



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God's love is unchangeable.

THE BIBLE

David and Bathsheba:
II Samuel 11:1-15; (Psalm 51)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | "Wild Love"
- ACTIVITY** | Wacky Wombats
- ACTIVITY** | Sea Lion Changeroo
- QUESTION** | Have you ever had a big change?
- SCRIPTURE** | II Samuel 11:1-15
- THE BIG IDEA** | God's love is unchangeable.
- VIDEO** | Unusual, Episode 4
- QUESTION** | Can you name something that never changes?
- OBJECT LESSON** | Unchangeable Love
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 51
- REFLECTION** | Optical Illusions
- ACTIVITY** | Weird Hybrids
- MEMORY VERSE** | Multiply your Memory
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - Where was David supposed to be?
 - Why was it wrong for David to be in love with Bathsheba?
 - How did David try to cover up what he had done?
 - Re-read II Samuel 11:1. It can be dangerous when we're not where we're supposed to be. When have you found yourself in trouble because you were not where you were supposed to be or doing what you were supposed to do?
 - How do you respond when you see something you really want, but can't have?
 - What do you do after you've made a big mistake?
 - Why does God still love us after we've done wrong things?
- ACTIVITY** | Unchanging Stress Ball
- MEMORY VERSE** | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)



WEEK 4

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 | Sea Lion Changeroo

Depending on the weather, you could make this a challenging and fun outside game by soaking the clothes in a bucket or freezing them.

ACTIVITY | Weird Hybrids

Instead of drawing a picture, have them make noises and/or actions that this new hybrid animal would make. For example, if one person gets cheetah and the other person gets cow, they could run around really fast while mooing.

MEMORY VERSE | Multiply your Memory

To make this more challenging, have students mix up the word order (so they are at different places in the circle) and pass a ball around. Each person should only need to remember who is before and after them. Add timing for another challenge.



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



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.

QUESTION | Have you ever had a big change?

Help kids with special needs talk about how they experience change. Invite a kid (who is comfortable with sharing) their experiences with change and how change makes them feel.

Speaking of changes, be mindful of the impact a small change can make to kids with special needs. Many kids with special needs tend to be rigid with their routines. When even small changes occur, it can really throw them off. If you're changing a room location, a small group teacher, schedule, etc., let the families know so they can give the children a heads up. Prepare them weeks ahead if you are anticipating any major changes in the routine.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 51

It may be difficult for kids with special needs to sit for a long time during scripture reading. Have kids listen carefully and stand up every time they hear the word "me". Other words that also appear often are "God" and "sin". You may divide up the groups to three and give them one word for each group and have the group stand up or clap whenever they hear their word.

ACTIVITY | Weird Hybrids

Do this in a smaller group setting so that all the kids have a chance to analyze pictures without the time pressure. Draw some of your own made-up hybrid animals. beforehand. Show each picture and have kids guess what two animals have been combined to make this new animal. See if they'd like to create their own!

MEMORY VERSE | Multiply your Memory

Because the goal of this game is for everyone to get it right, this may stress the kids with special needs to get it right. Consider pairing kids with a partner and have the pair recite the memory verse together.

ACTIVITY | Unchanging Stress Ball

For kids who may find this activity frustrating, provide completed stress balls that they can play with.



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God's love is unchangeable.

THE BIBLE

David and Bathsheba:
II Samuel 11:1-15; (Psalm 51)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | "Wild Love"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cue this song, "[Wild Love](#)," by Elevation Rhythm to play for the kids during worship time.
- Let's get started today with a song about the wild love God has for us and that we have for God! If you want to, do your best wild animal dance to the song! How do giraffes jive? How do baboons boogie? Let's see!

ACTIVITY | Wacky Wombats

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This game is a twist on musical chairs. Depending on the number of kids in your group, you may need to play in phases or have a group of players and a group of spectators. Begin with chairs –one fewer than your total number of players – in a circle or back to back. Begin the music – try using [a Putumayo collection](#) for a fun, global feel – and the kids will begin walking around the chairs. When the music stops, have a leader call out a body part over the mic, and instead of sitting, the kids have to put that body part on the chair – elbow, ear, knee, bare foot, thumb, etc. The kids are out if they put down the wrong body part or are the last to get to a chair. Be sure to remove a chair for every kid that was out in the last round.
- That game was full of changes! It was different every round! But even though a lot of the game changed constantly, the rules never changed!

ACTIVITY | Sea Lion Changeroo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get two sets of wacky clothes together. The kids will race to see who can put on the clothes the fastest while keeping a balloon in the air, the way a sea lion does with a rubber ball. Keep upbeat music going. Repeat as many times as you want with the other kids. Remember to give high-fives to all participants!
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Depending on the weather, you could make this a challenging and fun outside game by soaking the clothes in a bucket or freezing them.
- We had to do a lot of changing in that game . . . literally! Today, we are going to hear about something that is truly unchangeable!

QUESTION | Have you ever had a big change?

