

## WEEK 3 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

the messengers



### THE BIG IDEA

God can deliver everyone.

### THE BIBLE

**Peter's Vision:** Acts 11:1-18

## 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 | Animal Tumble

- Today, we are going to hear another story about Peter. Peter was kind of like a messenger for God, and he delivered the message about Jesus everywhere.
- But first, he got a message from God, and it involved animals! Let's play a game about animals to prepare ourselves for the story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids each grab an edge of a sheet or parachute and have them start oscillating it up and down. One by one, toss a stuffed animal toy onto the sheet. See if they can work together to keep all of them on the sheet the entire time.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use one or two balls with animal drawings on them instead of stuffed animals.

### ACTIVITY | Card Couriers

- All month long we've been talking about how we are God's messengers. Messengers are people who deliver messages to others.
- In this game, we are going to deliver some postcards. They are stuck in the sorting machine though! Can you rescue the cards so we can deliver them to the people who need them most?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a line for four or five kids to play Card Couriers at once. For each kid, stack two plastic cups upside down with a postcard between each cup. The goal is to yank each card out so the upper cup stacks onto the cup beneath. If the cups topple, reset the stack, and begin again. The first kid to get all cups stacked correctly wins!*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Stick a postcard in a few of the cups and turn them upside down, along with a few cups that have nothing in them. Have toddlers go around and flip cups over until they find a card and have them bring it to you.*

## TEACHING TIME

### BIBLE STORY | Peter's Vision

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the sheet and stuffed animals from the Animal Toss activity as you tell the story from Acts 11:1–18. Hang the sheet like a hammock between two chairs and nestle the animals inside. At one point in the story, let kids come to the front and pick an animal from the sheet to bring back to their sheet.*
- Peter was a friend of Jesus. He was at a friend's house resting and praying when he saw a very strange thing.
- He saw something like a large sheet coming down from heaven. And on the sheet were all kinds of animals! Cows and sheep and pigs and lizards and birds. It was like a whole zoo on the sheet!
- Peter heard a voice telling him to eat the animals. Peter was confused because there were animals on there he had never eaten before. God's people were not supposed to eat them!
- But the voice told him three times that he can go ahead and eat them. He was told that God had made them clean, so he shouldn't think they were unclean anymore.
  - **Can you imagine being Peter?**
    - It's kind of like this. Let's say your family used to have a rule that said, "No pets." But one day, your parents told you that you can take any of these animals to be your pet. **Which one would you choose?** *[Let kids pick stuffed animals to bring back to their seat.]*
- For his entire life, Peter was taught that he had to eat only some kinds of food and that maybe God loved only some people.
- But after knowing Jesus, and especially after this weird dream, Peter learned that wasn't quite right. God loved everyone, and wanted everyone to know about God!

**BIG IDEA | God can deliver everyone.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print four of the Big Idea graphic for this week on postcard paper or cardstock paper and cut them out. Make enough copies for everyone. Depending on the size of your group, the Special Messenger (SM) can either hand cards out to the kids, or hand stacks of cards to leaders to hand out to the kids.
- **Storyteller:** We usually see the Special Messenger around this time, but I don't see them. Do you?
- **Storyteller:** We usually see the Special Messenger around this time, but I don't see them. Do you?
- **SM:** Special messenger, reporting for delivery!
- **Storyteller:** Perfect timing, what have you got for me today?
- **SM:** (*Enters and begins passing out postcards.*) This delivery is for everyone! Today, everyone gets a card!
- **Storyteller:** Hey, can I have a card too?
- **Special Messenger:** (*Hands a card to the leader.*) Sure. Here's a card for you.
- **Storyteller:** (*Reads the card out loud.*) **God can deliver everyone.** That's this week's Big Idea! Now everyone say it with me. **God can deliver everyone!**

**VIDEO | The Messengers, Episode 3**

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

**ACTIVITY | Who's In?**

- God showed Peter the dream about the animals to help him remember that **God can deliver everyone**, not just some people. But sometimes, we forget that God loves everyone and we pick and choose who we like. For example . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids who fit certain criteria to stand up while everyone else stays seated. For example, "Everyone who has a sister, stand up!" Or, "Everyone who has a pet, stand up!" We suggest you avoid calling out characteristics involving race or physical attributes.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Call out a kid's name one by one and ask them to stand up (or do a fun movement). When everyone is standing, go around to each kid and say God loves you, [kid's name] until you say everyone's names. Then say, "God loves everyone!"
- If I only picked people who fit in with the things I called out just now, some of you would be left out each time. But let's try one more.
- **Everyone who is loved by God, stand up!**
- Now, that's more like it! No one is left out by God, and we should make sure of it. **God can deliver everyone!**

**PRAYER**

- God, thank you for showing us you can deliver everyone. You don't leave anyone out. Teach us how we can be like you and make sure everyone we know feels included and loved by you! Amen.

## DISCUSSION TIME

### SNACK | Dream Animals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Offer the kids some animal crackers on cloth napkins to mirror what was explained in the story. Ask kids these questions as they nibble:
- **What is your favorite animal?**
- **If you could be any animal, what would you choose? Why?**
- **Give me your best animal impression!**

### ACTIVITY | Animal Toss

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids take turns using a pillowcase to catch as many stuffed animals as they can in 30 seconds. Use this as a transition into the following questions.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have kids toss stuffed animals into a laundry basket or place the animals around the room for them to retrieve and drop into the basket.
- **What did Peter see in his dream?**
- **What did the voice tell him to do?**
- **What did his dream mean?**

### ACTIVITY | Good News for Everyone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#), then pass out the printable along with pencils and crayons. On the printable, have kids draw a picture of all different kinds of people. Help them write out the Big Idea somewhere on the paper, or create stickers containing the Big Idea they can stick on when they're done.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have kids play with a truck (or any car toy) and have them pretend it's making a delivery.
- When a truck makes a delivery, it doesn't matter who the person receiving it is. The package is taken to whoever's name and address is on it. The messenger can't just say they don't want to deliver something. Their job is to deliver to everyone on the list.
- **Does God love some people or all people?**
- Today's Big Idea is **God can deliver everyone!** This means that anyone can know God.

### MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Project or write the memory verse in front of the room. Create hand motions for the kids to help them memorize the verse or use the sign language provided. Then have the kids try to do the hand motions on their own while saying the verse aloud.
- **"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!"**

## 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 | Poster Card

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a giant postcard using a poster board. Help kids write their name on the poster and draw a heart around it. Have them draw blank hearts, too, to show that there is always room for more people to know God. Provide stamps and stickers for pre-writers.*

### ACTIVITY | Clean and Unclean

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a water station with two bins, one filled with water. Have kids "clean" each of the animal bath toys to remind them that God made the animals in Peter's dream clean.*

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