

WEEK 1 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

the messengers



THE BIG IDEA

We are God's messengers.

THE BIBLE

Saul's Conversion: Acts 9:1-20

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Messenger Melodies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Jesus Loves Me Remix" (Kidspring)
 - "Shout It Out" (Yancy)
 - "Let's Go Heroes" (Kidspring)
 - "I am Yours" (Life Church Kids)
 - "We're Not Scared" (Kidspring)

ACTIVITY | Pizza Delivery

- Hello, friends! Today, we start a new series called "The Messengers." We'll explore different ways that people deliver messages.
- But first, let's have some fun with a special delivery.
- **Have you ever had a pizza delivered to your house?**
- Today, you're going to be messengers of delicious news. You're going to deliver pizzas!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paper plate, glue, and construction paper pieces shaped like pizza toppings to place on the "dough." Then create teams and give each one a pizza box. Prop the pizza box open and have kids take turns tossing their pizzas into the box. If they miss, have them pick up their pizza and go to the end of the line. Keep playing until either one team gets five pizzas in the box or, if you have more time or a small group, everyone's pizzas make it into the box.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Create the pizza pieces out of felt and have toddlers have fun creating different combinations of pizzas. Let them take home their favorite pizza combination by hot-gluing (or craft gluing) the felt pieces onto the paper plate. You could also set up a simple relay where you take a stack of empty pizza boxes and see how quickly they can “deliver” one box at a time to the other side of the room.

- **Now that we have our pizzas, it’s time to box them for delivery!**

ACTIVITY | Snail Mail Race

- **Does anybody know what “snail mail” is?**
- That’s what we call mail that gets delivered by a mail carrier. It’s called “snail mail” because it takes much longer to deliver than sending a message on the phone. It’s slow . . . like a snail!
- Even though it’s slow, snail mail still gets messages delivered! Let’s play a game — a snail mail race!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up two large boxes (with slots cut into them) at one end of the room, and mark a starting line at the opposite end with painter’s tape. Divide the group into two teams. Give each team one backpack and a stack of ten envelopes. One member from each team has to put an envelope in the backpack, crawl to the other side, drop the envelope into the box, then run back to tag the next player. The first team to deliver all the envelopes wins!
- I know you had to move like a snail but you did a great job delivering all that mail!

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Saul’s Conversion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell this story from Acts 9:1–20 by recruiting two volunteers to pantomime the actions of Saul and Ananias as you talk. Prepare a flashlight and a pair of dark sunglasses.
- Today’s story is about a man named Saul. Saul didn’t like people who followed Jesus. He looked for people who loved God and sent them to jail.
 - **Does Saul seem like he was a good person?**
- No, he wasn’t a very good person at all. But you know what? God loved him anyway and wanted to let him know that he could change.
- So one day, while Saul was walking down a road, looking for more people to arrest, a bright light came from heaven!
 - [Point flashlight at “Saul’s” chest. Have the volunteer try to escape the light but make the light follow.]
- Saul was very confused. Maybe even a little scared. But you’ll never guess what happened next!
 - A voice spoke to Saul. The voice asked Saul why he was hurting people who followed Jesus.
 - Saul asked, “Who are you?”
 - The voice said, “I’m Jesus.”
 - **How do you think Saul felt when he heard Jesus’ voice?**

- Then Jesus told Saul to go into the city and someone would help him. You see, after the light had flashed and Jesus had spoken, Saul couldn't see anything anymore. *[Have volunteer wear dark sunglasses.]* He couldn't see anything for three whole days!
 - **Can I get a volunteer to help Saul walk around the room?**
- Around the same time, there was another man. His name was Ananias and he loved Jesus very much. He got a message from God, too. God told Ananias to go find Saul and pray for him so that Saul could see again.
 - Ananias did not want to do that. He might have even crossed his arms and shook his head no.
 - **Why do you think Ananias didn't want to help Saul?**
 - Ananias didn't want to help because he knew that Saul was dangerous. What if Saul arrested Ananias, too? Although Ananias was afraid, he decided to obey God anyway.
 - So Ananias went to Saul and prayed for him. Immediately, Saul could see again! *[Have volunteer remove sunglasses and do a little dance.]*
- Saul seemed like the last person who would live for God. But after this happening, he turned his life around and began telling people about Jesus.
- If Saul could be a messenger for God, anyone can! And that means you and me, too!

