



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

I can remember what God has done for us.

THE BIBLE

Crossing the Jordan River: Joshua 3:10-4:9;
(Psalm 136)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | “Fully Known”
- ACTIVITY** | Ark Relay
- ACTIVITY** | Stack It Up
- QUESTION** | Your Favorite Memories
- THE BIG IDEA** | I can remember what God has done for us.
- VIDEO** | Epic, Episode 4
- SCRIPTURE** | Joshua 3:10-4:9
- VIDEO** | Israelites Crossing the Jordan
- ACTIVITY** | Remembrance
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 136
- REFLECTION** | God’s Love Endures Forever
- MUSIC** | “I Love to Tell the Story”
- PRAYER**
- MEMORY VERSE** | Set in Stone

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - Why did the Israelites build an altar after crossing the Jordan River?
 - Why were there twelve stones?
 - Can you remember other times in the Bible where God’s people were told to remember what God had done?
 - Read Joshua 4:6b-7. Imagine one of the kids in the Bible story had asked you, “What do these stones mean?” How would you explain it to them?
 - Do you or your family have things you do to remember events that have happened before?
 - What are some things we do at church to remind us of things God has done?
 - Why is it important to remember?
- ACTIVITY** | Story Stones
- MEMORY VERSE** | 1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



BY HEATHER HENDERSON

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR PRETEENS

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

ACTIVITY | Ark Relay

Have older kids work to construct their own Ark of the Covenant by providing the materials you would use to construct it for the group.

ACTIVITY | Remembrance

If possible, ask kids the week before to bring in pictures of then as a younger child and share what they remember about that photo.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 136

Ask one or several older students to be readers for this litany-type reading.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

HEATHER HENDERSON



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Heather is currently a self-employed writer, speaker, coach, and ministry partner. In addition to writing this awesome series, she writes for several other publications regularly. She is also on the teaching rotation at a couple of churches in the Washington, D.C. metro region. She is on the board of directors for a foster home in Mexico and also for a youth conference held in the Mid-Atlantic region each year. Heather is a former youth pastor and associate pastor at a large and culturally and racially diverse church in Maryland. She has coached and led tons of volunteers and paid ministry staff over the years, and she is passionate about helping churches tell

people the good news of Jesus. She is also a strong advocate of women in vocational ministry and leads electives and workshops for women and girls and their advocates any chance she gets! Heather is married to her technology genius husband, and they have three kids, aged 10, 5, and 3. They live in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. with their dog June and their fish Pepperoni.

If you'd like to chat with Heather about church leadership, about women in vocational ministry, or about how to make the perfect apple pie, reach out. She would love to connect with you!

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

TEACHING VIDEOS: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Linda Moon, Jared Callahan.

PRETEEN HACKS: Heather Henderson.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS: Abby Burg.

MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE: Sunny Brown.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Josh Gosney, Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

LAYOUT DESIGN: Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Stephen Switzer, Ali Anne, Eddie Irvin, Ari Raines, Kellee Gentry, Tim Synan, Josh McLemore, Amber Gaddis.



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



BY ABBY BURG

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Ark Relay

If you have students with limited mobility due to physical disabilities, alternatively you could play a game of Hot Potato with a box (you can choose to decorate it like the Ark of the Covenant or use a plain box). Sit in a circle and pass the box around while you play a song - such as "God of Wonders" from the beginning of the lesson or another song your kids are familiar with. Periodically, stop the music. Whoever is holding the box when the music stops is out. Keep playing until only one player remains.

ACTIVITY | Story Stones

For kids with fine motor challenges, provide thicker markers that are easier to grip as drawing utensils.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ABBY BURG

 [instagram.com/abbyjburg](https://www.instagram.com/abbyjburg)



Abby Burg has been living the adventurous life of the unexpected over the past decade. After seven years in both children’s ministry and executive ministries in upstate New York and her home state of Delaware, she has taken on a new endeavor in serving missionaries around the world through ReachGlobal, the international mission of the Evangelical Free Church of America. As a missionary kid herself, interacting with ReachGlobal staff has been a joyful extension of her ministry. Blending her training in Inclusive Childhood Education at Houghton College (class of 2012) with her heart for Jesus, she is passionate about making the Bible real to kids and believes that disciple-making should be active, full of fun, and sometimes a little messy. . . all while pointing to Jesus. Whether serving as a kids camp speaker, “pinch-hitting” on the children’s

church rotation, or training fellow kidmin leaders, Abby enjoys every opportunity she gets to advance the kingdom in the hearts of kids and those that lead them.

Abby lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota with her high-school sweetheart and husband of nine years, Andrew. They love Saturday morning breakfast dates, ice skating, road trips, and writing post cards to their niece and nephew. Their lovable golden retriever, Charlie, is the most popular dog on the block with his trademark goofy grin and eagerness for belly rubs.

If you’d like to chat with Abby about creative worship experiences for kids, anything written by Henri Nouwen, or living life as an enneagram one, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

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WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can remember what God has done for us.

THE BIBLE

Crossing the Jordan River: Joshua 3:10-4:9;
(Psalm 136)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | “Fully Known”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) and encourage the kids to sing along with you.

