



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

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THE BIG IDEA

Jesus wants us to follow him.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls Andrew and Peter:

Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; (I Corinthians 7:29-31)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | YouTube Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Who's the Leader?
- VIDEO** | Draw with Mo on YouTube
- QUESTION** | If Jesus Had a YouTube Channel . . .
- SCRIPTURE** | Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus wants us to follow him.
- VIDEO** | Subscribe Now, Episode 4
- POLL** | Sink or Float?
- VIDEO** | Follow Mama Duck
- SCRIPTURE** | I Corinthians 7:29-31
- ACTIVITY** | Fishing for Followers
- RESPONSE** | Like and Subscribe
- MEMORY VERSE** | Fish It Out
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - What did Jesus say to Simon Peter as he got into the boat?
 - What did Simon Peter say to that?
 - When Simon Peter finally realized who Jesus was, what did Jesus ask of him?
 - Read Mark 1:17. What did it mean when Jesus asked these men to follow Jesus and "fish for people?"
 - How can we follow Jesus?
 - What is different about your life because you follow Jesus?
 - What is Jesus asking you to "let go of" in your life?
- ACTIVITY** | Searching for Fish
- MEMORY VERSE** | John 14:6 (NIV)



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR PRETEENS

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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 | Who's the Leader?

This is a game and a riddle rolled into one. Get a piece of cloth and say that you are going to make a "sculpture" of the person you are following (i.e., your leader). You can make anything you want, but make it look like you're actually trying to sculpt something. Tell them to guess who your leader is. But while kids are looking at the cloth "sculpture", your job is to pick one kid in the room and copy their posture exactly. Keep picking different kids to imitate until they catch on or until time runs out. Let kids who pick up on what you're doing try it out.

QUESTION | If Jesus Had a YouTube Channel . . .

Get more specific with preteens. Ask preteens to think of what they might see in various subcategories of videos in Jesus' YouTube channel, such as unboxing videos, do-it-yourself hacks, movie reviews, trick shots, music videos, challenges, etc.

Encourage kids to remember different stories about the things Jesus has done, and ask them to share why they'd want to see what it is they've mentioned (e.g., turning water into wine, teaching about God's kingdom, walking on water, healing the sick, etc.)

POLL | Sink or Float?

Create an easy poll using a website like [this one](#) and have kids vote on a tablet or computer you provide for them. You can set it up on a single device and select the option to allow multiple votes to be placed via the same device or IP address. After the votes are in, test it out! Let preteen volunteers come up and try submerging each object one at a time.

ACTIVITY | Searching for Fish

Preteens tend to cringe when they feel like they're given activities meant for younger kids! If you feel like they will find the wordsearch to be too easy, have them make their own! Provide [blank grid paper](#), and have them select 10-12 words from today's Scripture. After creating a word bank, have them place the words in any direction on the grid (i.e., forward, backwards, diagonally, up, down, etc.). Once they have positioned all their words, have them fill in the blank spaces with letters. Once completed, have kids swap wordsearch papers and solve each other's puzzle!



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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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

Since the common theme of these songs is the action of "following", have kids stand in a line for a portion of each song and follow each other in a line while singing. Have them take turns being in the front of the line to lead. Or have them follow a friend or a leader while singing the worship song.

POLL | Sink or Float?

The motion gestures can be changed to a thumbs up or a thumbs down to ensure that it is accessible to all.

MEMORY VERSE | Fish It Out

The original fishing activity might be challenging for kids with fine motor skill difficulties. Try the following activity instead. Print 2 copies of the memory verse printable. With the first, cut out the pieces then put them in order on a table and tape it down using packing tape. Tape the fish from the second copy to the bottom of [twelve rubber ducks](#) (tape it well so the paper won't get wet). Prepare a large bin with water. Give kids a [large net](#) and take turns scooping out one duck at a time. Once they get all the ducks out, have them line up the ducks on the table on the corresponding fish.



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

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THE BIG IDEA

Jesus wants us to follow him.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls Andrew and Peter:
Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; (1 Corinthians 7:29-31)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | YouTube Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play worship songs that the kids can sing along with. Here are some suggestions:

- ["I Will Follow"](#) by Eleven22 Kids
- ["We Go Deep"](#) from Mission: Deep Sea
- ["I Will Follow"](#) by Summit Kids

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Since the common theme of these songs is the action of "following", have kids stand in a line for a portion of each song and follow each other in a line while singing. Have them take turns being in the front of the line to lead. Or have them follow a friend or a leader while singing the worship song.