- **Has anyone ever had something big change in their lives? Maybe at home or at school?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Allow the kids time to answer the question, but prepare ahead of time for difficult examples of change: The kids may share things like a divorce, a death, someone they loved moving away, etc. Make sure you are sensitive to those responses while maintaining a healthy flow and maybe prompting some positive change stories to balance.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Help kids with special needs talk about how they experience change. Invite a kid (who is comfortable with sharing) their experiences with change and how change makes them feel.
- Change can be really good and awesome, but sometimes, change can also be hard. The good news is, there's something out there that never changes. Let's find out what that is!

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

SCRIPTURE | II Samuel 11:1-15

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Summarize the story in II Samuel 11:1-15.
- Let me ask everyone a question. **Have you ever found yourself in a place you weren't supposed to be?** (Allow the kids time to answer. Feel free to share your own age-appropriate experience.) Well, that's what happened in our Bible story today. King David wasn't exactly where he was supposed to be, and that got him into some trouble.
- I have another question for you. **Who here has ever seen something really, really cool and you just had to have it, but it would really hurt someone else if you took it?** Well, that's exactly what position David was in, and guess what? He didn't make a great choice.
- David was supposed to be with the rest of his troops at battle, but David decided to stay at home. One day, he noticed a woman named Bathsheba who he thought was very beautiful. David decided he was in love with Bathsheba. But there was a problem. Bathsheba wasn't available! She was already married to a man named Uriah!
 - But David cared more about his own feelings than about whether Uriah might be hurt, and honestly, we're not really sure if anyone asked Bathsheba how she felt at all! Yikes!
- And believe it or not, it gets worse! David knew that he'd be in big trouble for falling in love with a married woman since that was way against the rules, even for a king who could do pretty much whatever he wanted.

- He tried a bunch of different things to make Uriah go away, but nothing seemed to work. One bad decision kept leading to another until David made the worst decision of all . . . he sent Uriah into battle knowing that he'd be killed.
- Even though David messed up big time, God doesn't abandon him. Of course David would have to face the consequences of his poor choices, but God still loved him and did not take away the promises about his future. God's love for David stayed the same.

THE BIG IDEA | God's love is unchangeable.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Brick enters, crying dramatically, holding another trophy.*
 - **Leader:** Brick! Hey! It's great to see you again! You seem a little bit upset! What's wrong?
 - **Brick:** I'm a fraud! *(Resumes sobbing.)*
 - **Leader:** A fraud? Why do you say that?
 - **Brick:** You see this trophy? I don't deserve it! I'm a terrible person.
 - **Leader:** Brick, you're definitely not a terrible person.
 - **Brick:** No, I definitely am. I . . . I . . .
 - **Leader:** You what?
 - **Brick:** I . . . cheated! *(Wails in agony.)*
 - **Leader:** What? Do you want to tell me about it? It might make you feel better.
 - **Brick:** Okay, see, I went to the state championships for toe lifting. And they had a rule: No sweatbands. But I never compete without my lucky sweatbands! They're what makes me a winner! So, I just . . . wore them. And then I won! And now, I'm a terrible person and God probably doesn't like me!
 - **Leader:** Oh, Brick. It's not okay to break rules, but look: I can tell you this for sure: God loves you. God has always loved you. God will always love you. No matter how big your mistakes, God will keep loving you. God's love is bigger than we can imagine! The love God has for you will never, ever change!
 - **Brick:** Wait . . . really?
 - **Leader:** Yes, really! Actually, we were just about to talk about that very thing some more! Here, maybe we could invite *(Choose a kid)* up to the front to help you read this week's Big Idea! *(When the kid gets to the front, give them a not-too-tight jar with a piece of paper inside containing the Big Idea. They can open it and pull it out.)* Okay, you two. Can you go ahead and read that together?
 - **Leader:** That's right! **God's love is unchangeable!**

VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 4

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

QUESTION | Can you name something that never changes?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open the floor for answers. Help guide the kids with examples, such as particular buildings, monuments, elements of nature, etc. The whole point is for the kids to see that even though those things are old, nothing is as consistent and eternal as God's love because God's love never changes.*

OBJECT LESSON | Unchangeable Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a white disposable bowl and a napkin. Fill the bowls with water and ask leaders to gently coat the surface of the water with ground black pepper or glitter. The kids will dip their finger in the bowl and the “sin” will stick to their finger. They can use the napkin to wipe it off. Then, the leaders will give each kid a drop of dish soap to rub on their finger and have them wait until they’re told what to do next.
- This pepper represents our sins, or things we’ve done that pull us away from God. Sometimes, we hurt people. Sometimes, we offend people. Sometimes, we allow one bad decision to lead to another until it’s all just one big mess!
- But unlike people who may not forgive us, God’s love is unchanging. God’s love chases our sins away so we can be truly close to God! Is everyone’s finger good and soapy? Okay, dip it into the bowl. That’s how God’s love washes away your sin!
- Aren’t you glad **God’s love is unchangeable**? Let’s remember to be thankful and grateful to God for that unchangeable love all week!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 51

- We have been hearing stories about David all month, and there are still things we didn’t hear about yet.
- How many of you know that David was a musician? Did you know that many of his songs and writings form the book of Psalm in the Bible? That’s right! Reading one of them is like taking a peek into David’s very own diary or journal. Listen to this one.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 51.
 - ✦ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** It may be difficult for kids with special needs to sit for a long time during scripture reading. Have kids listen carefully and stand up every time they hear the word “me”.
- This Psalm demonstrates a time when David really regretted the mistakes he had made and was asking God for forgiveness. The great thing is, God’s love is unchangeable, so David received forgiveness, and so can we, through Jesus!

