

WEEK 5 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

BIG AND SMALL

THE BIG IDEA

We can be a big help
in small ways.

THE BIBLE

Job's Friends: Job 2:11-13;
Psalm 146

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)*
 - "Super Big," (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
 - "Lord, I Need You," (Kids Version)
 - "Never Lost" (Allstars Kids Club)
 - "Yes I Will" (Kids Version)
 - "It's Been a Lovely Day" (Vineyard Kids)

ACTIVITY | Big and Small Picture Match

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the images from the printable, which contains a large and small copy of the same image. Flip over the images and play a matching game where the kids turn over two cards at a time to try to find the matching images.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Print enough sets of cards to play this matching game in teams. Give all the teams one minute and see which team can make the most matches.*
- Okay, friends! We're going to play a matching game! I have five pictures, but each picture has a big image and a small image. Let's look at these pictures together.

- Now, it's time to turn them over and mix them around. Let's see if we can match the pictures with each other.
- **Big or small, it's the same picture, right?** The size doesn't change what it's a picture of.

ACTIVITY | Bigsmall Shoot

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to make their own marshmallow shooter ([like this](#)). Give the kids a bucket to shoot their marshmallows into. Divide the kids into two teams and have them stand behind a line to shoot their marshmallows. Big marshmallows are worth one point and small marshmallows are worth five points. Have one kid from each team go at a time. Give both teams a two-minute time limit. The team with the most points at the end wins.*
- Okay, now that we have our shooters, we're going to split into teams and see how we do with shooting both big and small marshmallows . . . bigsmallows!
- **Which was easier, shooting the big marshmallows or the small marshmallows?**

POLL | Have You Ever?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Take a poll of the room by having the kids respond to the questions below.*
- **Make a big 'Y' with your arms if you've ever helped someone cross the street.**
- **Hold up your smallest finger if you've ever helped a parent wash the dishes.**
- **Spread your arms out as big as possible if you've ever helped a friend find a toy.**
- **Make a small squeaking noise if you've ever helped someone you have never met before.**
- **Do a big jump if you've ever helped a neighbor or someone in your community.**
- It always feels good to be helpful!
- **How does it feel to be able to help people in both big and small ways?**

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

BIBLE STORY | Job's Friends

- We've been hearing quite a bit about Job during the last several weeks, but today, we are going to talk about Job's friends.
- **Who can tell me what a friend is?**
- Yes! A friend is someone who loves and cares for you and is there for you through the good and the bad times.
- **Have you helped a friend in the past or has a friend ever helped you?**
- Yes! Me, too! Job had friends who saw he was going through a tough time and they came to be with him.
- **What do you think Job's friends did when they heard about all the bad stuff that was happening to him?**
- Those are all good guesses! Let's read and find out what they did.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open your Bible to today's passage, Job 2:11-13, and encourage the kids to follow along in their Bibles as you read.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Invite preteens to brainstorm about songs that have to do with friends. Write the titles on a dry erase board. What do these songs tell us about friends? What do they think it means to be a friend?*

- **Those are some cool names, right?**
- **What did Job's friends do to help?**
- That's right. They sat with Job and were sad right along with him.
- Most of our friends mean well and want to help whenever we have trouble. But sometimes, their help can make us feel worse.
 - **Has a friend ever told you that what you're going through is nothing compared to something they've experienced?**
 - **Has a friend ever tried to fix your problem without really listening to you?**
 - **Has a friend ever dismissed your problem as no big deal?**
- Job's friends tried to help him later on by the things they said, but the greatest help they offered was simply being with him while he was hurting and sad.
- Sometimes, the biggest help we can offer comes in the most simple actions.

BIG IDEA | We can be a big help in small ways.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write the Big Idea in a really small font on a huge piece of paper. Choose a kid to come up to the front and choose a really big magnifying glass or a small one to read the Big Idea with. Have the rest of the kids repeat the Big Idea after you.*
- By now, we know that this really small writing is going to reveal a really big truth!
- **Who can come up here and read what this says?**
- Let's say it together: **We can be a big help in small ways!**
- Even if we don't have the right answer or can't fix a problem, God wants us to be there for each other and help each other.

VIDEO | Big and Small, Episode 5

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

STORY | I Can Be Helpful

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose a few kids to come up and share a time that they helped a friend. Share your own example of a time you were helpful to someone to help the kids think about their stories. Once they share, ask the kids one or all of the questions below.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Provide each preteen with a sheet of paper and have them write a letter (not a text!) to one of their friends and thank them for helping them in a difficult situation. If they can't think of a time someone helped them, they can thank their friend for being there for them. Encourage them to deliver that letter in person or by mail and pray for them!*
- We all have moments in our lives when people around us have needed help. Sometimes, we were even able to help them during those times! **Can some of you volunteer to share about a time you helped someone?** I'll share my own story first!