BIG IDEA | We are God's messengers.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Enlist a volunteer to play the part of a Special Messenger (SM). Preferably this would be the same person each week and should be dressed in a delivery costume. The Special Messenger will enter carrying a large delivery box of your choice. It could be a take-out box, a pizza box, a mail bag, or anything that deliveries would travel in!*
- *[Special Messenger enters, "interrupting" the lesson, carrying the delivery.]*
- **SM:** Special delivery, special delivery!
- **Storyteller:** Wow, what might this be?
- *[SM reaches inside the delivery box/bag and pull out a scroll that has the Big Idea written on it in large block letters. Hold it up and read it out loud.]*
- It says, "**We are God's messengers.**"
- **Storyteller:** Hey! That's the Big Idea for today! **We are God's messengers!**
- **SM:** I told you this was a special delivery! Can you all say the Big Idea with me? **We are God's messengers!**

ACTIVITY | Messenger Pigeons

- After Saul met Jesus, he became a messenger for God. Who would have thought? He used to really not like followers of God. Now he was one, too!
- You know who else used to be messengers that you might not have thought of? Pigeons!
- People would tie messages on the legs of these birds and the birds would fly hundred of miles to deliver them.
- Let's make our own messenger pigeons to remember that **we are God's messengers!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut out a printable for each kid. Cut along the line in the middle of the bird using a craft knife (or fold the paper and use scissors). Take a piece of paper and help kids do a fan-fold*

along the long edge of the paper. Bunching up all the folds together, insert the paper into the slit in the bird to make the wings. The final product might look [like this](#). For kids who are able, have them write the Big Idea on the wing paper before folding it up.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** On the printable, spread out some white glue on the main body of the bird. Have toddlers glue on [craft feathers](#) to make their own colorful pigeons!

VIDEO | The Messengers, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Mailed It!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut the printable out in advance. Have kids draw a picture on the back side or help them write a simple message like, "Jesus loves you." Help kids fold it into an envelope. Provide [postage stamp stickers](#) to affix to the front.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Put out a [toy mailbox](#) that kids can play with. Have toddlers close their eyes while you place the mailbox somewhere around the room. Have them locate the mailbox to drop a piece of mail inside.
- **If you could deliver a message about Jesus to one person, who would it be?**
- Let's send them a little message right now!

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Yummy Snail Mail

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare apple slices and celery sticks ahead of time. Place peanut butter in the groove of the celery stick and place an apple slice on top. Use raisins or chocolate chips for eyes and licorice or small pretzel pieces for antennae, and stick them on one end of the celery stick. Your snack should look something [like this](#)! If you have anyone with nut allergies in your group, try substituting peanut butter with cookie or coconut butter.
- **Have you seen snail mail in your home?**
- **Who usually opens the mail in your family?**
- **Has anyone ever sent you snail mail before?**

ACTIVITY | Saul Can't See

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids a blank piece of paper and have them draw their own version of Saul on a road. Provide highlighters or [highlighter tape](#) and have them add the blinding light from the story.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use a large posterboard and draw Saul on it. Have toddlers use highlighter crayons or yellow fingerpaint to supply the light.
- **What happened to Saul?**
- **Did Saul become God's messenger?**
- **Who can be God's messenger?**

- Saul used to be against Jesus. After Jesus spoke to him on that road, Saul began to work for Jesus! Isn't that cool?
- We don't need a blinding light to be a messenger for God. You can be a messenger right now!
- **We are God's messengers!**

ACTIVITY | Messenger Bag

- Mail carriers carry the mail they deliver in bags that they wear over their shoulder. They're called messenger bags, and we're going to make our own today!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a large 18" x 24" piece of construction paper and have them fold it in half. Attach a length of streamer from one side of the construction paper to the other as the bag strap (use more than one layer of streamer so that it's sturdier). Staple the sides of the paper to close the bag. Let kids decorate their new [messenger bag](#) with stickers and stamps and put any handouts you have for them inside!
- **We are God's messengers**, which means we can all tell others about Jesus. Practice delivering your message by saying to someone next to you, "Jesus loves you so much!"

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the printable and place each page in separate [manila envelopes](#). Open one at a time, in order, asking kids to repeat each verse fragment with you.
- [Show picture of ear.] **Then I heard**
- [Show picture of mouth.] **the voice of the Lord saying,**
- [Show picture of envelope.] **"Whom shall I send?"**
- [Show picture of feet.] **"Who will go for us?"**
- [Show picture of person raising hand.] **And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"**
- [Show picture of Bible.] **Isaiah 6:8**

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea as kids color.

ACTIVITY | Messenger Center

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare an assortment of boxes and toys. Have kids pretend they are a delivery center and they need to package items to send. They can put an item in each box and seal it shut with a large label. Have kids pretend to deliver it to different parts of the room.

ACTIVITY | Out for Delivery

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare four different colored envelopes and matching color bins (or just tape an envelope of each color in the front of a bin). Place a bin in each corner of the room. Give each kid a stack of ten assorted envelopes and see how quickly they can put the envelopes in the right bin!

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