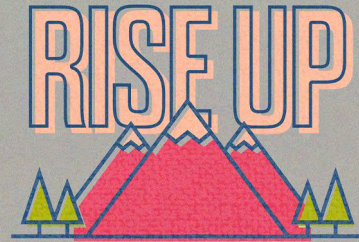




WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

We are stronger
with Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Goes Up to Heaven:
Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:3-11

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Summit Songs
- ACTIVITY** | Map to Strength
- ACTIVITY** | Spot the Strength

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:3-11
- THE BIG IDEA** | We are stronger with Jesus.
- VIDEO** | Rise Up, Episode 4
- ACTIVITY** | Strength for the Adventure
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Mountain Mix
- ACTIVITY** | Find the Strength
- ACTIVITY** | Tale of Two Maps
- MEMORY VERSE** | Romans 10:9 (NIV)

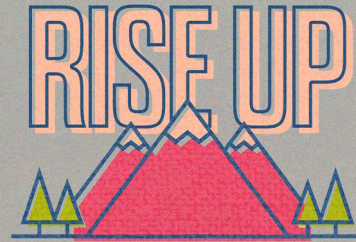
PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Create-A-Mountain
- ACTIVITY** | You Raise Me Up



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY DARBY GEORGE

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 | Map to Strength

Before the kids arrive, write out the letters of the word, "Strength," on eight different pieces of paper shaped like mountains. Hide the papers around the room and instruct the kids to find them and match the letters they find to the ones on the mountain.

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus gives encouragement.

Like last week, punch a few holes in the top of the mountain and thread the rope through. After the kids attach the Big Idea sheet for the week onto the front carabiner, give each kid an opportunity to pull on the back side of the rope to bring the Big Idea to the top of the mountain!

ACTIVITY | Spot the Strength

Using toilet paper tubes, connect two tubes together with tape or glue, creating binoculars. Allow the kids to decorate the outside of the binoculars before attaching the plastic wrap to the ends.

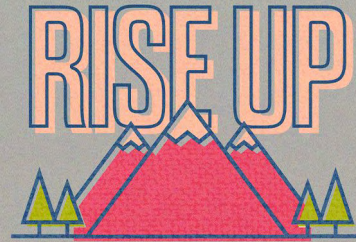
ACTIVITY | Strength for the Adventure

Swap out the weights for a large object in the classroom, such as a large ball or bucket.



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

We are stronger
with Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Goes Up to Heaven:
Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:3-11

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Summit Songs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to sing and dance along to fun worship songs to celebrate Jesus, such as, "[Undefeated](#)."

ACTIVITY | Map to Strength

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut a poster board into the shape of a mountain or draw a mountain on the board. Write the word, "STRENGTH" vertically on the left side of the board. Instruct the kids to work together to think of what words come to mind when they think of strength. Make sure they come up with words or phrases that start with letters in the word, "strength" (e.g., Superman, trustworthy, robot, energy, never tired, great, gravity, etc.)
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Before the kids arrive, write the letters of the word "Strength" on eight different pieces of paper shaped like mountains. Hide the papers around the room and instruct the kids to find them and match the letters they find to the ones on the mountain.
- Being strong can mean many different things!
- One of the ways we can have strength is by working together as a team like we have been doing this month!

ACTIVITY | Spot the Strength

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of construction paper and encourage them to decorate it with markers, crayons, or colored pencils. Give each kid a paper or styrofoam cup with the

bottom cut out of it. Roll the construction paper up to fit inside the bottom of the cup. Attach the construction paper to the cup with masking tape. Give each kid a piece of clear cellophane wrap. With a permanent marker, write "JESUS" on the wrap. Place the wrap over the end of the cup with "JESUS" facing in. Put a rubber band around the end of the cup to hold the cellophane in place. When you look through the telescope, you will see "JESUS."

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Using toilet paper tubes, connect two tubes together with tape or glue, creating binoculars. Allow the kids to decorate the outside of the binoculars before attaching the plastic wrap to the ends.

- Today we are going to find out that when we don't feel strong, we need to look to Jesus!