- Now, you get to share your stories. When you are finished telling your story, I'm going to ask you a couple of questions about helping.
- **How did you know your friend needed help?**
- **How did helping your friend make you feel?**
- No matter the situation, **we can be a big help in small ways!**

OBJECT LESSON | One Dollar Dream

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have a dollar bill ready to show to the kids.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Print out some pictures of things that could be bought with one dollar. It could be items from a dollar store or it could even be a dollar menu at a fast food restaurant.*
- I have in my hand a dollar bill. **What are some things we could buy with a dollar?**
- We could buy a soda from a restaurant. We could buy a pack of gum. We could buy a candy bar or a bag of chips. It doesn't feel like a whole lot, does it?
- But this one dollar, as small as it is, can be a big help! There are people all over the world and even in our own neighborhoods who need help.
- If you were to donate just one dollar, it might not seem like much to you. But if everyone in this room gave just one dollar, that would be a lot more money, wouldn't it?
- Even though this one dollar may seem small, it can help in a big way!
- **We can be a big help in small ways!**

BIBLE | Psalm 146

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Psalm 146:5-10. Read it again, but focus specifically on verses six through nine. Have the kids write down the problems listed in these verses and how God provided help for those problems.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Use an easy-to-understand translation to read this passage with kids. Identify what is happening in the verses. Ask questions like, "Is this a problem?" "How does God help?"*
- These verses tell us that God is a big help! Let's read it again and see what God does for people who need help.
- *[Read Psalm 146:6-9 again.]*
- **What are some of the ways God helps in these verses?** (e.g., God provides justice, God provides food, God frees prisoners, God protects immigrants, etc.)
- Those problems sound very similar to stuff that is going on in our world today. If this was true in the Bible, **do you think it's still true for me and you?**
- **What are some things we may need help with today?**
- The God who helps those in need in Psalm 146 is the same God who can help you and me!
- No matter how big or small our problems are, God can help us! But more than that, God helps us also help others so that **we can be a big help in small ways.**

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

REFLECTION | Can I Help?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids divide into groups and brainstorm a list of ways they can help others. On a piece of butcher paper or poster board, have the kids make two columns. On one column, ask the kids to list some small ways they can help, and on the other column, tell them to list some big ways they can be helpful.*
- We just heard about some ways that God is helpful. Now, we're going to work together to create some lists of ways we can be helpful, too!
- We're going to split into two groups and work together to come up with both big and small ways we can be helpful to others. Then, we will come back together to share.
- **What are some big ways we can be helpful to others?**
- **What are some small ways we can be helpful to others?**
- Big or small, God wants us to be helpful to each other!
- **We can be a big help in small ways.**

RESPONSE | I Can Help!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Similar to the reflection activity, "Figure It Out," from last week, have the kids choose one small way they can help and one big way they can help from the, "Can I Help?" reflection question above. Have them brainstorm different ways they can try to accomplish being helpful in these ways.*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Recruit a volunteer or two to help you act out the big and small ways to help. Ask kids to identify whether it was a big or small help after each mini skit.*
- Okay, from our last activity, let's pick a big way to be helpful and a small way to be helpful.
- We're going to work together as a group to try to come up with ideas about how we can be helpful in these big and small ways!
- **In what big way can we be helpful? In what small way can we be helpful?**
- If we are going to be helpful in these big and small ways, **what are some ideas that could help us think of how to do it?** Let's think out loud and write down our ideas.
- Now that we have some ideas for how to be helpful, **what are some pros and cons of each idea?**
- Even if we don't have the resources with us, **what are some possible ways to see if these ideas would work?**
- We may not be able to help in these big ways by ourselves, but **we can be a big help in small ways!**

MEMORY VERSE | Mystery Box

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have one small box and one big box. In each box, put a different way the kids can recite the verse. Keep the unused mystery box from last week and create a second option for box two (e.g., "Telephone game" "Kids' choice," etc).*

PRAYER

- Dear God, we know you are big and we are small. Even though we are small, I know that we can still help in big ways. Please help us to help others. Thank you for all of the ways that you help us. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did Job's friends do to help him?
- How do you think Job felt when his friends did that?
- In what ways was this the most helpful thing Job's friends could have done?
- Read Psalm 146:6. What does it mean when it says that God remains faithful forever?
- Does helping others always have to be a big gesture?
- Think of one small way someone has comforted you or cheered you up in the past.
- What are some small or simple ways we can help our friends?

ACTIVITY | Helping Hands

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to trace their hands on paper and then cut them out. Then, tell them to write on each finger a different way they are going to help someone this week. On the other side, tell them to decorate their hands however they'd like. Let them know that once they complete their list, they can fold down their fingers to make a "thumbs up!"*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Give each preteen a vinyl glove and a permanent marker. Write ways to help others on each finger of the glove and today's Big Idea on the palm. Then, ask preteens to think of a way they could help at church today and write that idea on the other side of the glove. Select one of the ideas for helping at church today and lead the class in performing that task.*
- We've been talking about a lot of ways we can be helpful to our friends, families, and the people around us. Let's make something that can remind us of that this week.
- We're going to trace our hands on paper, cut them out, and then write a different way we can be helpful on each finger. We can take this with us as a reminder that **we can be a big help in small ways!**
- **What are some of the ways that you wrote down?**
- Let's all go and be helpful this week!

MEMORY VERSE | Job 37:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Job37-5.*
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding."**