

WEEK 2 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

OPPOSITE DAY

THE BIG IDEA

Our struggles bring us closer to Jesus.

THE BIBLE

Blessings and Woes:

Luke 6:17-26

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Opposite Day Songs

- **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!](#)
 - "Follow Me" (Kidspring)
 - "I Have Decided" (Group)
 - "I Will Follow" (Summit Kids)
 - "This Little Light of Mine" (CJ and Friends)

ACTIVITY | Opposite Relay

- Welcome to our second Opposite Day! Let's kick things off with a relay race with an opposite twist!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into two teams, then have half of each team line up on one side of the room and the other half on the opposite side. When you say go, the first person from each team will crawl backward toward their teammate on the other side. Have them tag their teammate, who will also crawl backward and tag their teammate on the opposite side. The first team to have the entire team switch sides wins!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have kids line up at a starting line and at the same time crawl forward toward one end of the room and crawl backward on the way back.
- **Was it hard to race backward?**
- Today we will hear about some things Jesus said that sounded like they were backward, but they weren't!

ACTIVITY | Opposite Match

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and cut the printable to create matching cards. Spread out all the cards face down in the middle of the room and have kids sit in a circle around them. Kids can take turns to flip over two cards. If they are opposites, they get to remove the cards from the pile. If not, they turn them back over and the next kid flips over two cards.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Lay all the cards face up. Point to one card and tell kids what the opposite is. Help them identify the opposite card.
- Having to find two opposite cards instead of two of the same cards was a little hard, right?
- We'll talk today about how some things that we think are hard are sometimes good for us!

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Blessings and Woes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open your Bible to Luke 6:17-26 as you paraphrase the story. Ask kids to give you a thumbs up each time you say "blessing" and a thumbs down every time you say "woe."
- In today's Bible story, Jesus talked about two opposite things: **Blessings** and **woes**.
 - A **blessing** is a good thing in our life, the things we are thankful for. Having a place to live is a **blessing**. Having food to eat is a **blessing**.
 - A **woe** is a not-so-good thing. Falling down and scraping your knee could be a **woe**. Losing your toy at the park could be a **woe**.
- But you know what? Jesus taught it differently. The Bible tells us that Jesus said these things are **blessings**:
 - When we don't have what other people might have.
 - When we don't have enough of the things we need.
 - When we are facing sad times.
 - When people tease us for following Jesus.
- These are the things that Jesus said are **woes**:
 - When we have everything we need.
 - When we have everything we want.
 - When we have nothing to worry about.
 - When we are popular and well-liked by many people.
- Huh? That seems . . . opposite!
- The reason Jesus said these things is because when our life is full of **blessings** only, it's easy to forget about God. When we don't need anything, we don't talk to God.
- But when we have **woes** in our life, we remember that we are not alone. Even when we are sad or lonely, we remember that God loves us. So a lot of times, it's during times of **woe** that we get closer to God!

BIG IDEA | Our struggles bring us closer to Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Label each of the four corners of the room with pieces of the Big Idea (i.e., "Our struggles," "bring us," "closer," and "to Jesus."). Gather all of the kids into the center of the room. Instruct them to run to the correct corners of the room when you say pieces of the Big Idea.

- Now, let's say the Big Idea together: **Our struggles bring us closer to Jesus!**
- A struggle is something you have a hard time with. It can be anything from buttoning your jacket to learning something new in school. But our Big Idea reminds us that whenever we struggle, we can talk to Jesus about it!

VIDEO | Opposite Day, Episode 2

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

VIDEO | "The Beatitudes"

- Jesus taught about some of the blessings we heard today at another time when he was teaching on a mountainside. We can read about them in the book of Matthew, and the blessings there are called the "Beatitudes."
- Let's remember some of the opposite ways Jesus tells us we are blessed by learning this song together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) and have kids follow along.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for showing us that even when things are hard, you are there for us. Help us to talk to you whenever we have a struggle so that we can get closer to you. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Sweet and Sour Fruits

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sort fruit slices on a snack tray into groups of sweet and sour.
- What's the opposite of sweet? That's right! It's sour!
- Today for snack time, we have a few fruits that are sweet and sour. **Which one is your favorite?**
- As we eat, this reminds us how sometimes what God wants us to do is the opposite of what we want to do. And even though it's hard, it's important for us to always listen to God because God knows what's best for us.

ACTIVITY | Weather Opposites

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids pick a side of the room for each weather question you ask (e.g., "hot" go to the left side, "cold" go to the right side). After they pick a side, then tell them the activity they would have to do during that weather. Are they happy with the choice they made? Let them switch sides if they want to.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Find images of each of the weather types and show them to the kids (or read an age-appropriate book about weather together). Talk with kids about what kinds of things they can do in each type of weather.
- **Do you prefer hot or cold weather?**
 - What if you had to go swimming at the beach?

- **Do you like sunny or cloudy weather?**
 - What if you had to clean up your neighborhood outside for four hours?
- **Do you like dry or rainy weather?**
 - What if you had to play a baseball game?
- **Do you like still or windy weather?**
 - What if you had to fly a kite?
- Even though we prefer certain types of weather, we can't really control the weather. It might be a struggle if it rains on the day we were supposed to go to an amusement park or if it's too windy on a day we want to play outside, but we can adjust our plans and not let the weather ruin our day!
- Our woes can become blessings, just like how **our struggles can bring us closer to Jesus!**

ACTIVITY | Snow in Summer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this clip](#) of "In Summer" from Frozen. Then on a yellow piece of construction paper, draw an outline of a snowman in pencil and help kids outline it with glue. Give kids mini marshmallows to glue on to create their own summer [snowman](#). They can draw in the face and arms before they glue on the marshmallows if they want.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Staple two paper plates together (one dessert plate and one dinner plate) to make a snowman shape. Cover both plates with glue and have kids stick on cotton balls to create their snowman. Consider adding googly eyes, candy corn, and popsicle sticks.
- **What normally happens to snow in summer?**
- Olaf dreams about summer even though he's a snowman. But he doesn't think about all the things that could go wrong for him during summertime — like melting! Olaf talks about all the fun things he could do!
- We can try to be a little bit like Olaf. Whenever we struggle with something, we might cry or scream. We get sad or angry.
- But what is our Big Idea? **Our struggles bring us closer to Jesus.** That means, instead of doing what we normally do, we can tell God about it.
- Let's make our own snowman in summer to help us remember to think about how much Jesus loves us and cares about us even when we are struggling.

MEMORY VERSE | II Corinthians 12:9a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare simple motions for each word in the memory verse from II Corinthians 12:9a. Once the kids learn it, see if they can do the motion when you say the word, and vice versa.

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and pass out this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Talk about how the image shows an opposite. As the kids color, discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea!*

ACTIVITY | Opposite Freeze Dance

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play different kinds of music. When the music stops, the kids can dance. When the music is playing, the kids must freeze.*
- To remind us of our Bible story today, let's play Freeze Dance. . . but the opposite way!
- Instead of freezing when the music stops, we're going to dance instead! And when the music starts, you have to freeze!

ACTIVITY | Opposites Sorting Tray

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place all of the materials from the Shop & Prep List on a large tray. Invite the kids to sort the materials into two separate baskets. Only provide one of each item.*
- Let's explore the different objects on the tray and sort them, based on their differences, into the two baskets.

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