE | II Samuel 7:1-14a

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Wear a crown while reading the scripture and telling the story, leaving space for responses after questions. Have a "set" prepared with your gold box from last week hidden behind curtains (a puppet theater would work for this, as would a real or prop tent, or a pair of shower curtains hung on a tension rod in the doorway of a closet).
- **Who remembers what the Ark of the Covenant was?** That's right! The Ark of the Covenant was the special gold box we talked about last week that had the power of God around it.
 - **Now, remember how happy King David was about getting it to Jerusalem? Can anyone remember what he did?** That's right, David danced in his underwear!
 - But once David finally took a break from all the partying and dancing, he stopped and thought to himself, "Hmm . . . I live in this big, fancy schmancy castle, but the Ark of the Covenant, even though it is the most special object in the whole, wide world, is in a tent! (Pull aside the curtains or tent flap and reveal your gold box.)"
- But then David had an idea. "I will build a house for God! I'm the king! I can build anything!" It

just made sense to him — King David had the money and the power, and the ark needed a more special place to be, he thought. David had completely expected to get right to work carrying out his plan to build a home for it.

- God loved David and was pleased with David's desire to build a special place for the Ark of the Covenant, but one day, God sent a message to David through a man named Nathan. This message was a special message because this message was a promise from God.
- You see, it wasn't a part of God's plan to have David build that special house. God was going to use David's son to do it instead. Not only did God promise to see David's son through the project, but God also promised to make David's family the leaders of Israel forever, all the way through David's children's children's children and so on! Now that was unexpected!
- Let's watch [this video](#) to help us remember this story. Pay close attention – you might learn something else unexpected about one of David's descendants!

THE BIG IDEA | God does unexpected things.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Brick returns, this time carrying a trophy.*
 - **Leader:** Well, hey, Brick! Good to see you again! What's that you've got?
 - **Brick:** Hey! It's a trophy! I just won it!
 - **Leader:** You won a trophy? That's so cool! Was it for weightlifting?
 - **Brick:** Well, sort of.
 - **Leader:** How do you "sort of" lift weights?
 - **Brick:** Okay, look, it wasn't traditional weightlifting, like . . . with my arms.
 - **Leader:** What was it with? Your legs?
 - **Brick:** My toes.
 - **Leader:** Your . . . toes?
 - **Brick:** Yes! I was surprised, too! I hadn't even been working out my toes lately! I just stepped in . . . and won! I'm the regional toe lifting champion!
 - **Leader:** Well, I'd say that's certainly unexpected.
 - **Brick:** You're tellin' me! I knew I was the strongest, the smartest, and the best-looking, but it was really a surprise to discover that my toes are the toughest in the region.
 - **Leader:** How did you even find out about a toe lifting competition?
 - **Brick:** I thought it was just a regular lifting competition! I showed up and they were like, "Okay, friend, off with the shoes." I almost left, but then I remembered that God uses unlikely people, and I thought, "Hmm. . . maybe my toes aren't totally warmed up, but it might be worth a shot. And let me tell you, I was filled with unexplainable joy when I realized that I had the strength within me. It's . . . it's just too much! (*Begins sobbing loudly with joy.*)"
 - **Leader:** Wow, Brick! It's awesome that you're so in touch with your feelings! Um, do you think you might be able to take a breath for a minute and read this week's Big Idea?
 - **Brick:** (*Sobs even more loudly and dramatically.*) I can't! I'm too filled with joy! (*Falls to the floor dramatically sobbing.*)
 - **Leader:** That's totally okay. It really is. Um, do you think you might be able to be just a little more quietly joyful while our friend, (*Select a kid*), comes up and reads it?
 - **Brick:** (*Flails around silently while the kid reads.*)

- **Leader:** Brick, I really am proud of you for having the strength to cry, but you might feel better if you took a little break. . . maybe splashed some water on your face?
- **Brick:** I think that's a good idea. (*Exits, still sobbing.*)

VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 3

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

QUESTION | How does it feel to get an unexpected gift?

- **Have you ever really wanted a particular gift for your birthday, and ended up getting something totally different . . . but the thing you got was even better than what you wanted?**
- **Didn't it feel great to get that unexpected gift?**
- I imagine that's how David felt after he received those amazing promises from God. God surprised David with the unexpected and you know what? God will surprise us with the unexpected, too, and sometimes, it will be even better than what we imagined.