ACTIVITY | Who's the Leader?

- The goal of the game is for the person who is guessing to figure out who the leader is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** One kid turns around while the others stand in a circle and choose a secret leader quietly. The leader will start with a repetitive motion that the others follow and the leader will slowly change the motion while the others follow without missing a beat. The kid will turn and face everyone else and try to figure out who the leader is. The kid will only get two or three chances to guess. If your kids are confused, you can show them this [video](#).

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Get a piece of cloth and say that you are going to make a “sculpture” of the person you are following (i.e., your leader). You can make anything you want, but make it look like you’re actually trying to sculpt something. Tell them to guess who your leader is. But while kids are looking at the cloth “sculpture”, pick one kid in the room and copy their posture exactly. Keep picking different kids to imitate until they catch on or until time runs out.*

- **What is easy or difficult to find out who the leader was? What clues did you look for to find the leader?**
- **What are some things that help you identify leaders in general?**

VIDEO | Draw with Mo on YouTube

- As most of you might know already, YouTube is an online video sharing platform that hosts five billion videos that people watch every day! That’s a lot of videos!
- The best way for a YouTube channel to get popular is by having a lot of followers or subscribers. A lot of people are getting really famous by posting fun videos.
- Let’s watch one of our well-known children’s book illustrators, Mo, on YouTube and learn to draw by following the leader! Listen to his instructions carefully and follow along.
- **INSTRUCTION:** Play “[Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems](#)” from 16:45 to 19:41.
- **Do you have any pro tips on following that you’d like to share?**

QUESTION | If Jesus Had a YouTube Channel . . .

- In today’s Bible story, we’re going to hear about one of the amazing ways Jesus got followers, otherwise known as disciples.
- **If Jesus had a YouTube Channel . . .**
 - **What would it be called?**
 - **What kinds of videos would you see on there?**
 - **What might the comments say?**

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Get more specific with preteens. Ask preteens to think of what they might see in various subcategories of videos in Jesus’ YouTube channel, such as unboxing videos, do-it-yourself hacks, movie reviews, trick shots, music videos, challenges, etc*

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

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or summarize today’s Bible verses. Here is one way you could tell the story.*
- The phrase, “Follow me” seems like an easy request. Yet in today’s Bible story, Simon Peter did not know his life would change forever with that one phrase.
- Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew, were fishermen, and fishing was a good job because it gave them money and food. But that day, Simon Peter wasn’t catching any fish.

- Jesus got onto Simon Peter’s boat and told Simon Peter to head out to deeper water and put their nets in the water there.
 - **Has this ever happened to you? Like, when something isn’t working and someone tells you to try something you already tried?**
- That’s happened to me a lot. I have to be honest. . . I get annoyed when that happens! Simon Peter told Jesus he already tried that, but he would try again. And when he did, a miracle happened!
- They caught so many fish that they had to ask for help from a nearby boat. The nets got so heavy that they began to break, and both boats started to sink!
- Peter knew this was impossible! Only someone who controls the seas can make something like this happen! **Who could that be?** That’s right! God!
 - **What would you do if you saw a miracle happen in front of your eyes? Do you think you would drop everything and do as the person performing the miracle says?**
- That is exactly what Simon Peter did. He knew this was someone very special he had to follow. So, when Jesus said, “Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of people,” Peter and Andrew dropped everything and followed Jesus.
 - **Do you think they knew what “fishing for people” meant? What do you think it means?**
- Whether or not they knew, the one thing they knew for sure is that Jesus was someone worth following.

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus wants us to follow him.

- **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 wants us to follow him.**

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 4

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

POLL | Sink or Float?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a clear bucket or bin filled with water and the following items: coin, stick, plastic spoon, marble, can of coke, can of diet coke, and any other items you’d like. Ask kids to sit down if they think the item will sink or stand up if they think it will float. Test it in the water to find out!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** The motion gestures can be changed a thumbs up or a thumbs down to ensure that it is accessible to all.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Create an easy poll using a website like [this one](#) and have kids vote on a tablet or computer you provide for them. After the votes are in, test it out! Let preteen volunteers come up and try submerging each object one at a time.
- **How many fish do you think it took to sink the disciples’ boats?**

VIDEO | Follow Mama Duck

- Soon after ducklings hatch, they follow the first object they see! Scientists call this, “imprinting.”
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the “Ducklings” [video](#).
- As we saw in the video, ducklings are able to know the difference between their mom and other ducks that look the same.
- Jesus did not need the disciples to fulfill Jesus’ mission, but Jesus invited ordinary people like Simon Peter to follow and learn from Jesus.
- Just like the ducklings’ mama wants the best life for her babies, **Jesus wants us to follow him** and have a new life.