ACTIVITY | Ark Relay

- Welcome back to Epic! Our next wilderness adventure involves carrying the Ark of the Covenant. Let's have a relay race carrying the Ark of the Covenant.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, [prepare an Ark of the Covenant](#) by taping a small box between two pool noodles and mark beginning and ending spots. Divide the class into two groups, with each group lined up at each of the marked points. Show the first two kids how to carry the poles on their shoulders across to the other side and hand it over to two kids in the other group to carry back. Continue until everyone has had a turn.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If you have students with limited mobility due to physical disabilities, alternatively you could play a game of Hot Potato with a box (you can choose to decorate it like the Ark of the Covenant or use a plain box). Sit in a circle and pass the box around while you play a song - such as “God of Wonders” from the beginning of the lesson or another song your kids are familiar with. Periodically, stop the music. Whoever is holding the box when the music stops is out. Keep playing until only one player remains.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have older kids work to construct their own Ark.

ACTIVITY | Stack It Up

- Today's wilderness adventure also involves stacking stones. You'll hear more about those later. For now, let's play a game of stacking cups to remind us of the stones that will be stacked at the end of our EPIC adventure!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each team twelve plastic cups (for the twelve tribes.) Ask each kid to stack the cups pyramid style (they will not make a complete pyramid), then take the cups down and pass them to the next kid until every kid on the team has made a stack. See which team finishes first.

QUESTION | Your Favorite Memories

- **Do you like to remember things that have happened?**
- **What is one of your favorite memories?**
- **How does your family keep a record of memories? Scrapbooks? Instagram?**
- Today, we are going to learn about how the people of God sometimes remembered what God had done for them.

THE BIG IDEA | I can remember what God has done for us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make four [paper boats](#) and write each of the following phrases on the boats: "I can," "remember," "what God has," "done for us." Place them in a basin filled with water. Ask kid volunteers to pick a boat out of the water. Work as a group to put the Big Idea together.

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

VIDEO | Epic, Episode 4

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

SCRIPTURE | Joshua 3:10-4:9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In advance, gather twelve paving stones or flat garden stones. Find Joshua 3 in your Bible and encourage the kids to find it, too. While reading the verses, pause at the indicated points below to pile the stones one at a time. Explain stacking stones was a way for the Israelites to remember, so your stack of stones will help you remember important parts of the story.
 - (Read Joshua 3:10, then add a stone.) We remember God is with us.
 - (Read verse 13, then add a stone.) We remember God makes promises and keeps them.
 - (Read verse 16, then add a stone.) We remember God does miracles.
 - (Read verse 17, then add a stone.) We remember God cares for everyone.
 - (Read Joshua 4:3, then add a stone.) We remember God is faithful.
 - (Read verse 7, then add a stone.) We remember to thank God.
 - (Read verse 8, then add a stone.) We remember to obey.
 - (Read verse 9, then add a stone.) We remember to tell others about what God has done for us.
 - (Read verse 11, then add a stone.) We remember to pay attention to what God is doing.

- (Read verse 18, then add a stone.) We remember God keeps promises.
- (Read verse 22, then add a stone.) We remember to praise God for what God has done.
- (Read verse 24, then add a stone.) We remember God is great.

VIDEO | Israelites Crossing the Jordan

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#), “The Israelites Crossing the Jordan” from Saddleback Kids, to review today’s Bible story.

ACTIVITY | Remembrance

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, collect pictures of significant events in history, ones that most of your kids would know. Have kids describe each event. You could also include pictures of past events in your group and have kids remind each other of those occasions.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** If possible, ask kids the week before to bring in pictures of them as a younger child and share what they remember about that photo.
- **How are these pictures like the stones in today’s story?**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 136

- We are going to read this chapter as a litany. A litany is a special prayer or reading used in some churches where the leader says some words and the people say others. I will read the first part of each verse and you will all say the second part together. Let’s notice how this Bible verse reminds us what God has done for us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find Psalm 136 in your Bible and encourage the kids to find it, too. Practice the second half of each verse that repeats for the entire chapter, then read the chapter together, going back and forth in response.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask one or several older students to be readers.

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

REFLECTION | God’s Love Endures Forever

- Remembering the things God has done for us and other people helps us remember God’s love endures forever. Let’s explore some ways and things we can remember.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and have them draw a big heart in pencil. Along the line, have the kids write “God’s love endures forever” as many times as it fits around the heart.

MUSIC | “I Love to Tell the Story”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the video, [“I Love to Tell the Story.”](#) and encourage the kids to sing along with you.

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a group, make a list of ten things God has done for you (either individually or

as a group). You may find it helpful to write down this list. Ask for a few volunteers to read items off of this list at the designated point in the prayer below.

- Dear God, You have done so many things for us (Read the list you just created together). Thank You for always being with us in this EPIC story we get to be part of. Help us to always remember Your never-changing love.

MEMORY VERSE | Set in Stone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ahead of time, write the memory verse on smooth stones, one word on each stone. Encourage the kids to put the stones in order to create the memory verse, and ask them to repeat it as they do.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Why did the Israelites build an altar after crossing the Jordan River?**
- **Why were there twelve stones?**
- **Can you remember other times in the Bible where God's people were told to remember what God had done?**
- **Read Joshua 4:6b-7. Imagine one of the kids in the Bible story had asked you, "What do these stones mean?" How would you explain it to them?**
- **Do you or your family have things you do to remember events that have happened before?**
- **What are some things we do at church to remind us of things God has done?**
- **Why is it important to remember?**

ACTIVITY | Story Stones

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a medium-sized smooth stone and permanent marker. Invite them to write a word or draw a picture or symbol to remind them of something God has done for them. Encourage them to carry the stone with them as a reminder.
✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids with fine motor challenges, provide thicker markers that are easier to grip as drawing utensils.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.