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

REFLECTION | Optical Illusions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a screen – or print them out as large as possible– to show three, classic optical illusions: [duck or bunny](#), [young woman or old woman](#), [two faces or one vase](#). Tell the kids to call out what they see. This will be a lot of fun because different kids will see different images. Reveal that both interpretations are correct.
- Like these images, there are times when you face a situation where the way you see it is completely different than someone else does.
- God doesn’t only care about the wrong things we do, but also how we respond when people do wrong things to us or around us.
 - Now, this doesn’t mean you should let people hurt you – you’re kids and it’s your trusted

adults' job to make sure you're safe and healthy, so if someone is hurting you, always tell your parents or your teacher or your pastor or someone else you trust and they will help you talk out the big feelings. Never keep it to yourself if someone is really hurting you.

- God does want us to practice our forgiveness when our friends and siblings and even when our parents do things that make us mad. Let's try some scenarios and see how we might deal with them and how we can find it in our hearts to forgive people.
 - What if a friend was playing with your favorite toy and they broke it?
 - How about if there was only one juice box left and your brother took it without even offering it, even though he had the second-to-last one yesterday?
 - What if your mom promised that she'd take you to the playground on Saturday, but she ended up having to go to work?
- A lot of times, both sides are right. The best way to approach situations like these is try to understand the other person's point of view and both offer and ask for forgiveness.
- The good news is that God is always there to forgive us! Unlike these images that do change, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever! **God's love is unchangeable!**

ACTIVITY | Weird Hybrids

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write as many animals as you can think of on different slips of paper and put them in a box – branch out from the usual farm and zoo animals, too! Split your group into two teams. Each team sends up one person and they each pull out one slip of paper from the box. They need to combine the animals on their slips of paper and draw a picture of what this new hybrid animal would look like (e.g., a cow with octopus tentacles instead of legs). The first team to guess the correct two animals gets a point! You could choose to give a small reward to the team with the most points if you'd like.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of drawing a picture, have them make noises and/or actions that this new hybrid animal would make. For example, if one person gets cheetah and the other person gets cow, they could run around really fast while mooing.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Do this in a smaller group setting so that all the kids have a chance to analyze pictures without the time pressure. Draw some of your own made-up hybrid animals beforehand. Show each picture and have kids guess what two animals have been combined to make this new animal. See if they'd like to create their own!
- Look at how we changed up all these animals . . . which is impossible in real life! Just like how it will be impossible to change God's love for us! **God's love is unchangeable!**

MEMORY VERSE | Multiply your Memory

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into small group circles and assign each kid a number. On a board in the front of the room, write out all the numbers and a word or phrase from the memory verse next to each number. That is the word each kid has to recite. Have them practice saying their own words. Then, go around the circle, "Grandmother's House" style, with each person saying all the words that have been said before them and adding the next word. Once they've gotten the whole verse out, tell them to go around the circle until everyone gets it right!

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *To make this more challenging, have students mix up the word order (so they are at different places in the circle) and pass a ball around. Each person should only need to remember who is before and after them. Add timing for another challenge.*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Because the goal of this game is for everyone to get it right, this may give kids with special needs pressure to get it or frustrate typical kids. We can pair kids by twos and have the pair recite the memory verse together.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, your love is always there, even when we make mistakes. Your unchanging love helps me to be forgiven and to experience a new life. Thank you for giving us everything we need. Help us to be examples of your unchanging love. Amen

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Where was David supposed to be?**
- **Why was it wrong for David to be in love with Bathsheba?**
- **How did David try to cover up what he had done?**
- **Re-read II Samuel 11:1. It can be dangerous when we're not where we're supposed to be. When have you found yourself in trouble because you were not where you were supposed to be or doing what you were supposed to do?**
- **How do you respond when you see something you really want, but can't have?**
- **What do you do after you've made a big mistake?**
- **Why does God still love us after we've done wrong things?**

ACTIVITY | Unchanging Stress Ball

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a balloon, a water bottle cut in half, a popsicle stick, cornstarch, and a little bit of water. Have kids attach the balloon to the opening of the funnel and add in water and some cornstarch, using the popsicle stick to push the contents down. Help kids knot their balloons tightly to form their new stress ball! Check out the full [tutorial here](#).*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids who may find this activity frustrating, provide completed stress balls that they can play with.*
- This stress ball can help us whenever we feel like we made a mistake or when someone's upset us. But you see how the stress ball doesn't stay squished when you squeeze it? God's love for us is like that.
- No matter what you might have done that would make God unhappy, God will always forgive you and love you just as much as always! **God's love is unchangeable.**

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.*