



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

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THE BIG IDEA

We can know God through Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Comes to the World: John 1:1-18

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | YouTube Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Twitter Bird Updates
- ACTIVITY** | I Spy Emoji

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | John 1:1-18
- THE BIG IDEA** | We can know God through Jesus.
- VIDEO** | Subscribe Now, Episode 1
- ACTIVITY** | #HashTagIt
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DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Sweet Smartphone
- ACTIVITY** | Create a Cell Phone
- ACTIVITY** | Send a Message
- MEMORY VERSE** | John 14:6 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Phone a Friend
- ACTIVITY** | Instagram Feed Photo Match



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

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BY TIFFANY THENOR

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 | Twitter Bird Updates

For kids who cannot read and write, encourage them to draw pictures and ask friends to guess what the drawings are.

SCRIPTURE | John 1:1-18

Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While the kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.

ACTIVITY | #HashTagIt

Encourage the younger kids to play a fun game of tag while you play some upbeat music.

ACTIVITY | Create a Cell Phone

Pre-cut the phones and apps ahead of time. Help them decorate and arrange the apps on their phone to be just like mom and dad's!



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

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THE BIG IDEA

We can know God through Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Comes to the World: John 1:1-18

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | YouTube Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For a fun, interactive time of worship, play songs like , "[J.E.S.U.S.](#)," by Cool Worship Kids and invite the kids to sing and dance along.

ACTIVITY | Twitter Bird Updates

- Welcome, everyone! We are going to do a fun activity together and fly our Twitter origami birds!
- **How do birds communicate with each other?** That's right, they tweet.
- Have you ever seen someone get on on their phone and look at pictures and words that their friends shared? That person was probably looking at something that's called social media — a place where people share pictures and stories. One of those social media places is called Twitter, and people use what's called a "tweet" to to talk to each other there.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, make enough origami birds (one per kid) using the printable provided or following along with [this video](#). Tell the kids to write or draw to demonstrate one thing they are looking forward to today on the back part of the blue origami paper bird. Then, on the ground mark a starting line using masking tape. Invite the kids to stand at the starting line and toss their birds to see how far they can be flown.
- It's time to "tweet" a friend! Exchange birds with someone else and share their "Twitter update!"
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** For kids who cannot read and write, encourage them to draw pictures and ask friends to guess what the drawings are.

ACTIVITY | I Spy Emoji

- Did you know that every day there are more than 18 million people who are searching online for God?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this [video](#) and tell the kids to raise their hand and say, "I spy!" when they find it.
- Just like we've been searching the video, people in the world are searching everywhere for God! Let's find out how we can know God!

TEACHING TIME**SCRIPTURE | John 1:1-18**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite five kids to come up and help you act out the story. One kid plays John the Baptist, two to three kids play the people of Israel, and one kid plays Jesus. As you are telling the story, ask the kids to act out what you are saying. Use props for fun.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While the kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.
- **Have you ever had to wait for a really long time for something you wanted?**
- For a long time, the people of Israel were waiting for someone to come save them. They knew that one day God would come and save them from all the bad stuff that was happening to them. They did not want to miss it!
- **Have you ever looked for something all over and couldn't find it, only for it to be right in front of you the whole time?**
- Sometimes, it is hard to see God. Even with all of the clues God gave Israel, the people didn't recognize Jesus when Jesus came.
- John the Baptist was a very popular man at that time. Many thought John the Baptist was who they were waiting for! But John the Baptist told them he was not their Savior, but that God was coming soon!
- **Now, imagine what you would do if your favorite icon came to meet you personally.**
- When John the Baptist met Jesus, he told all the Israelites that Jesus was the one, true God!