SCRIPTURE | I Corinthians 7:29-31

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read I Corinthians 7:29-31
- This passage is a little strange, right? It makes it sound like Apostle Paul is telling people to be unhappy. But that’s not it. Paul is saying that because our lives are not forever, we need to make each moment count and do things that are worthwhile. Things we eat, buy, wear will go away eventually. What lasts is the good we do by sharing God’s love and the story of Jesus.
- Peter and Andrew fished to survive each day, but Jesus wanted them to do more than catch fish. He wanted them to follow God and help others do the same.
- **Jesus wants us to follow him. What do you think it takes to follow Jesus? Do we need any special gear or pass a special test?**
- **As a follower of Jesus, what can you do that would be more meaningful than some of the other things you do?**

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

ACTIVITY | Fishing for Followers

- Create your own YouTube video of today’s story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into groups and retell today’s story. Encourage the kids to film and premier their video at the end of your time together or on your church’s social media sites (with parental permission). Encourage the kids to act, use props, animate the story, or get super creative. If video equipment is not available, use printout storyboards to help them retell the story.

RESPONSE | Like and Subscribe

- **If Jesus is God and can do anything, why do you think Jesus invited people to become disciples?**
- Jesus told Simon Peter to become a disciple for Simon Peter’s benefit, not Jesus’. When Simon Peter made the decision to follow Jesus, Jesus gave him a new life where he got to know, love, and serve God!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make a large poster that says, “JESUS” in large print across the top and two columns under it labeled, “like” and “subscribe.” Give each kid a ‘Like and Subscribe’ printable and something to write with. Tell the kids to write their names on both objects, then cut them out. Attach them to the poster to show all the likes and subscribes!

- Just like when you subscribe to something, you get access to view some cool things. So, when we subscribe to Jesus, we get access to God! That's why **Jesus wants us to follow him.**

MEMORY VERSE | | Fish It Out

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and cut the memory verse printable. Tape the pieces to the bottom each fish in a [fishing set](#). (Or tie a string around a rod and attach a magnet at the end, then attach paper clips to the pieces of your memory verse printable.) Encourage the kids to take turns fishing out the pieces of the memory verse and putting it in order. After it's all in order, tell the kids to take turns reading and memorizing the verse.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Print 2 copies of the memory verse printable. With the first, cut out the pieces then put them in order on a table and tape it down using packing tape. Tape the fish from the second copy to the bottom of [twelve rubber ducks](#) (tape it well so the paper won't get wet). Prepare a large bin with water. Give kids a [large net](#) and take turns scooping out one duck at a time. Once they get all the ducks out, have them line up the ducks on the table on the corresponding fish.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You so much for asking us to follow You. Help us follow You with more of our time and energy, even if it means we need to give up something we like to do. We know that it will be worth it if it means following You and getting to know You better. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did Jesus say to Simon Peter as he got into the boat?
- What did Simon Peter say to that?
- When Simon Peter finally realized who Jesus was, what did Jesus ask of him?
- Read Mark 1:17. What did it mean when Jesus asked these men to follow Jesus and “fish for people?”
- How can we follow Jesus?
- What is different about your life because you follow Jesus?
- What is Jesus asking you to “let go of” in your life?

ACTIVITY | Searching for Fish

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the word search printable for each kid, and give them pens, crayons, or highlighters. Tell them to search and find the words.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens create their own wordsearch. Provide [blank grid paper](#), and have them create a word bank with 10-12 words from today's Scripture, then place the words in any direction on the grid. Once they have positioned all their words, have them fill in the blank spaces with letters. Once completed, have kids swap wordsearch papers and solve each other's puzzle!*



- Look at all the words you have found. **How do each of these words remind you of today's Bible Story and Big Idea?**
- **What is one thing you can do this week to follow Jesus?**

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.*