



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

I can spend time with God anywhere.

THE BIBLE

The Israelites Build the Tabernacle: Exodus 35:4-35

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Weary Wanderers
- **ACTIVITY** | Time Flies By

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Everywhere I Go
- **THE BIG IDEA** | I can spend time with God anywhere.
- **VIDEO** | Epic, Episode 1
- **SCRIPTURE** | Exodus 35:4-35
- **ACTIVITY** | Towering Tabernacle
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Graham Cracker Tabernacles
- **ACTIVITY** | My Tabernacle
- **ACTIVITY** | Modern Day "Tabernacle"
- **MEMORY VERSE** | I Spy a Bible Verse

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Musical Tabernacle
- **ACTIVITY** | Making Time for God



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY DARBY GEORGE

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Time Flies By

- Place an empty bucket on one side of the room, and a bucket filled with cotton balls on the other side of the room. Instruct the kids to take as many cotton balls as they can carry and drop it into the empty bucket. Let them do this at a leisurely pace until they use all the cotton balls. Do it again a second time, but this time, count to twenty.

SCRIPTURE | Exodus 35:4-35

- Use the printable as visual aids as you tell today's Bible story. You can hand it to one kid at a time when you are done talking about each picture.

ACTIVITY | Towering Tabernacle

- Kids are building their own "tabernacles" out of blocks. The older kids are going to see how much weight their structure can support, but toddlers can just enjoy stacking blocks.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Hi, I'm Darby! I currently work in Columbus, Ohio with Cypress Church! I do everything birth-5th grade and I love every second of it! I've been serving and working with Cypress for over 10 years and I couldn't be more excited about what God has done and continues to do through the people here every single day. I have the opportunity to work with an amazing team of kids ministry leaders who push me to do better work every day and who I laugh with more than anyone else. We love kids, we love God, and we love helping kids love God. I am continually blessed to live out my calling by doing this work

each day! My family is the most important thing to me and I am blessed to have grown up knowing God and being pushed by my parents and siblings to know God more. If you bring me coffee, I'll be your best friend forever. I can always be bribed with chips and salsa. Nothing makes me happier than a freezing cold room, a comfy blanket, and a full pot of coffee.

If you'd like to chat with Darby about partnering with parents, what it means to lead children before having any of your own, or which is better: salsa or queso, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon.

TEACHING VIDEOS: Stephanie Whitacre, Elle Campbell.

TODDLER HACKS: Darby George.

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WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can spend time with God anywhere.

THE BIBLE

The Israelites Build the Tabernacle: Exodus 35:4-35

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Weary Wanderers

- Hey, friends! This month, we will be hearing some EPIC stories from the Old Testament in the Bible! God's people – the Israelites – wandered through the wilderness for FORTY YEARS! That's a really long time! Let's play a wandering game together.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to line up behind you and hold hands in a long chain. Have them follow you around the room. Pretend to be really tired as you "travel."

ACTIVITY | Time Flies By

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place an empty bucket on one side of the room, and a bucket filled with cotton balls on the other side of the room. Instruct the kids to take turns putting as many cotton balls as they can on their spoon and drop it into the empty bucket. Let them do this at a leisurely pace until they use all the cotton balls. Do it again a second time, but this time, give them sixty seconds on a stopwatch or any device with a timer.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Do the same activity but without the spoon.
- **What was different about the game the second time we played it?**
- **Which time was easier?**
- Time sometimes goes so fast, and sometimes goes so slow! We are going to talk a little more about how we can spend our time!

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Everywhere I Go

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) of “Everywhere I Go” by KidSpring and encourage the kids to sing and dance along.

THE BIG IDEA | I can spend time with God anywhere.

- Today, we are going to learn something so important! But first, I have a joke for you! **Want to hear it?**
 - **What time was it when the elephant sat on the clock?**
 - Time to get a new clock!
- Hey, speaking of time, this is our Big Idea for this week: **I can spend time with God anywhere.**
- Spending time with God is one of the most important things we can do! And, we can do it anytime, anywhere!