THE BIG IDEA | We can know God through Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Select a kid to come and push a giant button that says, "Subscribe now" on the stage or wall. Once they do, play the "[subscribe now](#)" video with the audio on, and show the slide containing today's Big Idea. When sharing the Big Idea, use these hand motions: **We** (Outstretch hands in a sweeping motion) **can know God** (Point to head and then point to the sky) **through Jesus** (Using both arms, form a cross).
- Thanks for subscribing to this week's Big Idea!
- **We can know God through Jesus.**

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | #HashTagIt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the HashTagIt printable and put up a picture in each corner of the room. Play a simplified version of "Four Corners" by calling out a "hashtag" (i.e. description of picture). Once they get to that corner, explain what that picture tells us about today's Bible story. Call out each hashtag a few times.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Encourage the younger kids to play a fun game of tag while you play some upbeat music.
- Just like John the Baptist was really, really looking forward to Jesus' arrival, we can show how happy we are about Jesus coming to Earth by playing a fun game!
- I am going to call out a hashtag, which is also like a clue that describes something. When you think you know what it is, run to the corner with that picture and tag it!
 - **#GodMadeTheWorld:** This picture is Earth, which reminds us that God made all things. God made me and you! God loves us so much and wants everyone to know God through Jesus.
 - **#GodsWordsInABook:** This picture is a Bible. We can read all about God's words in the Bible. We can know about God by reading the Bible, but we can know God better when we get to know Jesus.
 - **#JesusIsTheLight:** This picture is the sun, the brightest light we have! But Jesus is an even brighter light than the sun. Jesus is called the Light because he shows us the way to God!
 - **#JohnTalkedAboutJesus:** This picture is a phone, which is how we talk to people, by calling them or sending a message. John didn't have a phone, but he talked to a lot of people to tell them about Jesus!
- John the Baptist was so happy to tell people that they can know God through Jesus. In the same way, **we can know God through Jesus**, too!

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for giving us a way to get to know you through Jesus. Help us to remember you have always been with us, from the beginning of creation to now. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Sweet Smartphone**

- Many people enjoy connecting with one another through different social media apps like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook that they can access through their smartphones. Let's make a yummy smartphone together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will make an edible smartphone. First, use the graham cracker as the phone and invite the kids to take the popsicle stick and spread white frosting over one side of the graham cracker, covering it completely. Next, use the pretzel sticks to create a border around the

face of the “phone” and then stick M&Ms (four rows of three in each row) to represent different apps found on the “screen” of the edible smartphone. As kids munch, ask them to share their response to these questions:

- **Whom did John tell people about?**
- **Who is God’s Son?**
- **How can we know God?**

ACTIVITY | Create a Cell Phone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the printable of the phone and apps. Have kids first color and decorate their cell phone, creating a unique background wallpaper. Have them cut out the cell phone. Afterward, help them cut out the individual apps and paste them on to their phone screen over their new wallpaper.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Pre-cut the phones and apps ahead of time. Help them decorate and arrange the apps on their phone to be just like mom and dad’s!*
- **What do we use phones for?**
- **Who would you call or message using your phone (if it worked)?**
- **What would you tell them about Jesus?**

ACTIVITY | Send a Message

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Similar to a traditional game of “telephone,” seat the kids in a straight line. Whisper the Big Idea to the kid at the start of the line and have each kid whisper it to the next kid until the last kid is whispered to. Have the last kid announce what they heard. Play again, using different phrases such as, “Jesus is God” or “God is good!”*
- **Who can help us know more about God?**
- **Who did John tell people about?**
- **How can we tell people about God?**

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6 (NIV)

- We are going to try to guess the words of the memory verse by playing the Whisper Challenge!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give one kid a pair of noise-cancelling headphones with music playing so they cannot hear. Instruct all the kids to say a key word from the memory verse by repeating after you on the count of three. Tap the kid with the headphones on to say out loud what they think their friends are saying. Then have another kid try on the headphones, and the rest of the group can say a different key word. Spend time learning the entire memory verse together after all the words have been revealed! Some key words to choose from: Jesus, answer, way, truth, life, Father, me, John.*

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Phone a Friend

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using old phones that are donated or pretend phones, invite the kids to pretend to call each other or others who are not in the room and tell them about what they heard about in today's lesson. They can also share the memory verse or Big Idea.

ACTIVITY | Instagram Feed Photo Match

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out different Instagram photos showing different faces portraying different emotions (search Instagram using hashtags like #feelingsad #feelingangry, etc.). Invite the kids to match the emotion from the Instagram photo with an [emoji sticker](#).

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