OBJECT LESSON | Secret Hammer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bring up the [combo tool](#) you will be using throughout this object lesson.
✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask for examples of other multi-use tools that would be really helpful. *They can even be ideas that haven't been invented yet.*
- Hey, check out my hammer. It's cool, right? It's small, so it's not so bulky like a big hammer. It's perfect for little jobs. I can put a tack in the wall with it. Maybe do some crafts or light metalwork with it. It's surprisingly strong for something so light.
- It's. . . (*Unscrew it to reveal a screwdriver.*) also a screwdriver! That was unexpected! I thought this hammer was pretty cool all by itself, but I didn't know it had a secret screwdriver hidden inside! And. . . hold on, there's another one! And another one! And a little tiny one that's for the screws in your glasses! This thing is amazing!
- It's kind of like how David was super excited just to have the Ark of the Covenant back in his city. He had no idea that God had even more wonderful plans in store for him! If we follow and trust God, who knows what unexpected blessings might be in store for us? **God does unexpected things!**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 89:20-37

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 89:20-37.
- In this psalm, we read about some of God's incredible promises to take care of not only David, but his family, too! If I were David, I would totally dance around in my underwear . . . wait, that's exactly what he did!
- In the animal kingdom, lions are commonly known as the "king of the jungle." Interestingly enough, Jesus is also known as a lion – "the Lion of Judah." Does this have anything to do with Jesus being a king? Yes!
- King David was from the tribe of Judah. Did you know David is Jesus' great-great-great-great-great grandfather? In the Bible, when a lot of people refer to Jesus, they call Jesus, "Son of David." Jesus is the descendant of David whose kingdom would last forever – just like God promised!

- And through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, we were invited to be part of that promise that God made with David. Little ol' us! That's pretty unexpected, don't you think?

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

REFLECTION | God in a Box?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the kids a box, which you labeled in large letters, "GOD."*
- A thing that humans tend to do, even if we don't mean to, is put God in a box. Maybe not a physical box like this one, but kind of an imaginary box.
- And sometimes, we even want to be able to control where God is and what God can do. But that's not how God works at all, is it? In ancient Israel, God's chosen people became so fixated on an object that represented God's presence, the Ark of the Covenant, that they forgot that God was so much more.
- In our lesson today, David discovered that God's plan and blessings were far bigger than he could have imagined. Having a limited view of God and the power that God has is really like trying to put God into a box.
- **Can you think of a way you might have unintentionally put God in a box? Maybe you expected God to do things a specific way you wanted them done?**
- Let's remember that God's plans, God's purposes, and God's power are so much bigger than this little box.
- Our **God does unexpected things!**

ACTIVITY | Animal Crossing

- King David wanted to build a temple for God, but God told him someone in his family will do that. Let's pretend that we are that someone and try to make the best temple we can for God.
- Wait, where are you going to get supplies? By shaking trees, of course!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Recruit as many leaders or older students as possible to be "trees." Give them a box of random supplies (see your Shop and Prep List for suggestions) and drop one item each time a kid shakes them.*
- Some of the things that fell out of the tree were pretty unexpected! **How did you use those items to build your temple?**
- There are times when we might think that the things God does is random and doesn't make sense. But always remember that God has a perfect plan in place that we just can't see yet. **God does unexpected things . . . and it's awesome!**

MEMORY VERSE | Animals on Parade

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print two copies of the Memory Verse printable and cut in half. Tape one card to the back of each kid, without showing them what it is. Tape the other set in order across the floor. Kids have to line themselves in the order of the verse, but the key is they can only communicate with each other using animal sounds or actions. Have them figure out their place in line by asking others to act out or make sound effects related to the animal on their back. Verify that everyone*

has lined up in the correct order and say the verse together a few times. If you have more than eighteen kids, print out more copies and do this in teams. For uneven numbers, give some kids the full printable not cut in half.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** You can ask kids to be the ones to make sure everyone is matched up to the correct picture. Also, many kids with special needs like routine. Don't hesitate to repeat a memory verse activity from previous weeks they enjoyed instead.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for the promise you made to David, which was far better than what he had in mind. We are thankful that your promise includes all of us. Help us to remember that when you do unexpected things, you show us you love us and have the very best in store for us! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did David want to do for God?
- How was God's plan different from David's?
- What did God promise David?
- Read Psalm 89:29. What do you think this means about making David's "line" last forever? Do you think God had a purpose for more than just David? What do you think that purpose is?
- What does God keeping the promise to David mean for us?
- Why is it important that we not put a limit on what God can do?
- When has God done the unexpected in your life?

ACTIVITY | Sea Otter Chain

- Here's a fun animal fact for you . . . Sea otters sometimes hold hands while they all float and sleep on their backs so no one floats away from their group! Isn't that adorable? They form a big, long chain, sort of like the chain that stretches all the way from David to us!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into three to four small groups and give each one a hula hoop. Each group forms themselves into a hand-holding chain. Now that they're attached, they will pass the hula hoop down the line without letting go of their hands, just shimmying through it.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS:** Include kids with special needs in this simple small group activity with minimal adult assistance. Whenever possible, help kids build independence.
- You wouldn't expect animals in the wild to do something like holding hands with each other, right? God's creation is full of unexpected surprises like these, which includes all of us! Remind yourself this week that **God does unexpected things**, and those things are always better than anything you could expect!

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

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