VIDEO | Epic, Episode 1

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

SCRIPTURE | Exodus 35:4-35

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the printable provided of these images: blue, purple, and deep red curtains, gold curtain rods/clasps, winged angels, goat hair, acacia wood, and silver bases. Spread out these images around the room. As you are telling the story, ask some kid volunteers to pick up the picture of the object you are talking about and walk it up to the front of the room to show everyone else. As the story concludes, you should have six posters/kids at the front showing each of the supplies. (See Exodus 26-35 for more background.)
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use the printable as visual aids as you tell today’s Bible story. You can hand it to one kid at a time when you are done talking about each picture.
- The Israelites were a group of people in the Old Testament who were known as God’s people. They had been wandering through the wilderness for a long time and felt like they were just walking in circles with no direction. So, God gave their leader, Moses, instructions for them to follow.
- One of these instructions was for the Israelites to build a tabernacle! That’s an interesting word. Let’s say that together: tabernacle. A tabernacle is like a special tent, and the Israelites were able to carry it with them as they traveled. It was a place where the Israelites could go to spend time with God.
- Here are some examples of the instructions God gave the people:
 - Make curtains of fine twisted linen or yarns of blue, purple, and, deep red.
 - Use gold clasps to hold the curtains together.
 - Weave pictures of angels with wings in the curtains. Join them together to make walls.
 - Make a tent around the curtains with goat hair.
 - Make frames from acacia wood and silver bases.

- All together, these things created a beautiful tabernacle for the Israelites for when they wanted to talk to God! Each time they stopped in their travels to rest, they would put up the tabernacle. This reminded them that God was with them wherever they went!

ACTIVITY | Towering Tabernacle

- God gave the Israelites specific instructions on how the tabernacle should be built. Today, we are going to be building some tabernacles of our own!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Separate the kids into groups of three to five and give each group blocks. Instruct the groups to build a tall tower that can support a little bit of weight.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *You can skip the adding of magnets bit for toddlers.*
- Now that we've built our tabernacles, let's put these small magnets on top of them. Let's see how many we can put on top before our tabernacles fall over! The tabernacle that can hold the most magnets wins!

PRAYER

- Dear God, We thank You for always wanting to spend time with us and for giving us instructions when we need them. Help us to spend time with You anywhere we are.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Graham Cracker Tabernacles

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give the kids graham crackers and icing and ask them to try to build a "tabernacle." Ask these questions while they make and eat their snacks:*
- **Why was the tabernacle so important?**
- **Who did God use to tell the Israelites to build the tabernacle?**
- **What do you think was the coolest thing the Israelites used to build the tabernacle?**

ACTIVITY | My Tabernacle

- Today, we learned about the tabernacle the Israelites built! God gave them very specific instructions on how to build the tabernacle, but I want to see what the tabernacle would look like if YOU were creating it!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a "My Tabernacle" printable. Provide them with crayons, markers, coloring pencils, stickers, stamps, pom-poms, etc. to decorate their tabernacle however they want!*

ACTIVITY | Modern Day "Tabernacle"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use sheets, chairs, tables, or whatever you have on hand to make a large fort. Depending on the size of your group, you may need to build two forts and combine them. Invite the kids to join you inside. Once inside, ask the kids to give you ideas of different places they can talk to God and write them down. Discuss these questions:*
- **Can we talk to God even when we aren't at church or in a tabernacle?**

- **Where is one place in your house where you talk to God?**
- **Where is a new place where you could talk to God every day?**

MEMORY VERSE | I Spy a Bible Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a memory verse card printable and a small magnifying glass. The card should have the memory verse printed on it in very small print. Encourage the kids to look at the verse through their magnifying glasses so they can see it better.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Write out the memory verse on a big piece of paper or project it on a screen. Then say, “I spy the letter __” and have kids point out every instance of that letter. Then have them repeat the verse after you.
- **The farther we are from God, the harder it is to see God. When we spend time with God, we can learn what God wants us to do! And we can spend time with God anywhere!**

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a coloring page along with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Remind them of today's story, memory verse, and Big Idea as they color!

ACTIVITY | Musical Tabernacle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a chair or a cushion they can lift. Play some music or sing a song together, and allow the kids to roam around the room anywhere with their chair/cushion. When you stop the music, have them sit on their chair/cushion right where they are and make prayer hands.
- What's our Big Idea again? Oh yeah—I can spend time with God any chair—I mean, anywhere!

ACTIVITY | Making Time for God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paper plate. Cut and glue the clock printable onto the plate. Help them draw in the big hand and the little hand anywhere they'd like on the “clock.” You can also punch two holes in the center of the plate and weave both ends of a chenille stem (pipe cleaner) through it to be the hands.

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