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:3-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose one adult volunteer to play Simon Peter and one volunteer to play Thomas. This story will be told from their perspectives. Another volunteer will act as the host to ask them questions as if interviewing them.
- **Host:** Hello, Simon Peter and hello, Thomas! Thank you both so much for meeting with us today.
- **Simon Peter and Thomas:** Absolutely, it's our pleasure.
- **Host:** So, I heard a pretty crazy story and I was hoping that you could tell our friends and I what happened from your perspective. I heard that Jesus left Earth and went up to heaven to be with God. Is that true?
- **Simon Peter:** It is true, (*Host's name*)! Thomas and I both saw it with our own four eyes!
- **Thomas:** That's right! Jesus asked us to meet together at the top of a mountain in Galilee. We weren't sure what we would be doing there, but we knew we had to go.
- **Simon Peter:** Yeah, and when we got there, Jesus said something that was really important.
- **Thomas:** That's right! Jesus called it the "Great Commission."
- **Host:** Well, go on, tell us what the Great Commission is!
- **Simon Peter:** Well, Jesus said, "You must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."
- **Thomas:** It was crazy! Jesus told us what we were supposed to do and then all of the sudden, Jesus started floating up into the clouds. We watched Jesus go all the way up until Jesus disappeared into the clouds.
- **Host:** That's amazing! How did it feel to watch Jesus go to Heaven like that?
- **Simon Peter:** Well, at first, I was really sad because Jesus wasn't there anymore for me to talk to, but then I remembered that Jesus promised to always be with us. That's why Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is our helper!
- **Thomas:** Then, two men came by to tell us that Jesus would return to Earth one day!
- **Host:** Wow! That's an incredible story. Thank you so much, Simon Peter and Thomas, for taking time to tell us that story.
- **Simon Peter and Thomas:** You're welcome!

- **Host:** Well, kids, there you have it! Jesus told the disciples that they were supposed to go out and tell others about Jesus and the miraculous things Jesus did for us, and so are we!

THE BIG IDEA | We are stronger with Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the cardboard mountain from last week. Add this week's printed Big Idea to the mountain by attaching it to the rope or carabiner.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Like last week, punch a few holes in the top of the mountain and thread the rope through. After the kids attach the Big Idea sheet for the week onto the front carabiner, give each kid an opportunity to pull on the back side of the rope to bring the Big Idea to the top of the mountain!
- Let's say today's Big Idea together: **We are stronger with Jesus.**

VIDEO | Rise Up, Episode 4

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

ACTIVITY | Strength for the Adventure

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask four volunteers to come up to the front. Have two volunteers hold their arms straight out to their side for as long as they can. Have the remaining two volunteers stand on each side of only one of the kids, and when their arms start getting tired, have them help by holding up their arms for them. Continue until the kid holding out their arms alone starts getting tired.
- Notice how both of our friends were doing the same activity. But one person lasted longer than the other person. **Why was that?**
- Jesus promised to always be there to help us be strong when we're feeling weak. **We are stronger with Jesus.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for always being with us. Even though we can't see you, we know you are there. Thank you for making us stronger whenever we feel like we can't do something. We love you. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Mountain Mix

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a plastic snack bag. Provide [bowls](#) of each of these ingredients: Chex cereal, M&Ms (or other chocolate candies), raisins, Cheez-It's (or other crackers). Provide [scoops](#) for each of the bowls and allow the kids to put one scoop of each ingredient into their snack bag to create their "Mountain Mix."
- **Do you remember any of the other Big Ideas from this month?**

ACTIVITY | Find the Strength

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out small pieces of paper with the word, “Strength,” typed on them. You could attach a glow stick to each paper or even write each letter with [glow-in-the-dark](#) markers. Hide the papers around the classroom before the kids arrive. Give each kid a [small flashlight](#). Turn the classroom lights off and allow the kids to search with their flashlights to find the “Strength” hidden around the room.
- **Who in your life gives you strength?**
- **Who is the strongest person you know?**
- **How can you ask Jesus to help you be strong this week?**

ACTIVITY | Tale of Two Maps

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out two copies of the maps printable (or print out maps of a local hiking trail). Laminate one of them.
- When hiking, camping, or on an adventure, it is so important to have a map. But if your map isn’t stored properly, it can get destroyed. (Invite the kids to help you tear the paper without the lamination. They can also pour some water on it, destroying it and making it unreadable.)
- But if you protect your map and make it strong, it doesn’t get destroyed (Have everyone try to tear the laminated paper and pour water on it).
- Just like these maps, without the proper strength in our lives, you and I will not be able to do what Jesus wants us to do! **We are stronger with Jesus!**

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 10:9 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, inflate enough [inner tubes](#) for each pair of kids to have one. Practice saying the verse a few times as a group and then divide the kids into pairs. Instruct them to try to throw the inner tube over their partner like a ring toss.
- **Do you know why inner tubes are also called life preservers?** Because if someone can’t swim, they can use these to help them float on the water safely! Today, we’re going to say our memory verse and each one of you is going to get the chance to do the “saving” by throwing the life preserver around your partner!
- Remember, Jesus is the one who saves us! We are strong because we have Jesus!

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 | Create-A-Mountain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids make their own mountain using marshmallows of various sizes on paper plates.*

ACTIVITY | You Raise Me Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find a giant stuffed animal that would be heavy for one preschooler to pick up on their own. Invite all of the children to try. Place the stuffed animal on an oversized towel and invite them to lift the giant stuffed animal together.*
- **We are stronger with Jesus,** and we are stronger with each other, too!

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